

Walworth County
Intergovernmental Cooperation Council
(ICC)
Tuesday, June 23, 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 at 6:03 p.m. and welcomed everyone.

Roll was called by municipality. Officials representing the towns of Bloomfield, Darien, Delavan, Geneva, Lyons and Troy. Village representatives were in attendance from Bloomfield, East Troy, Genoa City, Sharon and Williams Bay. City of Delavan was represented. See attached attendance sheet. County Board members Ken Monroe and Nancy Russell were in attendance. Others in attendance were Kathy Seeberg, Executive Director for Walworth County Tourism Bureau; Sergeant Mark Roum, Walworth County Sheriff Department; Jan Ellefsen, Public Health Officer; and Skip Mosshammer, Leadership Walworth.

Approval of agenda on motion by Logterman/Monroe. Motion carried.

Approval of minutes of March 24, 2015 on motion by Timm/Kendall. Motion carried.

Discussion regarding lowest responsible bids – Randy Timm. Bretl introduced Timm. Timm expressed his frustrations on the requirement in Sec. 66.080, Wis. Stats, regarding accepting the lowest responsible bid and how to define “responsible”. He sent letters to Representative August and Senator Nass. Senator Nass replied that he was very busy, but Timm will be meeting with Tyler August in July. The Village of East Troy is having difficulties with contractors they are using. Timm is wishing to change the language at the state level, and he is asking if other government agencies are having problems with the process. Kendall said Town of Troy did have difficulties with a contractor where additional costs were incurred. Monroe inquired about a resolution. When Timm initially discussed the subject with August, August stated no one had ever complained about the process but he was willing to work towards a solution. Bretl said a proposed advisory resolution could be placed on the County Board agenda. Timm stated the vague language makes it difficult to get a quality job. Timm is concerned due to a future \$12-15 million project in East Troy’s industrial park. Bretl expressed his appreciation for bringing the topic up and asked Timm to keep everyone apprised.

Kathy Seeberg, Executive Director of the Walworth County Visitors Bureau. Bretl introduced Seeberg, she gave a brief history of the Visitors Bureau and the funding received from Walworth County. Tourism is Wisconsin’s 3rd largest business. Tourism in 2014 had an \$18.5 billion impact on Wisconsin’s economy, an increase of \$1 billion or 5.5% from 2013. Walworth County ranks six in the state for direct visitor spending. Counties 1-5 are Milwaukee, Dane, Sauk, Waukesha, and Brown. Door County is number 7. The tourism industry in the county has accounted for 6,834 jobs in 2014, a 1.53% increase over 2013.

The STH 50 location at Lake Lawn airport is working well. In 2014, the Visitors Bureau had 3,729 walk in visitors. Directional signs have been placed along State highways to help direct people to the Visitors Bureau. Seeberg distributed the 2015-16 travel guides and asked for help with any corrections to the

municipal information. Seeberg commented that mailings are already at a higher rate than last year. She is excited for Walworth County to possibly host a motor coach tourism convention.

Regarding the room tax Seeberg stated there is a proposal in the state budget to change the way in which towns and municipalities will administer room tax programs. State law allowed local governments to impose a tax of up to 8% on rooms in hotels, motels etc. The proposed legislation would gradually require grandfathered governments to spend more on promotional activities and less on general government. The plan is to be phased in by 2020; a town or municipality could retain the greater amount of room tax it collected in 2009 or 30%. Denise Pieroni, City Administrator for Delavan, commented they would have to increase borrowing to pay for improvements and there would be no incentive to add beds because of the costs involved to provide services. This proposal is awaiting the governor's signature.

Sgt Mark Roun, Walworth County Sheriff. Sgt. Roun provided an update on the Walworth County Traffic Enforcement Task Force. Roun appreciates the opportunity to talk to each town and municipality and stressed this program is about traffic safety. He also wanted to recognize the assistance he has received from Cory Foster, WI-DOT; Amanda Lagle, Sheriff Department; and on his board, Lt. Andy from Walworth Police Department and Lt. Greg from Delavan Police Department. Walworth is the only county in the State that works all three types of enforcement - Operating While Intoxicated, speed and seat belt. So far there have had 18 deployments with 8 – 10 officers participating. During this time, 29 driving while intoxicated arrests were made, 1058 citations issued and 50 warnings issued. This is an average of 44 citations per deployment. Roun has heard positive remarks from municipal judges and police chiefs. Statistics show crashes are down this year and fatalities are about the same as last year. After Roun met with the state, he was told the task force is underfunded and they may receive three times the funds next year. Roun has developed a Facebook page for the task force that has been quite successful. Roun would like to come back in another six months to provide another update.

