

Minutes

Dane County Towns Association Executive Board

January 18, 2012 – 7:00pm

Madison Town Hall

2120 Fish Hatchery Road, Madison

Present: President Derr, Ted Olson, Tim Roehl, Jim Pulvermacher, Steve Schulz.

Absent: Bob Lee, Pat Downing.

Also Present: Renée Lauber, Policy Advisor.

Meeting called to order by President Derr at 7:00 pm.

Consider December 21, 2011 meeting minutes

Motion: Roehl/Pulvermacher. Approve 12/21/11 meeting minutes. Carried unanimously.

Consider Monthly Financial Statement

The financial statement was reviewed and the unemployment insurance expense was questioned as Mark and Renée are retained as independent contractors.

The Exec Board confirmed that their per diems would be made quarterly.

Update on Farmland Preservation Plan

Renée reported that she met with Brian Standing and went over all the suggested changes. Brian had no issues with almost all the changes. However, he thought the request to add language that Dane County land purchases must be approved by Towns should be discussed at a subcommittee meeting. The Executive Board would also like further discussion of how the Dane County Water Plan meshes with the Farmland Preservation Plan. (Steve Schulz arrived)

The Exec Board reviewed Brian Standing's proposal to add a definitions section to the beginning of the plan document that would include the following definition for "Dane County Comprehensive Plan:"

- The Dane County Comprehensive Plan, adopted under s.82.53, Dane County Code
- Town plans adopted under s.82.55, Dane County Code;
- Regional and municipal plans adopted under s. 82.55, Dane County Code
- Municipal comprehensive and extraterritorial plans adopted under Chapters 62 or 66, Wis. Stats. and incorporated into the county plan under s. 66.1001, Wis. Stats.

They disagreed with his proposal and would like specific references to using Town Comprehensive Plans so that there is no confusion or misinterpretation in the future.

Update on DaneCom Agreement

To date 31 towns have agreed to participate – with York, Montrose and Pleasant Springs voting no.

Update DCTA Audit Committee

Nothing to report.

Review survey information

Surveys received from Vermont, Cottage Grove, Blue Mounds, Westport, Vienna, Vermont, Berry, and Middleton. The Exec Board asked Renée to thank those that participated in the survey and to share the goals for 2012 of more timely communication, working to improve CARPC, working on the Farmland Preservation Plan, seeking a long term funding solution for DaneCom and generally improving communication with county leadership.

Review Weight Limits response

Nothing to report.

Review and Comment on Proposed Chicken OA

Patrick Miles informed Renée that county staff got a bit ahead of things and posted a public hearing date for the OA. He has not officially introduced the OA yet so a public hearing should not have been posted.

Tim Roehl shared many concerns regarding the OA. He believes this is a property rights issue, will negatively impact property values and will conflict with neighborhood covenants. He also stated concerns about diseases and viruses that come from livestock like SARS and the bubonic plague, attracting coyotes, odor issues, people not knowing how to care for poultry, and waste disposal issues.

Steve Schulz noted that there is no definition of a single family residence in the zoning code. Medina specifically restricts the deeds of RH or other smaller lots establishing a maximum of 5 animals (not animal units).

Ted Olson noted that Dunkirk recently voted on this and will allow only 5 chickens (the proposed OA allows 8) and they will also require a town permit. He pointed out that on residential property agricultural sales are not allowed. Eight eggs a day is a lot for a family to consume.

The Exec Board also discussed possible nuisance complaints and noted that nuisance laws are usually not enforced. Suggestions for basing things on lot size and that the county does have a variance process that people could go through were also discussed.

Review dates for February meeting with County Executive and set discussion topics

Most Exec Board members could meet after 4:00 pm. Renée will contact Parisi's office and work to schedule a meeting. Topics for discussion with the County Executive are DaneCom, CARPC and the Farmland Preservation Plan.

Other

Calendar - Ask Windsor for February meeting location. Change November meeting date to 7th and do not meet at a Town Hall (because Town Halls will be storing voting records and recovering from the election the previous day). The Verona Senior Center might be a good location.

CARPC – Motion: Pulvermacher/Olson. Roehl to replace Pulvermacher on CARPC Advisory Committee. Roehl abstained. Motion carried.

Invoice for Dues - Ask Kimberly about invoices. If they did not go out ask her to send them.

DaneCom Governing Board – The DCTA will now need to have our representative be from a town that has agreed to participate. Thus we need to replace Mark Hazelbaker. The Exec Board would like the next representative to also be an elected official.

Chapter 10 Task Force – The Task Force currently has a sunset date. A request to extend the Task Force will be on its next meeting agenda. There has been talk of making it a permanent committee or subcommittee. The Exec Board discussed the usefulness of sunset clauses.

Motion: Pulvermacher/Roehl to extend the Task Force for one additional year.

The Task Force is currently working on updating Communication Tower siting rules. They have divided the complex topic into sections. The first section on administrative procedures and the application process will be discussed at the next meeting. It will be sent to towns for review and comment. The same process will be used for future sections on co-location and tower location.

Adjourn Roehl/Olson. 9:20 pm