

MINUTES

Dane County Cities' and Villages' Association

March 12, 2014

ATTENDANCE:

Belleville:
Black Earth:
Blue Mounds:
Brooklyn:
Cambridge:
Cottage Grove: President Diane Wiedenbeck
Cross Plains:
Dane: Trustee Roger Schmidt
Deerfield: Administrator Elizabeth McCredie
DeForest: Administrator Steve Fahlgren
Edgerton:
Fitchburg: Administrator Tony Roach
Madison: Government Relations Officer Nick Zavos, Fire Chief Steve Davis
Maple Bluff:
Marshall: Administrator Sue Peck
Mazomanie:
McFarland: President Brad Czebotar, Administrator Don Peterson
Middleton: Mayor Kurt Sonnentag
Monona: Mayor Bob Miller, Police Chief Walter Ostrenga, Fire Chief Scott Sullivan

Mount Horeb:
Oregon: Administrator Mike Gracz
Rockdale:
Shorewood Hills:
Stoughton: Fire Chief Martin Lamers
Sun Prairie: Administrator Aaron Oppenheimer
Verona: Mayor Jon Hochkammer, Administrator Bill Burns, Fire Chief Joe Giver

Waunakee: Administrator Todd Schmidt, Assistant Administrator Caitlin Stene
Others Present: Forbes McIntosh and Ann Gryphan, GPS/DCCVA
Jane Cahill Wolfgram, Public Affairs Consultant, Village of DeForest
Jerry Derr, Dane County Towns Association

Dennis O'Loughlin, Dane County Supervisor
Glenn Linzmeier, Blooming Grove Fire Chief
John Dejung, Dane County Public Safety Communications Director

1. **Call to Order.** The business meeting was called to order by DCCVA President Mayor Jon Hochkammer at 12:07 p.m. at the Village of DeForest Public Safety Building. A quorum was present with 15 member communities represented. DeForest Administrator Steve Fahlgren welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2. **Approval of Minutes.** Aaron Oppenheimer made a motion to approve the minutes from the DCCVA meeting on Jan. 15, 2014, seconded by Mayor Kurt Sonnentag and approved on a voice vote.
3. **Financial Report.** The financial report was included in members' packets. Treasurer Bill Burns reported that all dues that were expected for 2014 have been collected. Expenses year to date are about \$6,600, mostly for retainer to Government Policy Solutions. There is a line-item in the budget for consultant/legal fees as a contingency. Cash in the bank is about \$56,000, with one more membership dues payment waiting to be deposited. Brad Czebotar made a motion to approve the financial report, seconded by Diane Wiedenbeck and approved on a voice vote.
4. **Guest Speakers:** John Dejung, Dane County Public Safety Communications Director, was present to give an update on the implementation of DaneCom and to address issues surrounding 911 dispatch (CAD).
 - a) **DaneCom:** Dejung addressed some people's concern that municipalities are paying operation and maintenance (O&M) costs for DaneCom despite the system not being fully operational yet. He said the "good news" is that the primary O&M cost right now is leasing of the towers. He said the paging subsystem went live on Dec. 17 and seems to be working pretty well, with some coverage issues in Cambridge. Some mutual aid channels are operational as well, but the flagship P25 system still has to come up. Prior to the "go-live" there will be a 30-day burn-in with testing. Harris Corp. has been conducting studies on interference in the system, and that needs to be resolved before the final go-live. He said there are some thick concrete buildings where the signals might not penetrate well, but there are some work-arounds available to address this. Dejung reported that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is aware of the delay and will re-extend the deadline on narrow-banding.
 - b) **911 CAD:** Dejung noted that there has been press coverage about the county's computer-aided dispatch system (CAD) that has transitioned into a discussion about process time for calls into the system. Dejung said the county wants to improve on that situation and make sure calls are being handled appropriately, noting that they do have protocols for establishing the priority of calls. Nick Zavos said that Madison Mayor Paul

Soglin is concerned about dispatch/response time, and the city wants to make sure that the mayor's concerns are being taken seriously.

