

Walworth County
Intergovernmental Cooperation Council
(ICC)
Tuesday, March 24, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.

Walworth County Government Center, County Board Room 114
100 West Walworth – Elkhorn
Minutes

County Administrator David Bretl called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

Roll was called by municipality. Officials representing the towns of Bloomfield, Darien, Delavan, East Troy, Geneva, Lyons and Troy. Village representatives were in attendance from Bloomfield, East Troy, Mukwonago and Sharon. See attached attendance sheet. County Board members Ken Monroe and David Weber were in attendance. Others in attendance were Larry Price, Director of Highway Operations, Kurt Picknell, Walworth County Sheriff and Derek D’Auria, Executive Director of Walworth County Economic Development.

Approval of agenda on motion by Klarkowski/Johnson. Motion carried.

Approval of minutes of October 28, 2014 on motion by Monroe/Johnson. Motion carried.

Derek D’Auria from Walworth County Economic Development Alliance. Bretl introduced Derek D’Auria, Executive Director of the Walworth County Economic Development Alliance. The alliance is a nonprofit organization designed to promote economic development within the County. WCEDA works as a business advocate, facilitator, catalyst and a resource. Previously Derek worked at George Williams College in Williams Bay. Derek gave an overview of what the organization is responsible for and to help understand their objectives. WCEDA has three key areas of focus. First, to match useful resources to local businesses. Second, to provide workforce development by working with education and training partners to provide skilled employees. Finally, WCEDA is working to provide access to capital assistance so as to facilitate building a working network of funding options for Walworth County businesses.

During the next three years major goals include worker count to encourage businesses to expand. The second goal is filling an employee pipeline accomplished by working with schools, colleges, job center to coordinate educational efforts. The third goal is working towards a robust capital funding network, traditional and non-traditional. Downtown redevelopment activities goal is to provide positive movement in member communities. Derek is also looking to increase membership to 200 by 2018. Currently membership is at 88 members and his goal is by end of June hit 100 members. WCEDA will continue to provide networking events that are the best and largest in the County. Also, Derek intends in the future to focus on the agriculture sector for new opportunities.

Derek plans to raise interaction with Walworth County businesses with a public relations campaign to bring awareness to WCEDA and their economic development activities. The website has been improved by focusing on visual appeal, ease of use and leverage capabilities.

Weber commended WCEDA for sponsoring student visits to manufacturing facilities in Delavan, East Troy, Elkhorn and Whitewater. This introduced the students to the technology in manufacturing and to help remove some of the stigma of working in manufacturing. Weber stated he is enthusiastic regarding

developments between schools and manufacturers in Walworth County. Derek is really encouraged with what is going on in the schools.

Derek stated some of the emerging opportunities include the Parent Career Path Campaign which will encourage parents to consider that not every student needs a 4 year degree. Interest is gaining in communities regarding fiber optics and railways. Bretl thanked Derek for his presentation.

Bretl introduced Kurt Picknell, newly elected Sheriff for Walworth County. Picknell was raised in Delavan and is the 43rd Sheriff for Walworth County; he's been in law enforcement for 27 years. After graduating from Delavan-Darien High School in 1982, Kurt earned an associate degree in Police Science from Gateway Technical College. In addition to receiving a bachelor's and master's degree from Concordia University, Kurt is a graduate of the FBI National Academy as well as Northwestern University's Staff and Command school.

Kurt reviewed the organizational structure of the Sheriff's Office. The divisions within the Sheriff Office are administration, communications, patrol, support services, corrections and investigations. Patrol, corrections and communications are 24 hour a day operations. The division of administration includes the Sheriff, Undersheriff and support staff overseeing the day to day and supervisory operations. Support Services is central records, court security, civil process, fleet maintenance, and training. Support Services also includes one information technology person who works with the Sheriff Office's specialized technical infrastructure. The investigation unit includes the detective bureau and drug unit. The communication division includes the 911 system and the county wide emergency management.

Corrections unit includes the main jail, Huber release area and electronic monitoring. Kurt asked if anyone knew the background of the term Huber Dorm, a term used exclusively in Wisconsin. In Monroe, Wisconsin when employees of Huber Brewing were on work release it was called working at Huber. People are held in County jail if their sentence is one year, if over one year they enter the prison system. A wide range of offenses can be held in a County jail. About half of the work release inmates are in the electronic monitoring program. The program is GPS and cell signal driven. They are monitored to know exactly where they are. Approximately half must perform breath analysis and voice verification within their home. Picknell believes the program is successful as most people in jail will be returned back to the community after serving their sentence. This system enables them to adjust their behavior while staying in their own home and caring for their family. Not every inmate is qualified for electronic monitoring.

