

MINUTES

Dane County Cities' and Villages' Association

November 20, 2013

ATTENDANCE:

Belleville:
Black Earth:
Blue Mounds:
Brooklyn: President Nadine Walsten
Cambridge:
Cottage Grove: President Diane Wiedenbeck
Cross Plains:
Dane: Trustee Roger Schmidt
Deerfield: President Greg Frutiger, Administrator Elizabeth McCredie
DeForest: President Judd Blau, Administrator Steve Fahlgren
Edgerton:
Fitchburg: Mayor Shawn Pfaff, Administrator Tony Roach
Madison: Government Relations Officer Nick Zavos
Maple Bluff:
Marshall: Administrator Sue Peck
Mazomanie:
McFarland: President Brad Czebotar, Administrator Don Peterson
Middleton: Mayor Kurt Sonnentag, Administrator Mike Davis
Monona: Mayor Bob Miller
Mount Horeb: President Dave Becker, Assistant Administrator Kathy Hagen
Oregon:
Rockdale:
Shorewood Hills:
Stoughton:
Sun Prairie:
Verona: Mayor Jon Hochkammer, Administrator Bill Burns
Waunakee: Trustee Gary Walden
Others Present: Forbes McIntosh and Ann Gryphan, GPS/DCCVA
Curt Witynski, League of Wisconsin Municipalities
Josh Morby, Capstone National Partners (LWM PR firm)

1. **Call to Order.** The business meeting was called to order at 12:09 p.m. at the City of Middleton Fire Hall. A quorum was present with 14 member communities represented. Middleton Mayor Kurt Sonnentage welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2. **Approval of Minutes.** Bob Miller made a motion to approve the minutes from the DCCVA meeting on September 25, 2013, seconded and approved on a voice vote.
3. **Financial Report.** The financial report was included in members' packets. Treasurer Bill Burns reported that all 2013 membership dues that were expected were paid, in another month he will be sending out the 2014 dues notices, which will contain no change over 2013. Burns reviewed the expenses. There will be a small surplus for 2013. The variable expense is legal fees, but DCCVA has been budgeting for that in case a lawyer needs to be retained in the future. Burns reported there might be a \$25,000 balance carry-forward for next year. Tony Roach made a motion to approve the financial report, seconded by Diane Wiedenbeck, and approved on a voice vote.
4. **Guest Speakers – Curt Witynski of League of Wisconsin Municipalities, Josh Morby of Capstone National Partners (the LWC public relations firm).**
 - a. Curtis Witynski provided DCCVA members with an overview of what has been happening at the League of Wisconsin Municipalities. He said that the WLM board has hired an outside lobbyist to assist with legislative matters and also hired the public relations firm Capstone National Partners to improve its own member communications and to engage WLM members in advocacy efforts at the Capitol.
 - b. Witynski reported that the state budget was passed in June and contained a lot of items that effect municipalities. WLM asked the governor to restore some of the cuts to municipalities implemented in the last budget – but was denied and the status quo remained. The Assembly considered restoring some cuts to shared revenue, but the Senate didn't agree. The legislature did increase mass transit aids, however, by 4 percent beginning in 2015. There were a lot of policy items in the 2013-15 state budget – one positive provision clarified what can be negotiated with police/fire in contracts. Other policy items include making it difficult for municipalities to switch to a fee system for paying for services previously paid by the levy limit, a municipal employee residency preemption and establishing a new process for challenging the reasonableness of municipal fees.
 - c. The 2013-14 legislative session is nearing its end in April 2014. Current legislation that LWM opposes includes:
 - AB 23/SB 48: Funding of post-retirement health benefits on an actuarial basis
 - AB 385/SB 301: Removing municipal discretion and flexibility with regard to spending room tax revenues (Madison and Monona are affected by the bill's deletion of the grandfathering provision). This bill has had a public

hearing and has been quiet since, there's not a lot of momentum to move this forward so that's good, Witynski said.