5. **Jurisdictional Transfer of County Roads.** McIntosh reported that he has heard many concerns from members on this issue. He believes the best way to handle this issue is to create a Regional Transportation Study Committee, invite the towns to participate and within the next 60-90 days put together a report. The idea is to investigate current laws surrounding the jurisdictional transfer of roads and options/recommendations for dealing with this issue. Under current state law, counties with over 500,000 population can transfer the maintenance of county roads over to local municipalities – and Dane County is expected to surpass this population threshold at the next Census in 2020. Tony Roach said that Dane County doesn't have a formal policy on the jurisdictional transfer of county roads, so he believes it will be difficult to study that (no policy) and state law is pretty simple. Mayor Bob Miller said it might be better to seek Dane County's input and cooperation on this issue. Bill Burns said fact-finding is a good first step, finding what agreements have been put into place and what is the cost-benefit information on life-cycle of the road reconstruction.
6. **Capital Area Regional Planning Commission (CARPC)**
 - a) **Electronic Ballot on CARPC USA Amendment Fees/March 5 BPP Meeting.** The DCCVA recently sent out a survey/electronic ballot to poll DCCVA members about a CARPC proposal to implement fees for Urban Service Area (USA) amendment applications. So far, about 10-11 DCCVA member communities have responded to the ballot. The CARPC Budget and Personnel Panel (BPP) was scheduled to vote on the adoption of fees at a recent meeting but has delayed action. CARPC is facing financial hardships, and USA amendment fees would help generate revenue to continue funding the organization. The proposed fee would not be retroactive, but would apply to new projects. The DCCVA membership is divided on this issue, and based on survey responses received so far, DCCVA President and CARPC Commissioner Jon Hochkammer would not be able to vote in favor of the fees on behalf of DCCVA.
 - b) **CARPC Legislation by Rep. John Jagler (AB 848).** State Rep. John Jagler on March 7 introduced legislation in the state Assembly that would require the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to approve or reject revisions to the areawide water quality management plan for Dane County and requires the DNR to make its decision within 90 days after a formal application for the revision is submitted. McIntosh said this legislation is being supported/brought forward by the Madison Area Builders Association, but it likely will not move forward before the end of the 2013-14 legislative session. The impetus behind this bill is to allow construction in Dane County to move forward even if CARPC is underfunded and no longer able to do its work. Andrew Disch of MABA said this legislation is a "mild approach" to making sure construction can continue despite the uncertainty of CARPC.
 - c) **DCTA Communications.** A recent memo from the Dane County Towns Association was included in today's DCCVA meeting packet. The memo expresses concern about the schedule availability of Jon Hochkammer for CARPC BPP meetings and calls for the election of a new DCCVA president. F. McIntosh said the memo was out of line and

appeared to be more of a press release that coincided suspiciously close to the upcoming April 1 spring elections. McIntosh stated he received a media inquiry shortly after the release of the memo, but after the reporter checked the facts with CARPC records and other BPP members it appeared as though the memo may have lacked credibility. McIntosh said the issue has been resolved and asked that the two associations focus on the progress of more important issues. Hochkammer said he had a pre-existing conflict with a proposed CARPC BPP meeting date, resulting in the memo, and he suggests that CARPC BPP meetings be scheduled using a Doodle calendar or some other electronic means to schedule meetings in advance and make for a more fair scheduling process. DCTA President Jerry Derr made a brief comment about the issue and agreed that the two associations should move forward.

- d) **DCCVA CARPC Appointment Vacancy.** McIntosh reminded DCCVA members that DCCVA is still looking to fill a vacancy on the Capital Area Regional Planning Commission, due to the resignation of DCCVA representative Kurt Sonnentag last fall. McIntosh said that it is important for cities/villages to have full representation on CARPC, and an absent vote is equal to a 'no' vote from cities/villages. He encouraged members to consider submitting a nomination for the CARPC seat. DCCVA representatives to external boards/commissions must be elected officials, unless DCCVA members vote to waive the requirement.