Patrol division includes the marked squad cars, K9's unit, highway safety, crash investigations, ATV, snowmobile, motorcycle, and marine patrol. We also have a dive and SWAT team. Kurt would like to expand the Township Liaison program as it provides a point of contact in communities.

Kurt asked for any questions. Darlene Johnson stated Mukwonago has problems with dead spots in communications, "do you have problems"? Kurt answered yes; "we are trying to build up the system to eliminate dead spots". A communication study within the county and in the southeast Wisconsin region will be taking place in the near future. Most of the southeastern area departments have numerous systems and the study will help departments move to a central smart call structure. Picknell also mentioned that concrete block buildings tend to diminish the reception of radios, so signal penetration will be an aspect of the study.

Question was asked about the drug problem in Walworth County. How do we compare to other counties and what types of drugs are causing the problem? Picknell answered mostly opiate based drug use, either from prescription drugs or heroin. Heroin is cheap and readily available. The majority of heroin is

brought from Illinois, due to Walworth County's close proximity. Recently, a meth lab was raided in Village of Darien. We are not seeing as much meth due to difficulty obtaining the ingredients (cold medications containing pseudoephedrine). A prescription only drug disposal box is permanently located in the lobby at the Sheriff's Office. Kurt, in cooperation with Attorney General Brad Schimel, will coordinate a Prescription Drug Take Back initiative that will take place at the Sheriff's office and at the five Sheriff's sub-stations. The goal is to provide a safe, convenient and responsible means of prescription drug disposal and to educate the community about the potential for abuse of medications.

Bretl asked Picknell about the prescription drug use and how someone becomes a user of opiates. Picknell stated it can vary, but sometimes people are prescribed the drugs for a condition and become addicted. In other cases drugs are leftover from an ailment and someone else in the household uses the drugs. Once addicted, acquiring drugs becomes a problem. Age groups can be anywhere from high school into their 40's. For some people opiate based drugs can take ahold of them very quickly.

Picknell commented the OWI court has been very successful. They have observed the people involved in drug court are higher maintenance, and very desperate while withdrawing from drugs. Withdrawal is so powerful, you feel like you are having a severe case of the flu. Of course, no one wants to feel ill so chasing the high becomes all encompassing. A drug addict needs to barter something to get more drugs so you have spin off crimes, such as burglaries, thefts and within family embezzlements.

Logterman informed the group the Darien Sheriff Satellite office has been a very positive experience and he feels it is a win-win. Logterman then inquired regarding the identity of the new Undersheriff. Picknell then answered he conducted interviews and 28 year veteran Kevin Williams was offered and accepted the position. Kurt has initiated a reorganization he feels will strengthen the organization and to build cross training within the department.

Bretl commented on the success of electronic monitoring. His opinion is that it keeps a closer eye on inmates as they can be out for 12 hours or more. Bretl invited members to tour the jail and see the facilities first hand. Picknell said the average daily population is 300.

Bretl introduced Larry Price from Walworth County Public Works for a wrap up of winter road maintenance issues. Price mentioned that rain and ice were forecasted for tonight, so winter is still not finished. In the recent past we have experienced heavy snowstorms in Walworth County into May. To calculate the number of winter events a very scientific method is used at the County Highway Department. The formula is taking the age of the new moon in days plus the date of the first snow that one can track a cat. This year the number was 38, a pretty high number. Currently, we are at 26 events of which three were freezing rain. Some storms were multiple day events. Price stated it was an easier winter than usual. The total snowfall so far this year is 48.5 inches. The snowfall is not from the national weather service, but from the superintendents and Price. Roadway surfaces, especially ramps and bridge decks, were pretreated with salt brine 12 times this year. During fall and spring is usually when most of the pretreatment takes place, residual salt is usually on the roads after storms. The county placed the 2015-16 orders for salt last week. During yesterday's event 500 tons were used on State and County. All 72 counties place orders for salt. Storage of salt is problem for everyone. The County is fortunate to have the ability to store 36,000 tons under roof. Due to an agreement, the State is entitled to 15,700 tons of storage. The problem for Price placing the order is estimating how much space will be available at time of delivery. The bid is separated into three components: Early Fill (salt is to be guaranteed delivery before November 14, 2015); Seasonal Fill (salt is to be guaranteed delivery before April 30, 2016); and the Vendor Reserve Fill (may buy all or part but there is no obligation). Price anticipates for 2016 we will be in good shape. In his opinion the price of salt will be lower due to availability. For the rest of the

season he doesn't foresee problems with providing salt to the municipalities. He is hoping this winter season will be finished before April.

