MEMBERS PRESENT:
Bruce Beatty, Nicollet County
Charlie Borrell, Wright County
Richard Brenner, Carlton County
Spencer Buerkle, Benton County
Joy Cohrs, Sibley County
Randy Dahl, Fillmore County
James Ebeling, Steele County
Thomas Egan, Dakota County
Ben Grimsley, Becker County
Frank Gross, Clay County
Larry Lindor, Pope County
Tom Mahoney, Martin County
Anne Marcotte, Aitkin County
DeWayne Mareck, Stearns County
Jim McDonough, Ramsey County
Owen Miler, Douglas County
David Nordaune, Chippewa County
Mark Piepho, Blue Earth County
Paul Setzepfandt, Renville County
Dean Simonsen, Brown County
Timothy Sumner, Beltrami County
Dave Thiner, Murray County
Darryl Tveitbakk, Pennington County
Vernell Wagner, Grant County
Marcia Ward, Winona County
Tom Warmka, Faribault County
Matthew Widboom, Nobles County
Randy Winscher, Morrison County

GUESTS PRESENT:
Craig Oscarson, Mower County
Rolland Miller, Marshall County
Dan Whitman, Martin County
Heather Schlangen, Douglas County
Steve Schuldt, Houston County
Charles Enter, Brown County
Michael Salberger, Blue Earth County
Don Niemi, Aitkin County
Peg Heglund, Yellow Medicine County
Jody Reisch, Rock County
Melanie Ault, Washington County
Rebecca Young, Stevens County
Bob Meyer, Blue Earth County
Heidi Doo-Kirk, Cook County
Jack Swanson, Roseau County
Sara Foslsted, Renville County
Aurora Heard, Murray County
Jamie Haefner, Nicollet County
Carolyn McDonald, Lyon County
Michael Plante, Wabasha County
Bruce Messelt, Chisago County
Steve Taylor, Sherburne County
I. CALL TO ORDER
Chair Commissioner Darryl Tveitbakk, Pennington County called the meeting of the General Government Policy Committee meeting to order. Members said the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Approval of Minutes
Commissioner Tom Warmka of Faribault County, moved for the approval of the minutes from the December 2015 meeting, the motion was seconded by Commissioner Larry Lindor of Pope County. The motion carried.

III. AMC Updates on Legislative Priorities
AMC staff, Ben Baglio, AMC, and Brian McDaniel, AMC Lobbyist (filling in for Jennifer Berquam, Environment and Natural Resources) and Emily Pugh, Transportation updated members in a round robin regarding the status of AMC’s top legislative priorities.

IV. Senator LeRoy Stumpf
Senator LeRoy Stumpf joined the General Government Policy Committee and spoke about his chairmanship of the Senate Capital Investment Committee and the legislative bonding process. He outlined the common bonding projects his committee has reviewed this year including deficient bridges, waste water infrastructure, and asset preservation projects. Senator Stumpf took questions from Committee Members on the Appleton prison, the state budget surplus, mental health facility investments, and transportation funding.

V. Affiliate/Legislative Update
Tom May from Minnesota Association of Assessing Officers
Tom May shared MAAO’s position statement for 2016. He expressed concerns MAAO had with the 2015 tax bill that did not pass. MAAO will be watching policies this session that create additional classifications or add more complexity to the classification system. MAAO is also concerned about accessor safety. Tom May took questions from the Committee Members.

Cindy Geis from the Minnesota Association of County Officers
Cindy Geis outlined MACO’s position statement for 2016. MACO has a variety of 2016 platform issues including the support of a new CPA formula, absentee voting process changes, and the addition of duties to deputy registrars. Cindy Geis took questions from the Committee Members.

Melanie Ault from the Minnesota County Human Resources Management Association
Melanie Ault shared MCHRMA’s legislative proposals for 2016. These proposals include amending the merit system, ending pay equity reporting, discontinuing insurance mandates for divorced spouses, and removing the prohibition against 4-day work weeks for counties. Melanie Ault took questions from the Committee Members.

VI. AMC Updates on Legislative Priorities Continued
Due to scheduling, not all of AMC’s policy analysts visited the General Government Policy Committee to provide legislative updates. Jill Suurmeyer summarized the policy position of AMC for the priorities that were not mentioned earlier including, mental health system reform, County Program Aid formula revision, PILT formula revision, courthouse security, and child protection.
Jill also updated the Committee on research concerning a policy proposal to require convicted, former county employees to reimburse counties for paid administrative leave they received while being investigated. AMC consulted an attorney with labor law experience and was discouraged from pursuing legislation because of the significant complexity of the issue and that even carefully drafted legislation would leave counties vulnerable to lawsuits.

VII. Adjourn
Commissioner Tom Warmka of Faribault County moved that the meeting be adjourned, the motion was seconded. The motion carried. General Government Chair, Commissioner Darryl Tveitbak, adjourned the meeting.