

MINUTES

Dane County Cities' and Villages' Association

February 25, 2015

ATTENDANCE:

Belleville:
Black Earth:
Blue Mounds:
Brooklyn:
Cambridge: Trustee Paula Hollenbeck
Cottage Grove: President Diane Wiedenbeck, Trustee Harvey Potter
Cross Plains:
Dane: Trustee Roger Schmidt
Deerfield: President Greg Frutiger, Administrator Liz McCredie
DeForest: President Judd Blau, Administrator Steve Fahlgren, Police Chief Bob Henze

Edgerton:
Fitchburg: Administrator Tony Roach
Madison:
Maple Bluff:
Marshall: Administrator Sue Peck
Mazomanie: Clerk/Treasurer Sue Dietzen
McFarland:
Middleton:
Monona: Mayor Bob Miller, Administrator Patrick Marsh, Police Chief Walter Ostrenga

Mount Horeb:
Oregon: Administrator Mike Gracz
Rockdale:
Shorewood Hills:
Stoughton: Mayor Donna Olson, Police Chief Greg Leck, Fire Chief Scott Wegner, EMS Director Lisa Schimelpfenig

Sun Prairie:
Verona: Administrator Bill Burns
Waunakee: Administrator Todd Schmidt
Others Present: Forbes McIntosh and Ann Gryphan, GPS/DCCVA
Josh Westcott of the Dane County Executive's office
John Dejung, Dane County Public Safety Communications Director

1. **Call to Order.** The special meeting of the Dane County Cities and Villages Association was called to order by Forbes McIntosh at 5:35 p.m. February 25 at the Monona Public Library in the City of Monona. A quorum was present with 13 member communities represented.
2. **General Discussion – DaneCom.** DCCVA lobbyist Forbes McIntosh gave opening remarks about recent developments about the DaneCom system. Dane County Executive Joe Parisi this fall had proposed a DaneCom Fix/Upgrade of \$4.5 million in capital expenditures and \$500,000 for operation/maintenance costs to be paid for by Dane County – known as DaneCom Phase II. Dane County officials are trying to get feedback from stakeholders on whether to turn on the upgraded system in two phases – the first phase in 2015 and the fully upgraded system in 2016 – or just wait and have the entire upgraded system go live in 2016. The question stems from concerns brought forward by some communities about their paying operation and maintenance (O&M) costs on a system that isn't yet live and won't fully go live now until 2016. The first option – a two-phase approach – would allow communities to use in 2015 at least part of the system that they are paying O&M costs for. However, some communities might prefer to wait to go live until the upgraded system is completely ready and fully tested.

Forbes McIntosh said he wants communities to look at what the legacy system is now and what Phase 1 would be because Phase 2 is probably going to be better but we can't get there until next year (2016).

John Dejung said the county has secured 8 channels for the existing DaneCom system, but is seeking to add two more channels and build more towers – and that takes time to get that completed.

Stoughton Police Chief Greg Leck expressed concern that if legacy is turned off and DaneCom turned on, what is the potential for interference of frequencies? They don't want to be left with poorer communication in their area resulting from a phase-in approach. He said this is a complicated system and it would be worthwhile to develop all the way and implement it all at once rather than in a piecemeal fashion – a sentiment some others present also expressed.

Some DCCVA members questioned Dejung on what he recommends – a phase-in or an all-at-once approach. Dejung said he did not want to make a recommendation at this time. He prefers to have the system tested in a “deep dive” before making that final determination – with a vetting of the phase-in approach.

Josh Westcott said the county's Personnel and Finance Committee on Monday night added \$3.75 million more for 2015 borrowing for the county - in addition to the \$3 million that's in the budget – for a total of \$6.75 million of new county borrowing to pay

for the enhancements of DaneCom enhanced Phase 2. It's what the county believes they need to build those new towers and pay for the update, Westcott said. The county is committed to making this project a success and getting it online, but wants feedback from stakeholders on the two approaches and a sense of communities' commitment to keep the project moving forward.

The DCCVA members discussed whether DCCVA would need to take a vote on the issue. They discussed having the DCCVA Executive Committee meet and form a recommendation to bring to the membership at the next DCCVA meeting in March, however it was noted that there probably wouldn't be additional information to help in the decision-making on either approach by then. The consensus seemed to be to have Dane County continue to work with Harris Corp. to vet both approaches before a final decision is made.

No action was taken at today's DCCVA meeting.

3. **Adjourn.** The meeting adjourned at 7:06 p.m.