- SB 338: Granting towns over 5,000 in population and with more than \$500 million in equalized value full TIF authority.
 - AB 122/SB 112: Changing the elements that must be included in a county development plan.
 - SB 349: Frac sand mining bill, which says that municipalities can no longer regulate water quality/quantity and air quality.
 - AB 8: Prohibiting municipalities from banning bow and cross bow hunting within the municipality. This bill is on the governor's desk and has passed both houses.
 - LRB 3105: Requires municipalities to share with other taxing jurisdictions payments in lieu of taxes received from tax exempt entities. LWM is strongly against this bill, doesn't impact payments from water utilities. Speaker Vos initiated this legislation, this may have legs, however no one in Senate yet has been willing to carry the torch in the to advance this.
- d. Bills LWM supports:
- AB 22/SB 15: Increases maximum allowable municipal court fee from \$28 to \$38.
 - AB 75/SB 183: Making county shoreland zoning ordinances inapplicable within annexed areas.
 - SS AB 4: Increasing the historic building rehabilitation tax credit by 10%.
 - AB 289/SB 252: TID district base value redetermination.
 - AB 416: Allowing an environmental remediation TID to receive tax increments from a donor TID.
 - AB 483: Municipal regulation of DOT construction project borrow sites and material disposal sites.
- e. Legislation LWM is seeking
- Reducing interest paid on property tax refunds.
 - Clarification of state budget provision requiring municipalities to reduce their levy limit by amount of fee increases for certain services formerly on the levy
 - Receiving financial information from the state in a timelier manner
- f. Morby said that things happening at the Capitol profoundly affect municipalities, and both Morby and Witynski spoke about the importance of having municipal officials contact their state legislators about the issues. People can also help by staying informed about legislation that impacts cities/villages, sign up for the LWM's weekly newsletter, join the LWM's lobbying corps, join LWM's rapid action team or participate in LWM's meetings and conferences. DCCVA President Jon Hochkammer also encouraged municipal officials to get to know their legislators on a personal basis so that they see you as a resource.

5. **Capital Area Regional Planning Commission (CARPC) update.** Forbes McIntosh said there were no nominations received for the vacancy on CARPC. A few people expressed an

interest in serving but ultimately did not seek nomination. DCCVA will send out another solicitation. McIntosh said it is important for DCCVA to have representatives with strong backgrounds in regional planning on CARPC. In other CARPC news, McIntosh brought forward different alternatives for maintaining and improving CARPC. McIntosh stated that the continued push by the County to decrease funding is destabilizing the agency, which to date still does not have an executive director to lead the organization. McIntosh stated his continued concern that this is the County's intent as a strategy to gain additional planning powers over cities, villages and towns in the future. Since County leadership has continually identified funding on the County levy as provided in Wisconsin statute as a their primary objection, McIntosh raised the question of whether cities and villages would consider transferring this funding service off of the county levy and making other changes to CARPC reflect the decrease in County participation in the agency. Government Policy Solutions provided a spreadsheet to the membership showing the potential cost to cities/villages of taking over funding of CARPC. McIntosh will be contacting individual cities/villages to seek their input and ideas to building a stable regional planning commission for this area. Steve Fahlgren (V. DeForest) said it would help if they had more information about the role and duties of CARPC.

6. **County Budget Update.** McIntosh said DCCVA and Dane County Towns Association received a memo from the state Department of Revenue confirming that they can increase their levy limits due to the taking over of EMS Insurance payments from the county. Cities/villages just need to send a request via letter to DOR asking for the levy limit adjustment. McIntosh said an argument could be made to also have this apply to annual maintenance costs for the jurisdictional transfer of roads.
7. **DaneCom Update.** McIntosh reported that DaneCom implementation is delayed. Harris Corp. is continuing to do testing. The new implementation date will likely be in January 2014. Judd Blau reported that he does not recommend purchasing Harris radios, theirs did not work and they had to purchase Motorola radios. Tony Roach reported the conversion on pagers will be in early December.
8. **Other Business.**
 - a. The next DCCVA meeting will be held at 12 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 15, by host City of Madison. The full preliminary meeting schedule for 2014 is:
 - 12 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 15
 - 12 p.m. Wednesday, March 12
 - 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 7
 - 7 a.m. Wednesday, July 23
 - 5 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 24
 - 12 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 19
9. **Adjourn.** Dave Becker made a motion at 1:43 p.m. to adjourn, seconded by Diane Wiedenbeck, and approved on a voice vote.