

MINUTES

Dane County Cities' and Villages' Association

July 23, 2014

ATTENDANCE:

Belleville:
Black Earth:
Blue Mounds:
Brooklyn: President Nadene 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:
Maple Bluff:
Marshall: Administrator Sue Peck
Mazomanie:
McFarland:
Middleton: Mayor Kurt Sonnentag
Monona: Mayor Bob Miller, Administrator Patrick Marsh
Mount Horeb: President Dave Becker, Trustee George Sievers, Trustee Mark
Rooney, Administrator Dave Ross, Assistant Administrator Kathy
Hagen
Oregon:
Rockdale:
Shorewood Hills:
Stoughton: Mayor Donna Olson
Sun Prairie:
Verona: Mayor Jon Hochkammer, Alder Evan Touchett, Alder Elizabeth
Doyle
Waunakee: Administrator Todd Schmidt
Others Present: Forbes McIntosh and Ann Gryphan, GPS/DCCVA
Jerry Deschane, League of Wisconsin Municipalities
Andrew Disch, Madison Area Builders Association

1. **Call to Order.** The business meeting was called to order by DCCVA President Jon Hochkammer at 7:05 a.m. July 23 at the Village of Mount Horeb Municipal Building. A quorum was present with 13 member communities represented. Mount Horeb Village President Dave Becker welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2. **Approval of Minutes.** Shawn Pfaff made a motion to accept the minutes of the May 7, 2014, annual meeting as presented, seconded by Judd Blau and approved on a voice vote.
3. **Membership Dues Increase.** DCCVA Treasurer Bill Burns was not in attendance at the meeting. DCCVA Lobbyist Forbes McIntosh presented information about membership dues for 2015 in Burns' absence. McIntosh said that DCCVA has spent much of its financial reserve during the legal action with Dane County regarding EMS insurance/transfer of services. The DCCVA Executive Committee is recommending a membership dues increase for 2015 to help build up that reserve due to possible future legal action and resulting legal fees stemming from appeals on the Department of Revenue (DOR) case and other possible issues. Bill Burns put together a new membership dues rate chart for 2015, showing a recommended increase and the impact on individual cities/villages. Membership dues are based on population and the dues increase would range from \$75 to \$900, depending on population. DCCVA President Jon Hochkammer said the proposed membership dues changes for 2015 would both increase base dues and also readjust based on newest population numbers. Hochkammer said the changes would increase DCCVA revenues by about \$11,500, which would be used to build up the reserves. DCCVA last had a dues increase in 2010. Pfaff asked whether the Executive Committee anticipates increased legal costs over the next few years. McIntosh said that the DOR determination would be coming out within the next few weeks, and either Dane County or DCCVA could challenge the decision, then possibly could challenge further to circuit court. He also said other issues such as transportation funding or the future of the Capital Area Regional Planning Commission could also require legal action/legal fees. Shawn Pfaff made a motion to approve the 2015 membership dues changes as recommended by Bill Burns and presented by Forbes McIntosh, seconded by Dave Becker. Sue Peck inquired what would happen if cities/villages could not afford the membership dues increase as presented; and Hochkammer said he doesn't believe that has happened before and suggested that cities/villages factor this in when preparing their 2015 budgets. McIntosh also said it is not financially feasible to have cities/villages individually challenge Dane County on important issues such as the EMS insurance/transfer of services case, and that joining forces by paying dues/legal fees through the association is much more cost-effective and benefits all cities/villages. Pfaff motion approved on a voice vote.
4. **2015 DCCVA Budget.** Jon Hochkammer discussed the 2015 proposed DCCVA budget, as prepared by Treasurer Bill Burns. The 2015 budget contains the membership dues increase as already discussed, no changes to the lobbying/administration services

budget, \$5,000 for legal fees and \$5,000 for contingency. The total revenues are budgeted at \$60,355. The total expenses are budgeted at \$54,085. Judd Blau made a motion to approve the 2015 DCCVA budget as presented, seconded by Bob Miller and approved on a voice vote.

