

MINUTES

Dane County Cities' and Villages' Association

September 23, 2015

ATTENDANCE:

Belleville:
Black Earth:
Blue Mounds:
Brooklyn:
Cambridge: Trustee Paula Hollenbeck
Cottage Grove:
Cross Plains:
Dane: Trustee Roger Schmidt
Deerfield: President Greg Frutiger, Administrator Elizabeth McCredie
DeForest: President Judd Blau
Edgerton:
Fitchburg: Mayor Steve Arnold
Madison: Government Relations Officer Nick Zavos
Maple Bluff:
Marshall: Administrator Sue Peck
Mazomanie:
McFarland: Administrator Eric Rindfleisch
Middleton: Mayor Kurt Sonnentag
Monona: Mayor Bob Miller
Mount Horeb:
Oregon:
Rockdale:
Shorewood Hills:
Stoughton: Mayor Donna Olson
Sun Prairie:
Verona: Mayor Jon Hochkammer, Administrator Bill Burns
Waunakee: Administrator Todd Schmidt
Others Present: Forbes McIntosh and Ann Gryphan, GPS/DCCVA
Stephen Steinhoff, Capital Area Regional Planning Commission

1. **Call to Order.** The business meeting was called to order by DCCVA President Mayor Jon Hochkammer at 5:16 p.m. at Stoughton Area EMS Building in the City of Stoughton. A

quorum was present with 13 member communities represented. Stoughton Mayor Donna Olson welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. **Approval of Minutes.** Steve Arnold made a motion to approve the minutes from the DCCVA meeting on May 6, 2015, seconded by Bob Miller and approved on a voice vote.
3. **Financial Report.** Treasurer Bill Burns presented the financial report. Revenues year-to-date are \$60,355, expenses are \$54,085. The projected fund balance at the end of the year will be about \$22,000. If DCCVA doesn't need to tap into reserves, we can continue to grow the DCCVA fund balance to help cover any future outside legal or consulting expenses, Burns said. Judd Blau made a motion to approve the treasurer's report, seconded by Kurt Sonnentag and approved on a voice vote.
4. **2016 DCCVA Budget.** The 2016 proposed DCCVA budget is very similar to 2015, Bill Burns said. There will be no additional change to budget dues structure, but Fitchburg and Sun Prairie will see slightly increased membership dues due to population changes. Judd Blau made a motion to adopt the 2016 DCCVA budget as presented, seconded by Greg Frutiger and approved on a voice vote.
5. **Appointments to External Committees.**
 - a. Capital Area Regional Planning Commission – one seat to fill term of Eric Hohol, term to expire in spring 2017. Forbes McIntosh reported that Eric Hohol is resigning his seat on the Stoughton City Council and is moving out of the city and will no longer be an elected official. DCCVA needs to fill this vacancy, as a vacancy is the same as a 'no' vote when cities or villages try to get things passed on CARPC. McIntosh said traditionally DCCVA has required that appointees to external committees be elected officials, but the association might want to consider suspending that rule to get this seat filled. Jon Hochkammer said the preference is to get an elected official to serve, but failing that, he is OK with a qualified city or village staff person filling the seat. Hochkammer noted that Fitchburg and Verona are currently represented on CARPC but there is no village or anyone from the northern part of Dane County currently serving on CARPC. Eric Rindfleisch asked about the timeline for submitting nominations – McIntosh said he hopes that DCCVA will have one or more nominees and vote on this at the next DCCVA meeting in November, if not sooner.
 - b. Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District – three seats. DCCVA does not make a direct appointment to MMSD. The Executive Council of Cities and Villages Served by MMSD will be meeting immediately following today's DCCVA meeting to vote for its three representatives to the new MMSD Commission. (The cities/villages include: Monona, Fitchburg, Middleton, Verona, Cottage Grove, Dane, DeForest, Maple Bluff, McFarland, Shorewood Hills and Waunakee.) The Executive Council received four nominations for three seats by the nomination deadline last Friday. For those cities/villages represented by the Council who are not able to vote in-person tonight, voting will be held open until noon this Friday. The City of

Madison has already announced its five appointments to the MMSD Commission. The towns/utility districts served by MMSD have one appointment – and Thomas Wilson of the Town of Westport is expected to fill that seat.