Jan Ellefsen, Walworth County Public Health Officer. Ellefsen provided a report on Health Department tasks. The Division of Public Health duties are to protect and educate residents and visitors by providing comprehensive health and environmental services, programs, and outreach initiatives for the wellbeing of all. Public Health consists of 15 staff members and they are part of Health and Human Services.

Approximately 10 years ago, in Wisconsin Counties were scored on health outcomes. In 2006, Walworth County's score was 18/19 out of 72 counties in the state; our ranking is now 45 in health outcome and 37 in health factors, a striking decrease. The environmental health profile of Walworth County includes high statistics regarding lung cancer and melanoma. Radon is the leading cause of lung cancer in nonsmokers. So far this year, 150 radon kits have been sold, with only 15 sold last year. This year Public Health will work on a Community Health Assessment and Improvement Plan that is mandated every five years. This helps to determine what action should be taken to improve the health of the community. Public Health is hoping that municipalities and villages will help. In the fall, assessments will be sent, and the goal is to receive 1000 responses to help identify and prevent issues.

One issue identified was access to free health care and the Open Arms Clinic was created. Now we need to look at access to the clinic availability for the entire county. Another issue is the county ranking regarding alcohol related driving fatalities; in 2014, it was 29%, and in 2015, it was up to 34%. Nationwide the average is 14%.

A success story is in nearby Jefferson County where they undertook the problem of obesity. They mapped and established walking paths. In the schools, water bottle fillers were installed to allow children to drink more water instead of sugary drinks. Jefferson County's rating in the state was 30, it is now 10, and Jefferson has declared they will not stop until they are number 1.

The Public Health's accomplishments are available online in the 2nd Annual Report. This past year, in partnership with Geneva Environmental, they tested over 400 private water wells in Linn Township. There is not a mandate to test wells but they would like to work with more municipalities. Public Health's water lab opened a year ago and will start testing for arsenic in well water. Some areas in the county have high arsenic counts. They have been testing the water at Delavan Lake beaches.

Skip Mosshammer, Leadership Walworth County. The aim of Leadership Walworth is to promote new community leaders in both public and private sectors who are aware not only of the social and economic issues affecting the area, but to foster awareness of the network of local people and organizations from county board members to school superintendents. This network is available to offer guidance, perspective and resources.

During the course, each participant defines and undertakes a project that will have a positive impact on the county and is sustainable. This group has started projects ranging from a suicide prevention program, a community development/youth development program in Sharon, a program of leadership for high school students, a nonprofit cooperative buying program and an effort to coordinate public/private transportation in the county. The group meets monthly at a different location to help expand the knowledge base of participants. Some of the locations include UWW Technical Park, VIP Services, Walworth County Jail, GTC/WCEDA, George Williams College and UW-Whitewater.

A second group will begin in September and should be finished up in June 2016; the hope is to have up to 20 participants. Anyone interested please call 630-802-1436.

David Bretl, Discussion regarding Outagamie County Resolution. Bretl stated the resolution is supporting proposed legislation allowing counties and municipalities to certify Dept. of Revenue for the collection of debts owed to a contracted, private ambulance service operating on behalf of county or municipality. Bretl informed the group that this item had been passed and was awaiting the governor's signature. The legislation allows for debt collection for services through the Department of Revenue's Tax Refund Intercept Program (TRIP). TRIP uses tax refunds to collect debt.

David Bretl, Discussion regarding local impacts of state budget. The current budget eliminates the program of Local Property Insurance Fund. Under this program municipalities were able to obtain insurance at an affordable rate. It is believed with the elimination of the program, insurance costs will rise for municipalities.

Next meeting of the Intergovernmental Cooperation Council was confirmed for Tuesday, October 27th at 6:00 p.m.

Motion by Marra/Mangold to adjourn at 7:57 p.m. Motion carried.