Price encouraged attendance for the Wisconsin Department of Transportation's Local Program Symposium. Price stated the meeting is especially worthwhile if a bridge is in need of repairs or for a major road project. Under these state programs the state pays 80% of the cost and local government would pick up the remaining 20%. Price does understand that it is getting hard to find that 20%, but with the deteriorating condition of bridges and roads it is important to keep informed of funding availability.

Price asked for any questions. Randy Timm, Village of East Troy inquired about mowing. Price replied the state procedure currently approves only one mowing. The state also has placed time constraints; it must be after birds have nested but before July 10th. Price stated on urban section you can mow 3-4 times if grass is 9 inches or more. Price mentioned the department receives phone calls of support for not mowing and for mowing; it is a no win situation. Price informed the group about the state instituted Compass program that provides information on the maintenance condition of Wisconsin's highways. This information is used to help understand trends and conditions, prioritize resources, and set targets for future condition levels of the highway system. As more information is gathered, the information is used to illustrate and understand the consequences of funding and policy shifts, and to demonstrate accountability to decision-makers at Wisconsin DOT and in the legislature. In Walworth County 24 random section of roads are rated for litter, grass, invasive plants, paint and shoulder drop off. After monitoring data for seven years the State decided to redirect money from aesthetic operations, such as litter control and mowing, to safety problems such as paint and shoulder drop off. John Kendall, as a beekeeper, would prefer no mowing until winter. Price mentioned that near I 43 a farmer had crops for a vegetable company which didn't want the crop due to weeds along 43's rights of way. The farmer requested Highway to spray, but state policy is no spray. The conclusion was the farmer could spray, but it would be at his costs. He did end up spraying to be able to sell his crop. Price stated it is a tough situation, money is tight.

Randy Timm asked about the County working with the municipalities in regard to mowing, etc. and the possibility of trading labor between County and local government. Price said he had discussed this with Mike Miller, Public Works Director for Village of East Troy. The problem is the County is not budgeted for it. Randy Timm said they do not have the men available to furnish labor for complaints regarding conditions of the roads. Municipalities do get tired of fielding complaints about how an area looks. If they send men out to take care of the problem the state does not reimburse them. Price stated at the end of the day he has to charge time to budgeted accounts and can't offer up county labor to help out a municipality without budget.

Bretl mentioned he was impressed with the number of trucks arriving and departing from Public Works during a snow event from all over the County.

David Bretl had two issues regarding the proposed State budget initiatives to discuss. The first is proposed county wide property tax assessment. Bretl would like to hear the group's opinions/experiences. In the Governor's budget counties are to assume assessments by 2017. The Walworth County Board has sent a resolution in opposition. The reasoning behind the resolution was mainly due to the ambiguous time schedule and just not enough money and staff for it. Bretl asked for thoughts from local government. Cecil Logterman stated having the Board of Review at the County level would cause the municipalities to lose control and having local citizens on the Board of Review builds trust in the community. Logterman feels if County takes over tax assessments there would be disconnect and loss of control for both property owners and the municipalities.

The second being the local property insurance funds that would be eliminated under the governor's budget. The reason being, local governments could be insured by the private market. Some municipalities would be considered "high risk" because of past claims and some feel costs would increase. Taxpayers would have to fund any increases. The County has had good experience using the Local Government Property Insurance Fund. Bretl is guessing that the State budget will pass by the next meeting.

Bretl mentioned the County is looking for citizens to serve on the Board of Adjustment and WALCOMET. Information was sent to town clerks and published by newspapers. Forms are available if anyone knows of someone interested.

Next meeting of the Intergovernmental Cooperation Council confirmed for Tuesday, June 23rd. Please call if you have any items to be placed on the agenda.

Motion by Logterman/Mangold to adjourn at 7:32 p.m. Motion carried.