

Draft Minutes
Dane County Towns Association Membership Meeting
Wednesday, August 16, 2017
Town of Westport - Kennedy Administration Building
5387 Mary Lake Road, Waunakee, WI 53597

Meeting called to order at 7:03 pm by President Derr.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll call - 19 towns present (Berry, Black Earth, Blue Mounds, Bristol, Cottage Grove, Dane, Deerfield, Dunkirk, Dunn, Middleton, Perry, Pleasant Springs, Primrose, Rutland, Springfield, Sun Prairie, Verona, Vienna, Westport)

Updates from appointees:

CARPC David Pfeiffer and Kris Hampton reported that CARPC presented a budget to the BPP. It was approved on a 3 to 1 vote and will be submitted to the county board. They are working on a work program for next year and had a good turnout at the Dane County Fair for a Visioning process. They are doing modeling workshops to look at change and give a sense of different growth impacts. They are also seeking cooperation with entities like the MPO to reduce duplication.

Lakes & Watershed Lyle Updike spoke about the legacy sediment program. It got off to a slower start because of testing and establishing procedures. They don't want to release nutrients in the process. They are also doing a salt wise program with the storm water utility. The focus now is on private applicator use rates and procedures on sidewalks and parking lots. They are working on a certification program to train and promote private applicators. They are forming a joint working group with CARPC - a technical advisory task force on stormwater. Three key recommendations they are working on are: increasing from 90% to 100% stay on of discharge, control of runoff from closed basins, and a 50% discharge rate from urban redevelopment. A trading program is being proposed and researched.

DaneCom Renee Lauber read a report distributed summarizing the July 27, 2017 meeting (attached). Jim Pulvermacher spoke about Waunakee coverage issues inside buildings. General coverage in SW Dane County was also discussed. Jeff Teuscher, Dane County Field Services Captain was asked to comment. He noted discussion of changing the commercial building code to add a wire to help communication. He has not had complaints from the SW area, still gets some complaints from the Blue Mounds area. They are testing an ISSI interchange that should help.

Sheriff's Office Update Jeff Teuscher spoke about a large amount of vehicle break ins in residential areas and county parks. They are working with bait cars and cameras to catch the thieves. Heroin is driving a good amount of the crime. His department is doing a lot with crime statistics to id hot spots. They are proactively policing townships - monitoring social media and gang activity. The Sheriff is working on the budget request for the next year - specifically jail improvement. He spoke highly of Josslyn Longly's active shooter emergency preparedness

training. She will do a training for 5 or 500 people. Traffic control and road construction was briefly discussed.

MMSD - Tom Wilson reported that Yahara Wins moves forward. The treatment plan connection charge was controversial but got figured out. They continue to look at additions and annexations. MMSD had an issue with lift station 10 - it is served by 3 electrical services. 1 was struck by lightning, 2 had a tree land on the line and 3 didn't kick in. 5 hours later MG&E flipped a switch and turned the 3rd line on. Tom recommended that towns contact their utility provider and let them know if a lift station call comes in it is a priority.

Recognize Attorney Mark Hazelbaker and his years of service to DCTA

Mark was thanked for his service and presented with a Certificate of Appreciation for 22 years of dedicated service from the Wisconsin Towns Association and a Certificate for a US Flag was flown over the State Capitol to recognize his service.

Review and Consider Draft Procedures for Adopting Official DCTA Policy

A draft policy was distributed (attached) Martha Gibson gave background on the policy development. The definition of significant opposition was discussed. The high threshold of 4 to 6 towns constituting "significant opposition" was reviewed. Sending the policy to towns for comment was requested. Adding general principles to apply to certain situations was suggested.

Mark Hazelbaker noted that whatever is decided, the by-laws will likely have to be amended. He noted line 99 - 103 that gives the President the ability to speak for the association and that requiring a supermajority will tie the hands of the DCTA.

The question of what the mechanism is for a town to get the DCTA to take on an issue or piece of legislation was raised.

It was noted that a membership organization is different from a town board that makes majority decisions and that individual town dues can end up paying for policies that a substantial number of towns are against.

A way forward might be to develop a series of general principles that would be approved by the membership. With the ability for individual towns to call for a vote if something came up. That could be a way to get things on the table but not hinder us as a lobbying organization. The policy document will go to the executive committee for review and come back to the membership again.

