

Minutes
September 16, 2015
Town of Westport, Kennedy Administration Building
5387 Mary Lake Road Waunakee, WI

After a rousing rendition of Happy Birthday to Jerry, the meeting was called to order by President Derr at 7:06 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance led by town of Westport Chair, Van Dinter.

Introduction of Guests Kris Hampton - CARPC Commissioner, Tom Wilson noted that Representative Diane Hesselbein asked him to send her regrets. Renée Lauber noted that several County Board Supervisors emailed to say they could not make it because of a budget hearing.

Update on law enforcement statistics for Dane County

Dane County Sheriff's Office representatives Jeff Heil - Traffic Sergeant, Brooke Gagner - Community Deputy, and Mike Walnoah - Crime Analyst were present. Mr. Walnoah gave a presentation on statistics and trends in Dane County. He emphasized that the goal is to use the data to maximize tax dollars and use them as effectively as possible. If you have traffic safety concerns, there is a link on the Dane County Sheriff's website to report issue and bring it to their attention.

Roll Call. Present: Blue Mounds, Bristol, Cottage Grove, Dunkirk, Mazomanie, Roxbury, Rutland, Springfield, Sun Prairie, Vienna, Westport, Windsor.

Update on Legislative Issues and Overview of the Wisconsin Towns Association Strategic Planning and Leadership Process, Mike Koles, Wisconsin Towns Association (WTA), Executive Director

Mr. Koles handed out the WTA Legislative Update Summary. He gave a detailed review of WTA's legislative accomplishments and upcoming agenda. He noted that county shoreline zoning is something to watch. If it is not regulated by NR115 counties can create a shoreline ordinance that regulates. The county can then interpret that to mean it can implement shoreland zoning. Winnebago County is going to do that. WTA is trying to get this overturned. People up north are very upset by these changes.

A bill to repeal comprehensive planning is being discussed. WTA is against it. Comprehensive Planning legitimizes towns. It gives towns a foundation to argue for TIF and annexation changes. WTA doesn't think it is a serious threat right now.

Ambulance bill should pass soon. Staffing in communities of less than 10,000 people no longer requires two EMTs. There have been problems in the north finding EMTs. What was happening was they were waiting for the second EMT to arrive. Would you rather have one EMT and a first responder or wait?

Mr. Koles also passed out strategic planning information and reviewed the process and draft vision statement. Strategic planning should be done in January or February.

District #1 Director Report, Betty Manson is our new director. She is from Juneau County, town of Plymouth. She owned and operated a dairy farm. She served as Clerk of her town and on the county board for some time and now Chair of the Juneau County Board.

Presentation on State Legislation to Allow Towns to Opt Out of County Zoning, Mark Hazelbaker, DCTA Legal Counsel. As many people know, the legislation did not make it in to the state budget. We are moving forward with it being introduced as a separate bill. Mark reviewed what counties have done across the state – starting with what existed in 1950 and noted that cities have grown at expense of towns. He spoke about the history of development, town planning and land use battles with cities.

The missing link in the ability of towns to survive is control over their zoning. Dane County is not interested in helping towns. We have asked for a comprehensive revision of the zoning code. The County refused because it would allow towns to opt out of county zoning and fundamentally Dane County wants control. We have been portrayed as asking for changing the fundamental way of things. Actually there are 72 counties. 69 counties have more than one town. 12 counties have no general zoning. Of the remaining counties only four have not revised their zoning ordinance. Dane County's zoning ordinance is 77 years old, the oldest unrevised in the state. We are doing this for survival, because it vindicates our belief in town government.

Jim Pulvermacher emphasized that the legislation makes withdrawal totally voluntary.

Mark noted that Dane County says 98% of zoning requests go through, so what is the problem. It is the conditions, the A-4 zoning demands and the delays that are the problem. The only way things get through are with deed restrictions, etc.

Mike Koles mentioned potential legislation regarding Extra Territorial Jurisdiction. He is hoping to limit ETJ to areas of 5% population growth and less than 10% vacant land. This could also extend to annexations.

Updates on DaneCom, CARPC, Other

Steve Anders reviewed an email update from Josh Wescott. He noted that the information was given out two months ago. He noted radio reprogramming costs. The County has more channels. All places will have to have radios reprogramed again.

Motion: Hampton/Pulvermacher. Adjourn.