

Minutes
DCTA MEMBERSHIP MEETING
Wednesday, September 18, 2019
Blooming Grove Town Hall
1880 South Stoughton Road, Madison, WI 53714

Meeting called to order at 7:05 pm by President Derr.

Pledge of Allegiance

Towns Present: Blue Mounds, Bristol, Cottage Grove, Dane, Dunkirk, Dunn, Pleasant Springs, Primrose, Rutland, Springfield, Verona, Westport.

Introduction of guests: Julie Schwellenbach, County Board Supervisor.

Approval of May 15, 2019 Annual Meeting Minutes

Motion: Wilson/Anders. Approve May 15, 2019 minutes as written. Motion carried unanimously.

Carrie Springer, Dane County Legislative Lobbyist – discussion on Dane County Legislative Agenda. Carrie has been asked to comment on the following: payment in lieu of taxes, transportation funding, senior programs, well testing, dark store issues, mining. Attached is the 2019-2021 Dane County Legislative Agenda.

Carrie Springer, the new legislative lobbyist, was introduced. She reviewed transportation funding briefly discussing the \$460 million new revenue for transportation and other new money in the state budget. She also went over senior citizen programs and dark store legislation. She is not hopeful that dark store reforms will move forward in this legislative session. Mr. Derr mentioned referendums across the state, won by significant percentages, supporting reform legislation on dark store assessments.

Well testing was discussed focusing on work other counties are doing administering well testing cost-share programs. Mr. Pulvermacher noted that with flooding, testing is even more important as many may have no clue regarding contamination. Ms. Springer will look into what other counties are doing.

The importance of road weight limits were discussed. Excessive weights cause significant repair issues. The trucking industry is pushing for an increase on state highways and within 15 miles of a state hwy. Mr. Derr noted there should not be any weight increases until transportation funding is figured out. He would hope the county would take a position against weight increases.

State commercial building inspections in ag buildings was discussed and the differing requirements for inspection in commercial versus ag use buildings. Payments in lieu of taxes for conservation land was also reviewed. For some there was a perception that Dane County could not pay in lieu as the DNR does. Ms. Springer said that there is nothing in the state statute that would prevent payments. She will ask the County Board Chair why this item was included in the legislative agenda and let towns know.

Q: Dane County landfill will be stopping all their compost receiving on January 1st – what is the plan for current users. Where will the compost go?

A: Ms. Springer, and many town officials, were not aware of this. Ms. Springer will look into it and report back.

Ms. Springer asked that her contact information be shared with the towns:

Legislative Lobbyist, Carrie Springer
springer.carrie@countyofdane.com
Phone: 608-266-4114

Consider Proposal to address issues of unlimited animal units in new Dane County Zoning Code. In June 2019 towns were surveyed regarding their opinion on amending the zoning code. There was not clear consensus on this issue. A discussion and vote at a membership meeting was requested.

Renee Lauber reviewed the issue and previous communications with towns. An email was sent to towns on April 1, 2019 letting towns know that DCTA had been contacted by several towns with issues related to unlimited animal units in the new FP-1 zoning district. Specifically, that unlimited animal units are now allowed on much smaller parcels than in the previous zoning ordinance. A proposal was suggested and rejected by several towns. Then in June 2019 a working group was established to review the issue and make suggestions. A memo was sent to towns on June 26, 2019 with the work group's proposal to return to the previous standard of no animal units on parcels less than 5 acres and to create a new zoning category for rural residential. Again, there was not clear consensus on how to deal with animal units on smaller parcels. Renee noted that she invited Brian Standing, Dane County Planning and Development, to the meeting as an information resource for the discussion.

David Pfeiffer, Pleasant Springs, noted that a significant issue for his town is that by adopting the new zoning code, significant changes have been made on parcels (increasing the allowed animal units). This has been done without the standard process of directly letting neighbors of parcels know or giving them an opportunity to voice an opinion on the land use change.

Martha Gibson, Primrose, proposed either restricting animal units on less than 5 acres or having a 1 animal unit per acre standard and adding language to the zoning code to use Conditional Use Permits (CUPs) to allow additional animal units in FP-1. This would allow for a clear public process for proposed land use changes.

Several people suggested delaying a request for amendment to wait for new DATCP standards that are due out soon or two have this issue be a separate amendment and not part of a cleanup amendment Dane County staff are preparing for introduction. Renee noted that Dunn and Pleasant Springs have specifically not adopted the new code because they are waiting for the addition of RR-16 and to have this issue addressed/resolved. Waiting is not a solution for them.

Several people spoke in favor of the CUP option, as it gives towns the ability to custom tailor their land use. There were many questions about what was allowed under the old code with a desire to return to what the previous code allowed and not bypass or circumvent neighbor input on changes.

Motion: Gibson/Hampton. Request Dane County amend the FP-1 zoning district to:

On parcels from 1 to 5 acres, restrict to no livestock with an option for a CUP for livestock.

On parcels greater than 5 acres, allow 1 animal unit per acre with an option for a CUP to exceed the one animal unit per acre limit. Also request the addition of the RR-16 zoning district.

Motion carried. Blue Mounds (John Brixy), no; Springfield (Jim Pulvermacher), abstain.

Updates from DCTA appointees on: CARPC, Lakes and Watershed, DaneCom, and MMSD.

CARPC is moving their office and digitizing old records. They are also holding meetings in the municipalities that have a service area extension being considered. This recently worked well in Dane as they heard concerns from landowners that probably would not have traveled to Madison for a meeting.

Lakes and Watershed – took time off over the summer – nothing to report.

DaneCom – 911 center performed well when the MG&E substation blew up down the street and moved operations to their backup location. Insufficient generator capacity at the City-County Building was the biggest issue. In addition, there are some planned upgrades, being paid for by the county, in process. Town O&M fees were sent out in July. Renee will send them out again.

MMSD – the budgeting process is happening. Planning for an 8% rate structure increase. Different communities will pass on and have different rates. The increase is mainly for redoing 50 year old infrastructure. The old commission borrowed for these types of expenses, we are now doing more cash so we don't have as big of an interest payment every year. PFAS are also an issue of concern. We are monitoring and working with the state and fed on standards.

DCTA - Renee has been appointed to the Dane County Complete Count Committee. If anyone has issues or suggestions regarding the census please contact her or Todd Violante at Dane County. They are working on getting the word out on the importance of the census. She is suggesting material for town December newsletters.

WTA - Jerry is now serving as President of the Association. There are meetings next week in Barneveld, Town lawyer conference next week, WTA Convention October 13-15. WTA has increased its legal staff to four attorneys and will be focusing a position on outreach and education.

Motion: Pulvermacher/Brixy. Adjourn at 9:08 pm