5. **Capital Area Regional Planning Commission.** Forbes McIntosh reviewed the recent budget actions of the Capital Area Regional Planning Commission (CARPC). On June 30, the CARPC Budget and Personnel Panel (BPP) voted in support of raising the county levy charge by \$60,000 with an additional \$60,000 from the City of Madison to cover the CARPC cost to continue so that CARPC may operate without a deficit, cover salaries and stay viable. But the full Regional Planning Commission, in a subsequent vote, disregarded the BPP vote and voted to approve an even larger CARPC budget and levy for 2015 – approving by an 8-3 vote a \$1.319 million levy charge for 2015. This compares to the 2014 levy charge of \$748,200 for CARPC operations. McIntosh asked what position DCCVA should take on the issue of CARPC governance and funding. McIntosh outlined some of the options DCCVA members could consider and provide feedback upon, including - Do cities and villages want a regional planning commission? Should a smaller RPC be created that represents a smaller geographic region (i.e. MPO region)? If the County's representatives were decreased along with county funding, would other counties\municipalities be more likely to join? Should cities and villages just allow CARPC to dissolve and allow the State DNR take over analysis and decision-making of USA's for this region? Should regional planning remain with the same shared local governance structure? Although residents benefit county-wide from regional planning activities, should city and village taxpayers pay more for regional planning activity? What does the membership want to achieve in regional planning? Are cities and villages comfortable with certain planning functions being decided by Dane County or the Lakes & Watershed Commission? McIntosh said there is disagreement among the towns on whether to support the dissolution of CARPC. Shawn Pfaff said the CARPC struggles are not just over funding but also over how this region should grow. Mayor Donna Olson inquired who would take over water quality planning if CARPC were to go away. McIntosh said the water quality designation and USA determinations would remain with DNR unless certain provisions were met – which provided for city and village approval. The question is how the technical analysis would occur if the DNR determined they do not have the level of staffing necessary to perform in a timely manner. No motions on CARPC were brought to a vote at today's DCCVA meeting.
6. **DaneCom.** McIntosh reported that DaneCom burn-in is planned to commence in the next few weeks, with go-live coming shortly thereafter. However, the FCC extension expires at the end of September. McIntosh stated that DaneCom implementation is already a year late from the original timeline, so he would not be surprised if more delays are announced soon. Further, McIntosh stated each time he meets or speaks with the County Executive's Office, Director Dejung and his staff and the emergency services associations – he gets conflicting information. Does the DaneCom system that is supposed to go live in August truly meet the targets the various entities agreed to? If

DaneCom fails to go live in August – what are the technical problems for another delay? Is the final contract between Dane County and the vendor represent the exactly what cities, villages and towns agreed to with the County? Are there areas of Dane County that will need additional investment due to inadequate coverage or penetration and how will that be identified? How will the new DaneCom compare with our peer municipalities in Wisconsin and the U.S.? Will DaneCom fail as the emergency service associations say it will, or is this part of a two-step lobbying strategy to obtain the full original \$34 million system? McIntosh has met with the executive committees of fire, police and EMS. They say the DaneCom system will lack penetration and coverage due to an overreliance on existing towers, little investment into new towers and a need for additional channels for DaneCom and the sub-tactical analog system. A police chief has already been stating publicly the hypothetical scenario of an “active shooter” in a DeForest elementary school where current test indicate the DaneCom system will not penetrate into that school when it goes live. Emergency services consistently states that they believe no matter what the county says DaneCom will likely be delayed until at least late September or more likely for months afterwards; DaneCom administrator puts out weekly updates, but implementation deadlines continue to come and go; Cities and villages don’t get to meet with the vendor and DCCVA has not been allowed to see coverage maps and other data because they are “proprietary” and the vendor contract is with Dane County not with the city, village and town “partners.” – which the County Executive’s office has explained is why their corporation counsel will not allow a representative of DCCVA to participate in refund discussions with the vendor.

Public safety and budgets\levy limits will be the balance of any discussions for additional investment. If coverage and penetration is not to a satisfactory level will municipalities need to purchase repeaters or other solutions and who will pay for that? Mayor Shawn Pfaff suggested that public safety agencies complete a checklist or survey of their current radio system coverage so they have a comparison on coverage when the new DaneCom system goes live. In addition to coverage concerns, some municipalities are reportedly already contemplating withholding operation and maintenance payments on DaneCom due to continuing delays for system implementation. Dane County has been in negotiations with Harris Corp. about possible reduction in or reimbursement of fees due to the delays in implementation, but McIntosh said the County Executive’s office will not allow a DCCVA representative to be a part of those discussions/negotiations with Harris as the actual contract is between Dane County and the vendor.

7. **911 Communications Center Board.** There are also many issues at the forefront right now relating to the Dane County 911 Communications Center Board. There have been attempts via county ordinance amendment to change the governance structure of the board. Also, dispatch response time is currently an issue throughout the county. McIntosh noted that the 911 Board/Dane County do not have the statutory authority to mandate that the nearest municipality respond to an emergency as is currently being discussed – that decision is up to local municipalities and that is why they have mutual aid agreements. The membership agreed to have McIntosh more aggressively pursue a

resolution on all of these inter-related public-safety issues on behalf of DCCVA. Pfaff suggested inviting the county board chairperson to the next DCCVA membership meeting.

8. **MPO Board Vacancy.** There is currently one vacancy on the Madison Area Transportation Planning Board, due to the recent resignation of Judd Blau. Nominations should be sent to Bill Schaefer at the transportation planning board by July 25.
9. **Other Business.**
 - a. **Meeting Schedule.** The remaining 2014 DCCVA membership meetings are:
 - i. **Wednesday, September 24, 5 p.m.** – Village of Marshall
 - ii. **Wednesday, November 19, 12 p.m.** – City of Fitchburg
10. **Adjourn.** Judd Blau made a motion to adjourn at 8:33 a.m., seconded by Diane Wiedenbeck and approved on a voice vote.