7. Legislative Update

- a) **Assembly Bill 661.** Assembly Bill 661, which allows towns to withdraw from a county comprehensive plan, was the subject of a public hearing at the state Capitol on Feb. 25. Dane County Towns Association representatives were among those in attendance at the hearing and were vocal about their support of the bill due to concerns about county oversight of town comprehensive plans. McIntosh said that the bill will not pass before the end of the 2013-14 legislative session. But due to the testimony at the hearing, the author threatened to amend the bill to make it apply solely to Dane County if Dane County refuses to work with its towns to address their concerns. The threat of this amendment to AB 661 led Dane County officials to introduce a county ordinance amendment that, if passed, would change the composition of the county Zoning and Land Regulation Committee to require that "a majority of the members of the zoning and land regulation committee shall be from supervisory districts that are subject to the County Zoning Code." McIntosh asked that DCCVA members run the county ordinance amendment (O.A. 31, 13-14) by their planning department staff and let him know if they have any concerns with the proposed ordinance amendment.

8. Other Business.

- a) **Wage Compensation Study.** Bill Burns reported on the joint wage compensation study, being led by the City of Sun Prairie. Six communities are working together to issue a Request For Proposals (RFP) for consultants/entities willing to conduct a wage compensation study. The study likely will gather both public and private sector salary comparison information, as well as helping to identify comparable positions from one organization to another.

- b) **Other External Board Appointments/Terms Ending.** The following cities/villages appointments to external boards or commissions have terms that are about to expire this spring: Paul Lawrence of Stoughton, Madison Area Transportation Planning Board; Susan West of Middleton, Dane County Lakes and Watershed Commission; Eric Hohol of Stoughton, Capital Area Regional Planning Commission. All are willing to serve for another term. Hochkammer said it is important that votes about appointments be recorded in DCCVA minutes. McIntosh said anyone else who would like to submit a nomination for either the CARPC or Lakes/Watershed Commission can submit it to the DCCVA staff. Nominations to the Transportation Planning Board seat can be submitted directly to William Schaefer at the Madison Area Transportation Planning Board. DCCVA members will vote on the appointments/reappointments to external boards/commissions at the next DCCVA meeting on May 7.
- c) **DOR Hearing.** McIntosh reported that Dane County is challenging the Wisconsin Department of Revenue's recent opinion that municipalities can adjust their levy limit in response to the recent transfer of EMS insurance costs from the county onto the EMS districts. Dane County is seeking a declaratory judgment, and the DOR hearing will be held on April 22. McIntosh said this is the only way DCCVA is going to deal with cost-shifting by the county. McIntosh recommended that DCCVA hire an attorney to represent DCCVA at the DOR hearing. Although there is some money in DCCVA reserves and \$5,000 allocated in the 2014 budget for legal fees, cost of hiring an attorney could be a concern. Those present at the meeting agreed that this is an important issue for DCCVA member municipalities. Motion made by Mayor Bob Miller: Authorize the Executive Committee to work with the DCCVA lobbyist to look into the hiring of an attorney (to represent DCCVA interests at the April 22 Wisconsin Department of Revenue hearing re: EMS insurance costs/levy limits) or using the services/supplementing a staff city attorney. Motion seconded by Diane Wiedenbeck and approved on a voice vote.
- d) **Recognition.** Jon Hochkammer thanked Forbes and Ann from Government Policy Solutions for helping keep DCCVA organized and running well.
- e) **Meeting Schedule.** The remaining 2014 DCCVA meeting schedule is below. DCCVA will be calling individual cities/villages – particularly in outlying areas - in search of hosts for our 2014 meetings.
- Wednesday, May 7, 2014, 5:30 p.m. (annual meeting and dinner) – Gray's Tied House, City of Verona
 - Wednesday, July 23, 2014, 7 a.m. – Village of Mount Horeb
 - Wednesday, Sept. 24, 2014, 5 p.m. – To be determined
 - Wednesday, Nov. 19, 2014, 12 p.m. – To be determined
9. **Adjourn.** Steve Fahlgren made a motion to adjourn at 1:35 p.m., seconded by Diane Wiedenbeck and approved on a voice vote.