

## **DCTA MEMBERSHIP MEETING Wednesday, September 16, 2020**

The meeting was held via Zoom and was called to order by President Derr at 7:02 pm.

**Towns Present:** Blue Mounds, Bristol, Christiana, Cottage Grove, Cross Plains, Dane, Dunkirk, Primrose, Springfield, Sun Prairie, Verona, Westport.

### **Approval of May 20, 2020 Annual Meeting minutes**

Motion: Wilson/Duerst. Approve May 20, 2020 minutes. Carried unanimously.

### **Discussion and Q and A led by Attorney Joe Ruth, Wisconsin Towns Association (WTA) Legal Counsel, on the WTA legislative agenda, CARES/Covid 19 spending, etc.**

Attorney Ruth talked about the WTA legislative agenda and emphasized the importance of WTA state listening sessions that will take place virtually this year. Tentative dates are 10/1, 10/20 and 11/5. Expanding rural broadband is already being pursued.

Federal CARES funding was discussed. The importance of thinking outside the box regarding potential reimbursable expenses was emphasized. Towns should keep receipts for 5 years for a possible (though unlikely) federal audit. If towns do not spend their allocations, the money goes back to the state not taxpayers. Unspent funds can be transferred to another municipality or county. The procedure for transfers can be found in the DOA website under the reporting expenditures link. Towns purchasing item for EMS/Fire district was also discussed. Towns can do this as the districts are considered a unit of government.

Q: What do you see for state funding for next year?

A: There is a projected loss of revenue because of Covid, but right now that amount is less than anticipated. I would budget for two scenarios: no change and a modest decrease in revenue. I would not budget for any increase in state funding. Some projections actually show that the state may make up the revenue lost by the end of the year. My gut is telling me that there is not going to be a huge reduction in the amount of state aid that is shared with towns.

### **Consider action on 9/3/2020 by the Dane County Executive Committee to reduce the size of the County Board.**

The Committee voted unanimously to recommend 35 districts. That is a reduction of 2 districts. The County Board will vote on this recommendation in October. Most supervisors acknowledged that 35 is an arbitrary number. Committee members talked about wanting to maintain affordability (thinking larger districts would increase campaigning costs), have supervisors with diverse backgrounds (allowed with a larger board), and have the board not be a full-time job. Having 35 supervisors allows for 5 on each standing committee. This will make committee appointments easier as now some committees have 6 supervisors which allow for potential tie votes.

Town officials commented how the reduction of two supervisory seats ten years ago reduced rural representation, especially in western parts of the county. How is this not going to reduce rural representation again? Worry was expressed about lost representation. Comments reflected views about this proposal seeming very arbitrary – it seems like a symbolic reduction at their expense.

Motion: Gibson/Duerst. Object to the reduction because we believe it will reduce our representation as it did 10 years ago when the board was reduced by 2 seats. Carried unanimously. Renee was directed to write a letter to Dane County Supervisors regarding opposition and the symbolic/arbitrary nature of the action and the impact on rural representation.

**Consider dues schedule and annual budget:**

There was discussion as to why are the dues based on 2016 equalized value. This was done because the Executive Committee recommended not increasing dues. When the 2020 equalized value was put into the formula, dues increased for all towns and would have required changing other factors to get to the numbers we are currently at. For next year it would be good to look redistribution. Specifically, to look at the assumptions in the formula and the impact on small, low population towns versus larger, wealthier towns.

Motion: Duerst/Anders. Approve the status quo dues schedule and proposed annual budget. Carried unanimously.

**Updates from DCTA appointees on: CARPC, Lakes and Watershed, DaneCom, Yahara Clean Compact and MMSD.**

CARPC – Kris Hampton talked about the adopted budget and 1.5% reduction, change of staff and consideration of adopting Dane County policies on retention and healthcare.

Lakes and Watershed - Lyle Updike reported on two draft ordinances discussed at the Commission meeting earlier in the day: 2020 ACT-118 ILLICIT DISCHARGE ORDINANCE and 2020 ACT-119 ORDINANCE AMENDMENT TO CHAPTER 14 regarding stormwater. There are many details and aspects to both proposals. Lyle suggested that he invite staff to come to a meeting and discuss details with towns. Renee noted that we did this several years ago when other changes were proposed. The meetings at that time were well attended and helpful. Renee will work with Lyle to set up meetings for landowners and town officials.

Census – Renee Lauber reported that overall Dane County has a 77.7% self-response rate. In 2010 the rate was 77.9%. She emailed census information to towns earlier in the day with a link to a county response rate map.

Open Meetings – Renee Lauber reported on work with the County Board Chair to make committee meetings more accessible. DCTA is advocating to allow for video access for all participants. Dane County is looking at switching from GoToMeetings to Zoom to accommodate this.

DaneCom – Steve Anders reported that the selection process to replace Jon DeJung is underway. DaneCom is working “stellar” and Dane County is going to foot the bill for back up batteries for emergency backup power at microwave towers in the event of a main power failure.

MMSD- Tom Wilson reported that they are going through their budget process and it looks like there will be a 3 to 6% rate increase. Mandated stormwater improvements and potential PFAS regulations are being discussed.

Yahara Clean Compact - Tom Wilson reported that previous work focused on urban practices and it now looks like farmers and agricultural runoff hold the key to water quality improvement. Renee Lauber reported that she has joined the public engagement subgroup and is working with the group on messaging. Both Tom and Renee will be doing interviews discussing why DCTA joined the compact and what we feel we bring to the table. Overall progress/process is slow.

Motion: Duesrt/Gibson. To adjourn at 9:00 PM. Carried unanimously.