

**DCTA Annual Meeting Minutes**

May 15, 2019

Bristol Town Hall

7747 County Hwy N, Sun Prairie, WI 53590

**Meeting called to order by President Derr at 7:00 PM**

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**17 Towns Present:**

Berry	Christiana	Dunkirk	Rutland	Westport
Black Earth	Cottage Grove	Perry	Springfield	
Blue Mounds	Dane	Pleasant Springs	Sun Prairie	
Bristol	Deerfield	Primrose	Verona	

**Approval of January 16, 2019 Membership Meeting Minutes**

Motion: Geller/Anders. Approve 1/16/19 minutes. Carried unanimously.

**Remarks from Mike Koles, Executive Director, Wisconsin Towns Association (WTA)**

Mr. Koles distributed a handout titled "Have Town Businesses and Citizens earned a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Economy? Or, will they be stuck with 20<sup>th</sup> Century Infrastructure?" and spoke about the WTA legislative agenda and the mostly defensive work WTA does with legislators. He asked town representatives to make sure they read the WTA magazine and noted an article on changes to road right of way in the April issue. There is also an article on proposed significant land use changes for quarries.

Mr. Koles gave details on the Governor’s proposed transportation budget and noted the general inequity in road funding for towns, construction inflation, and a WTA proposal to increase matching funding for the 20% poorest towns (based on equalized value per mile). He emphasized a proposal to increase weight limits to 91,000 on six axels instead on 80,000 on five that WTA is opposing. There was discussion on ways to fund roads outside of the property tax including a county-based sales tax. Issues with Fire and EMS funding were also discussed. Act 317 allows towns to charge upfront fees for fire. WTA is working to extend the same funding mechanism to EMS and is also asking for tax incentives for Fire/EMS volunteers.

WTA hired a Land Use Specialist. He will start by working to prevent use of condemnation authority outside of a municipality’s own boundaries. Other issues to be addressed include : five year annexation paybacks (remove loop holes associated with downzoning or municipal purchase); island annexation (a city owning an island and annexing it); extra-territorial zoning (only allow for growing cities with minimal undeveloped land); returning general shoreland zoning authority to towns (recent Attorney General opinion gave land use zoning control to counties). WTA recently worked to pass a law limiting requirements for ag assessment notices. Now for changes of assessment less than \$500 no notice is required to be sent to property owner. This will save towns money on mailing and postage for insignificant (pennies) tax increases.

Mr. Koles also reviewed the meaning of the WTA logo, WTA Mission Statement, Vision Statement, Strategic Direction and outreach/education plans for 2019.

Q: Insurance – our town was dropped. Is there a WTA program for towns with that issue or could there be an insurance pool? Mr. Koles notes that there is a new provision allowing for associations to create association

insurance plans. Wisconsin Bankers and Wisconsin Manufactures and Commerce have created association plans. He has plans to talk with Johnson Insurance about potential for a health plan.

**Consider creating DCTA policy to lobby Dane County for funding for purchase of development right and transfer of development rights programs.**

Motion: Martha Gibson/Norm Monsen. Create policy to lobby Dane County for funding for PDR and TDR programs. Carried Unanimously.

**Consider creating DCTA policy to promote equipment sharing for Fire and EMS Districts**

Discussion that consolidation in quadrants is also a worthwhile. There is a need to actively engage the chiefs for this to work.

Motion: Steve Anders/Jim Pulvermacher. Direct the DCTA Executive Board to look into policy to promote equipment sharing for Fire and EMS Districts and other consolidation. Carried unanimously.

**Updates:**

DCTA Policy Advisor

-Renée is collecting comments on the issue of unlimited animal units in the new zoning code and will be creating a working group to meet with Dane County to work to resolve the issue.

-She is also organizing an affordable housing gap presentation that will be on Thursday, May 30, 2019.

-She has been asked to represent towns on a new Dane County Complete Count committee regarding census outreach.

-She is planning a transfer of development rights workshop for this summer.

Jim Pulvermacher, Springfield is talking about problems with campers and trailers on Ag land with Dane County.

He is also talking with Dane County about the new state mineral extraction proposals. MSA would like to do a GPS and performance bonding requirements presentation.

CARPC – Steve Steinhoff, Agency Director, is talking with two towns about options for helping with Comprehensive Plan updates. He noted that CARPC has a full time GIS analysis that has increased their capacity to provide mapping services. He noted that they are not looking to supplant any services that Dane County can provide. He also stated that CARPC isn't going to compete with a town RFP but, if you aren't going the RFP route, and want to talk, CARPC can provide services. He noted recent completion of survey work and that the data can be broken down for rural areas if there is interest.

Lakes and Watershed – Lyle Updike noted that a technical advisory committee just finished looking at flooding. They will be addressing two areas. 1) How to get the water out of the system faster that will focus on dredging and 2) Stormwater. Lyle is chairing the stormwater work group that is looking at source reduction. He noted anything we do would apply county wide. There was discussion on the 100% stay on rules and changes that now only allow 90% and issues of exemptions and exceptions to the 90% max.

DaneCom – Steve Anders reported on a software upgrade and expected assessment increases.

MMSD – Tom Wilson noted they are busy with city sewer extensions and work on PFAS. PFAS is a chemical in waterproof clothing that is being found in the environment - more that people have expected. There is no federal regulation of PFAS or acceptable levels. They are studying it.

**Election of DCTA Board of Directors and DCTA Officers**

All current Directors were reelected. District 1 – Jerry Derr, District 2 – Steve Anders, District 3 – Ted Olson, District 4 – Martha Gibson, District 5 – Manfred Enburg, District 6 – Jim Pulvermacher, District 7 – Tom Wilson. Derr and Pulvermacher were reelected as President and Vice President. Renée Lauber was reappointed Secretary/Treasurer.

Meeting Adjourned 10:00 pm