

MINUTES OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION COUNCIL
MEETING OF FEBRUARY 26, 2008

Walworth County Administrator David Bretl called the meeting order. He extended a welcome to all those in attendance and thanked them for coming. He stated he would act as moderator this evening and that later on the agenda would be an opportunity to discuss whether they wished to elect a chair or not. Also, he will be presenting a power point to start the discussion of ground rules and future meetings. He stated he would combine the roll call with introduction of members and asked that as they introduced themselves they stand and also introduce any other officials from their municipality.

Present were: Kevin Brunner, City Manager for the City of Whitewater; Marilyn Kienbaum, President of the Council may arrive later; Nancy Russell, Walworth County Board Chair; Dan Lauderdale, Chair of the Town of Geneva; Cecil Logterman, Chair of the Town of Darien; Bill Loesch, Village of East Troy; Mel Nieuwenhuis, Mayor of the City of Delavan and Ellen Reddy, Alderperson of the City of Delavan; Arvid Peterson, Trustee of the Village of Fontana, who explained he was representing the village president who had double hip replacement recently; Joe Abell, Chair of the Town of Walworth; Bruno Schiffleger, of the Town of LaFayette; Frank Taylor, Chair of the Town of LaGrange; William Mangold, of the Town of Lyons; Wayne Redenius, Chair of the Town of Richmond; Dennis Jordan, Administrator of the City of Lake Geneva who explained the new mayor will be here next month; Gary Wallem, Chair of the Town of Sugar Creek. Also in attendance were John Olson, Administrator of the Town of Delavan; Sam Tapson, Administrator of the City of Elkhorn, Shane Crawford, Director of Walworth County Central Services, Mike Heine reporter for the Janesville Gazette/The Week and Elizabeth Lyons, a resident of the Village of Genoa City. Ed VanderVeen, Chair of the Town of Sharon arrived at 6:25.

Cecil Logterman made a motion to approve the agenda with a second by Joe Abell. The motion carried unanimously.

Administrator Bretl introduced Dorothy Burwell, as the secretary of the Intergovernmental Cooperation Council.

Administrator Bretl then gave a power point presentation covering the objectives of the council, suggested ground rules, and the role of the county and municipalities. He noted some of the areas where we are already cooperating such as animal control, fire protection, and library services. It is difficult to determine the cost savings of these programs. Quoting from the Public Policy Forum publication he suggested publicizing, monitoring, evaluating and cataloging these programs. He urged those attending to forward any agreements they might have to the county so that they could be posted on our Internet site, which is co.Walworth.wi.us. The minutes of the meetings will be posted on this site as well. He emphasized that for continuity, the chief elected official should be the person to attend these meetings.

Kevin Brunner commended the county for organizing this. He stated he has served a couple of places where this has been done. He noted Washington and Ozaukee Counties have areas where the municipalities share municipal court services. The City and Town of Whitewater have started boundary agreement discussions and he would like to learn if others are doing this as well. Administrator Bretl stated that may be a future discussion and would like examples if there are some in place.

Mel Nieuwenhuis reported that the Cities of Delavan and Elkhorn and the Town of Delavan have been meeting jointly to discuss issues. Through this we can find better ways to realize how to do things. Dennis Jordan pointed out there are a lot of things that municipalities have been cooperating on without any formal agreement such as sharing equipment through Departments of Public Works.

Administrator Bretl handed out proposed ground rules that contained meeting dates and the primary focus of each meeting. He will be sending a letter outlining a deadline for the formal agenda and hoped that one or more municipality could make a presentation of a best practice they would like to share with others. Dennis Jordan noted the county shares police and other services and would like some information on emergency management issues.

Administrator Bretl then asked if the group would like to elect a chair and vice chair noting that it is difficult the first evening as not everyone knows each other. He pointed out he is the moderator with no voting privileges as County Board Chair Russell would be casting the county's vote. Mel Nieuwenhuis noted some in attendance are running for election April 1st and suggested this be deferred to the May 27th meeting.

It was suggested a 15-minute break be taken to socialize. The meeting reconvened at 7:04.

Administrator Bretl advised there were a couple of items of possible future cooperation mentioned during the break such as recreational programs and road salt.

Mel Nieuwenhuis made a motion to adjourn with a second by Dan Lauderdale. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Dorothy C. Burwell, Secretary