6. **DaneCom Update.** McIntosh said there is really nothing new to report. DaneCom is expected to go live next year.
7. **CARPC Update.** McIntosh said he is looking for feedback on an issue/idea that arose this summer. He said if we were to get rid of CARPC and let the DNR take over USA amendments and have other duties go to the county or other entity, we could take the money saved from that and take cities/villages off DaneCom payments – basically taking CARPC off the county tax levy and instead putting all DaneCom costs on the county. Hochkammer said that under strict levy limit laws, it's not a transfer of service, just the elimination of CARPC and we can't assume the state will allow the CARPC levy to fund a radio system. Steve Arnold said he agrees that if there was no CARPC that levy capacity could disappear. Arnold said the regional planning function of CARPC is important and he is not in favor of getting rid of CARPC. Hochkammer said he didn't think it's something DCCVA can support at this point. In separate CARPC news, McIntosh said there is currently some contention about CARPC's Budget and Personnel Panel and its lack of meetings recently. Although some are saying the 2016 CARPC budget was adopted without the BPP meeting/approval, others are saying that it is due to the BPP chair failing to schedule a meeting. Hochkammer said it is his opinion that it's time that the BPP goes away – stakeholders should have faith in the CARPC commissioners to do their job. McIntosh said that BPP was created by agreement of all Dane County communities and the majority of the 62 cities/villages/towns would need to agree to the abolishment of the BPP. Hochkammer said this is worth a try and suggested that this be placed on the next DCCVA membership meeting agenda for further discussion.
8. **Legislative Update.** McIntosh said the Dane County town zoning bill is expected to come back – Rep. Keith Ripp said he plans to introduce it as a standalone bill. This initiative seeks to allow Dane County towns to withdraw from county zoning. McIntosh said the towns are upset with County Executive Joe Parisi because he is not allowing projects to move forward. This bill could create problems for cities/villages regarding building codes, badly planned development, zoning and future annexations. McIntosh said he needs assistance from DCCVA members on this issue, as he expects that it will move quickly through the legislative process once the bill is introduced. DCCVA members or planning staff should plan to attend any future public hearings on this bill – and show that this bill is not just about towns and Parisi but also impacts cities and villages within Dane County.
9. **Member Surveys.** McIntosh reported that DCCVA member surveys were sent out earlier this year via email on the subjects of DCCVA membership meeting attendance, DCCVA legislative webinar participation and firefighter recruitment/retention efforts. The results of those surveys can be found in today's meeting packets and also online via links provided in today's email reminder about today's meeting. Bob Miller said his community continues to explore ways to relieve the firefighter staffing issue and they have an ad hoc group studying

the issue – but there is no easy answer. Miller said any group investigating this issue should have two components: industry experts and elected officials, because they sometimes have differing viewpoints on the issue. Hochkammer said some communities are discussing consolidations of their fire/EMS functions, but consolidation is not an easy thing to do. Kurt Sonnentag said consolidation might lead to problems with response time. Eric Rindfleisch suggested workgroups to study the issue of firefighter staffing, fire districts and possible opportunities for consolidation – and give City of Madison a seat at the table in these discussions. Hockhammer echoed Bob Miller’s comment that any discussion should have experts and elected officials – and Miller also suggested third-party involvement by the fire union. McIntosh noted that there is a bill that has been introduced in the state legislature that would allow reduced ambulance staffing levels in certain rural parts of the state. McIntosh noted that an argument could be made in the Dane County town zoning bill issue that if there is a lot of growth in the towns, then where are your public safety services going to come from.

10. **Next Meeting.** The next DCCVA meeting will be held at 12 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 18, in Mazomanie. The 2016 meeting dates have not yet been set.

11. **Adjourn.** Steve Arnold made a motion to adjourn at 6:22 p.m., seconded by Liz McCredie and approved on a voice vote.