

MINUTES

Dane County Cities and Villages Association

July 18, 2018

ATTENDANCE:

Belleville:
Black Earth:
Blue Mounds:
Brooklyn:
Cambridge: Trustee Paula Hollenbeck
Cottage Grove: Trustee Melissa Ratcliff
Cross Plains:
Dane: President Roger Schmidt
Deerfield:
DeForest: President Judd Blau, Administrator Steve Fahlgren
Edgerton:
Fitchburg:
Madison: Alder Larry Palm, Government Relations Officer Nick Zavos
Maple Bluff:
Marshall: Administrator Adam Ruechel
Mazomanie:
McFarland: President Brad Czebotar, Trustee Jerry Adrian,
Administrator Matt Schuenke
Middleton: Finance Director Bill Burns
Monona:
Mount Horeb:
Oregon:
Rockdale:
Shorewood Hills:
Stoughton:
Sun Prairie: Mayor Paul Esser
Verona:
Waunakee: Assistant Administrator Adam Bentley
Windsor: President Bob Wipperfurth
Others Present: Forbes McIntosh and Ann Gryphan, GPS/DCCVA
Steve Steinhoff, Capital Area Regional Planning
Commission
J. McClellan, Dane County Emergency Management

1. **Call to Order.** The DCCVA membership meeting was called to order by V. of Windsor President Bob Wipperfurth at 12:05 p.m. at Village of McFarland's Lewis Park. A quorum was present with 11 member communities represented. The members were welcomed by Village of McFarland President Brad Czebotar.
2. **Comments About Sun Prairie Emergency Response.** Czebotar and Wipperfurth both offered their condolences to Sun Prairie Mayor Paul Esser for the death of Sun Prairie Fire Captain Cory Barr, who died in a recent explosion in Sun Prairie resulting from a gas leak. Esser made a few comments about the situation and the emergency response and he also thanked neighboring communities for their support.
3. **Approval of Minutes.** DCCVA members reviewed the minutes from the last meeting on May 2, 2018. Brad Czebotar (V. of McFarland) made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Adam Ruechel (V. of Marshall) and approved on a voice vote.
4. **Financial Report.** Treasurer Bill Burns (C. of Middleton) gave a financial report. He noted that the association is in good fiscal health. All membership dues for 2018 have been collected that Burns anticipated to receive. The projected year-end account balance is about \$78,000. DCCVA should discuss the 2019 budget at our next meeting, specifically what is the target fund balance and whether any adjustments need to be made for 2019. Roger Schmidt (V. of Dane) made a motion to approve the financial report, seconded by Nick Zavos (C. of Madison) and approved on a voice vote.
5. **Reports From External Committees/Boards/Commissions.**
 - a. **DaneCom.** Judd Blau (V. of DeForest), who serves on the DaneCom Governing Board, said the board was scheduled to meet at the end of July but that meeting has been canceled due to a lack of agenda items.
6. **Guest Speaker: J. McClellan, Dane County Emergency Management. J.** McClellan recapped the recent events in Sun Prairie, noting the importance for communities to have an emergency plan. Wipperfurth said most communities do have an emergency plan in place but wonders how effective it will be in real time and whether it will be referenced immediately. McClellan said the county is here to be of assistance to communities. He noted that some emergencies are short-lived and others are long-lasting with weeks or months of hazards and cleanup. Bill Burns said local emergency personnel are prepared for many types of emergencies, but municipal staff coming in on Days 2, 3 or 4 could possibly use more training in how to deal with the aftermath of an emergency. Some members said they have emergency training exercises planned in the near future.

McClellan said there is some grant money available, but communities should have personnel time planned for and budgeted for to have these drills for things such as overtime, backfilling of staffing, etc. DCCVA members are invited to contact McClellan for assistance planning for an emergency drill and about possible grant funds available. McClellan said it is wise to have city or village staff designated to address certain tasks following an emergency, and there are different levels of preparedness and conversations you can have in advance. But outcomes on recovery vary widely and each emergency scenario and response is so different, he said. Paul Esser (C. of Sun Prairie) discussed the emergency response to the gas leak and explosion in Sun Prairie and how emergency crews identified the source of the problem and evacuated and secured the area. It took a lot of moving pieces to make that happen, with assistance from WE Energies, police and fire crews, Dane County Emergency Management and many other parties, Esser said.

7. **Jurisdictional Transfer of County Roads.** The issue has been ongoing for many DCCVA members. In July, Forbes McIntosh and President Wipperfurth met with Dane County Board Chair Sharon Corrigan and other county supervisors on the issue. DCCVA's first priority with addressing the fairness aspect to city and village taxpayers was achieved earlier this year with passage of 2017 Wisconsin Act 207. The Wisconsin statutory definition of "populous county" was modified to ensure legislative intent that certain statutory provisions apply to Milwaukee County, including "Jurisdictional Transfer of County Trunk Highway Systems," to help protect city and village taxpayers in Dane County from unilateral jurisdictional transfer of county highways and associated annual operation and maintenance and long-term construction costs to cities and villages.