Discuss amending DCTA By-Laws to add the option for a District to elect an alternate District Director to attend meetings when their representative cannot attend

Amending the by-laws to allow for an alternate so if someone cannot make a meeting there would be a knowledgeable alternate representing that district. The alternate would be elected by the district. The Executive Board didn't have any issues with the concept but wanted to bring it to the membership for comment and review.

If the alternate is kept up to date on the Executive Board's work, comments were that it is a good idea, we are all busy people - good to have a safety valve.

Review and Consider 2018 Town Dues Schedule and DCTA Budget

A handout with the 2017 dues calculations was reviewed (attached). The towns with less than 1,000 population were discussed. The state association has different levels based on population. Increasing the cap \$300 to \$500 was proposed. Some spoke in opposition to increasing fees. It was noted that basing decisions on equalized value ignores that towns have different mill rates and revenue caps.

Motion: Hampton/Pfeiffer approve schedule with the (existing) \$2,500 cap. Carried.

Review and Consider AB 109 making technical changes to the law authorizing towns located in a county with pop. of at least 485,000 to withdraw from county zoning

Mark Hazelbaker reviewed the changes made by AB 109 from a memo previously emailed to the towns (attached). He noted that the bill was passed by the Assembly. Whether or not the Senate will act on it is uncertain. He recommends that the bill be amended to go back to the original requirement for Annual Meeting approval.

The ability to opt out after the Comprehensive Revision of the County Zoning Code was discussed. Mark noted that towns would still be subject to the county land division ordinance and the county would have to approve their new zoning code. It was noted that the proposed code does not have A-1 zoning. Rezoning existing properties could create issue for the town of Middleton.

The history was AB 109 was reviewed. Mark apologized for the way AB 109 was introduced.

It was suggested that the towns interested in opting out can push for AB 109 and let the DCTA not be involved. Having the Association withdraw AB 109 and cease lobbying for it was discussed. Why should be reopen all of those wounds?

The process changes that AB 109 makes were reviewed. Some commented against the changes stating that it makes the process less democratic and that it is not in residents' interest to have less process. Others commented that the created deadlines are just obstacles to opting out. They are not resident notification. They are "make work" and should be corrected. Creating an option for citizens to petition to opt back in was brought up.

It was noted that if DCTA doesn't ask for the amendment to put the Annual Meeting vote back in, it might get passed without ~~that requirement~~ the requirement that the Town must have allow-a (binding?) citizen vote at an Annual meeting (and not merely at a Special Meeting).

It was again proposed that, because of lack of a consensus by members on whether to withdraw or amend AB 109, the DCTA stay out of the issue and remain neutral, and let the individual Towns that support AB 109 go forward on their own, and a motion to that effect followed.

Motion: Mark Trotter/Kris Hampton: The Association refers AB 109 to the six towns that are working on the opt out procedures.

Discussion: Was this on the agenda? [Lauber read the agenda item, which stated that there would be -discussion and possible action on AB109.](#) Should this be sent out to the towns for comment? By shuffling this off to the six towns, are they going to care about the Annual Meeting requirement?

[Jim Pulvermacher suggested having the six towns leaving zoning ask the legislators if they can to remove the thirty day notice amendment so it goes back to the annual meeting. He reported that he had asked nine towns if they had any issues with AB109 and they all said they supported AB109 and would also support changing it back to the annual meeting including the town of Black Earth. Lauber read a letter emailed to Pulvermacher from the town of Vermont \(attached\).](#)

Friendly Amendment: In doing so the DCTA directs the [group-6 Towns](#) to amend the bill so that the original language [regarding requiring a citizen](#) ~~the~~ vote at the Annual Meeting only and not a special town meeting ~~be a requirement~~ [be restored to the bill.](#)

Motion carried. Berry representative, Blue Mounds representative opposed.

Poll towns regarding interest in educational meeting Re: Road Construction Contracting: construction/asphalt specifications etc.

Jim Pulvermacher spoke about the town of Springfield not using DOT specs for paving. They add oil. The DOT specs are too rigid and Springfield noticed better wear and less cracking with more oil in the mix. If there is interest, MSA could bring people from the WI asphalt producers - to explain the specs, pavements and mixes for traffic and what we should be looking for. Jim asked that information be sent via email to all the towns. Westport, Primrose, Berry, Middleton, Blue Mounds, Deerfield, and Perry and interested in an educational meeting.

Motion to Adjourn: Kris Hampton/Vern Wendt. Carried.