The consensus of a majority of the DCCVA members present is to defend city and village residents from unfair tax increases by ensuring public policy acknowledges that county highway systems should remain under county jurisdiction. DCCVA members did discuss when there are legitimate instances where cost-sharing may occur and therefore appropriate discussion and policy direction is needed between the cities/villages and the county. DCCVA members discussed policy concepts that would recognize these situations and yet ensure city and village taxpayers are not unfairly burdened with future tax increases to maintain what is a "county highway" that serves regional transportation needs.

McIntosh suggested that for future meetings with the county a municipal workgroup should be established that is comprised of elected officials and transportation experts.

8. **Discussion on Future of CARPC/Recent CARPC BPP Action.** Forbes McIntosh gave an update on recent discussions by the Capital Area Regional Planning Commission's Budget and Personnel Panel. Dane County Executive Joe Parisi

proposed a motion at the last BPP meeting seeking the support of CARPC and the appointing authorities to have CARPC have its own line item on the property tax bill, so it would be separate from the county levy. Bob Wipperfurth said there was a motion on the floor at the CARPC BPP meeting, but he asked the vote be delayed to get input from members. There were questions about what that would mean for CARPC's future governance and having it be a separate tax levy with limited elected official oversight and also whether the county should continue to have the same representation on CARPC if the county no longer has the direct levy limit impact. Larry Palm noted that state law through the Governor's Executive Order has determined the membership in the regional planning commission and removing appointees would require legislation. McIntosh stated that there is likely a second process to achieve such a change through municipal resolutions. The DCCVA membership came to a consensus that they would be interested in looking at new funding mechanism for CARPC but the governance should also be part of that discussion.

9. **DCCVA Goals and Priorities.** Bob Wipperfurth said the DCCVA Executive Committee met in June to discuss what direction DCCVA should move in the future. The membership survey was part of that and the member survey results are enclosed in today's meeting packet, which Ann Gryphan briefly reviewed. Paul Esser said his issue is human diversity. There is a sea change coming, he said, and "minorities" will soon be the "majority" segment and cities and villages need to embrace that. He noted that Sun Prairie recently passed a non-discrimination ordinance, as has Verona, Madison and Dane County. Esser is encouraging all cities and villages within Dane County to also pass non-discrimination ordinances or resolutions to aid in economic development by showing large corporations that we are a good place to relocate their operations and welcome their employees. Esser asked that this be placed on the next DCCVA membership meeting agenda and discussed further, with sample ordinances shared with all DCCVA members. There will also be other discussion about DCCVA goals and priorities at future meetings.

10. Nominations for Appointments/Reappointments.

- a. **DaneCom Governing Board:** DCCVA has one opening for an appointment on the DaneCom Governing Board to replace Jonathan Freud, former City of Sun Prairie alder. Two individuals were nominated to serve on the DaneCom Governing Board: Melissa Ratcliff, trustee in the Village of Cottage Grove, to replace Freund; and Abigail Lowery, trustee in the Village of DeForest, to replace Judd Blau (V. of DeForest), who has indicated interest in being replaced by Lowery. There are no expiration dates to their terms on the DaneCom Governing Board. Ratcliff said a few words of introduction and a little about herself. Bob Wipperfurth thanked Judd Blau for his service on the DaneCom Governing Board. Paula Hollenbeck (V. of Cambridge) made a motion to nominate both Melissa

Ratcliff and Abigail Lowery to the DaneCom Governing Board, seconded by Paul Esser and approved on a voice vote.

- b. **Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District Commission.** DCCVA does not have direct appointment authority to MMSD Commission, however the cities and villages served by MMSD (excluding City of Madison) than comprise the “Executive Council” will need to make an appointment this fall. One appointed commissioner (Brian Potts) will not be seeking reappointment.

11. **Legislative Update.** Forbes McIntosh said there is not much happening at the Capitol right now, due to upcoming elections. The state Legislative Council Study Committee on the Property Tax Assessment Practices will be meeting this summer and fall to discuss the dark store issue, which DCCVA will be reporting on.

12. **2018 Meeting Dates.** The remaining 2018 DCCVA meetings are:

- Wednesday, Sept. 19, 2018, 5 p.m. (Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District, Madison)
- Wednesday, Nov. 14, 2018, 12 p.m. (City of Middleton)

13. **Adjourn.** Paul Esser (C. of Sun Prairie) made a motion to adjourn at 1:34 p.m., seconded by Judd Blau (V. of DeForest) and approved on a voice vote.