

MINUTES OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION COUNCIL
MEETING OF February 23, 2010

Draft Minutes

Walworth County Administrator David Bretl called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The thanked everyone for coming tonight.

Roll call was made by those present introducing themselves and their position within their municipality.

Present:

Walworth County Administrator David Bretl
Deputy County Administrator-Central Services Shane Crawford
Walworth County Board Chair Nancy Russell
Town of Delavan Chair Dorothy Burwell
Town of Troy Chair John Kendall
Town of Spring Prairie Supervisor Bob McIndoe
Town of Spring Prairie Supervisor Beverly Gamache
Town of Lyons Chair Bill Mangold
Town of Sugar Creek Chair Dave Duwe
Town of Darien Chair Cecil Logterman
Town of Bloomfield Chair Ken Monroe
Town of Sharon Chair Ed VanderVeen
Town of Sharon Supervisor Richard Brandl
Town of Richmond Chair Wayne Redenius
Town of Whitewater Chair Ron Fero
Village of Mukwonago Trustee Darlene Johnson
Village of East Troy President Bill Loesch
Town of Bloomfield Chair Ken Monroe
Town of East Troy Chair John Stoesser
Town of Walworth Chair Joe Abell
Town of Geneva Chair Dan Lauderdale
Town of Geneva Administrator Margaret Downing
Town of Delavan Administrator John Olson
Town of LaFayette Clerk Barb Fischer
Deputy Director of Land Use & Resource Management Louise Olson
UW-Extension CNRED Agent, Josh Clements
Walworth County Visitors Bureau Executive Director, Kathy Seeberg
Walworth County Visitors Bureau Group Services Manager Tammy Dunn
Wisconsin Association of Convention & Visitor Bureaus Director, Julia Hertel
U. S. Census Bureau Partnership Specialist, Frank Lamm
Permit Path Website Developer/Local Building Inspector, Audrey Boss

Bob McIndoe made a motion to approve the agenda with a second by Bill Mangold. The motion carried unanimously.

Ken Monroe made a motion to approve the minutes of October 27, 2009 ICC meeting with a second by Ron Fero. The motion carried unanimously.

Introduction of and presentation by Julia Hertel, Executive Director, Wisconsin Association of Convention and Visitor Bureaus and Kathy Seeberg, Executive Director, Walworth County Visitors Bureau, concerning room tax

Administrator Bretl introduced Julia Hertel, Kathy Seeberg and Tammy Dunn. Julia Hertel explained the room tax is a municipal tax, which has been authorized since 1967 and amended in 1994 and 2006. She explained the purpose and use of room tax moneys. She advised there is a senate bill proposing using room tax for the rail funding, noting one of the counties involved wishes to use sales tax but two of them prefer room tax moneys. She also explained room tax is an investment. She quoted a study from Indiana indicating that for every dollar spent \$15.00 of revenue is generated. She also noted from 1993 through 1997 Colorado did not have a tourism bureau and the leisure travel decreased by 30%. They have since reinstated their tourism bureau but are still recovering. Kathy Seeberg asked those in attendance to let her know if they would be interested in attending a training session on the generation and use of room tax moneys to contact her.

Introduction of and presentation by Tammy Dunn, Group Services Manager, Walworth County Visitors Bureau, concerning Germanfest 2010 and Walworth County's participation as "Honor County"

Tammy Dunn stated that in the past they have had honor cities but on the 30th anniversary of Germanfest it was suggested there be an honor county. Germanfest will be July 22nd through the 25th. Walworth County will be located in the Pepsi pavilion that is 130' by 140' and will have booths set up for displays. If anyone wishes to volunteer to be a part of the committee planning this celebration, please let her know. There will be a parade on Saturday and schools have been invited to participate either with a band or through their German clubs. Walworth County will receive a plaque and our sister county from Germany has been invited to participate. Nancy Russell asked if a bus would be available for those wishing to attend, and Tammy replied they are looking into this.

Census 2010 update – Louise Olson, Deputy Director, Land Use & Resource Management Department

Louise Olson gave a brief report on the work she has done, which included promotional items being distributed, municipalities receiving brightly colored informational flyers, press releases distributed, correspondence with educational material distributed to all county schools, and flyers available to the public at the government center and some County departments. Handouts available this evening were sample of questions on the census forms for each municipality to assist households when inquiries occur, press release relating to 2010 census jobs with contact numbers, key date to remember and flyers, if needed.

Louise Olson then introduced Frank Lamm of the U S Census Bureau. He thanked Louise for the good job she has been doing. He noted he had posters and other materials here for distribution by

each community. He explained the complete process including how they will be reaching those people who only have a post office box. He noted census workers will have to have proper identification and they will not enter a home and will not report any suspicious activity at any household. All information collected is confidential and will not be released to the public until 72 years from 2010. Nothing will be released to any other governmental agency. Citizenship is not a concern to the Census Bureau. They will be cooperating with law enforcement agencies to let them know when workers are in your municipality. Several noted there are already scam calls being made so people need to be careful.

Administrator Bretl thanked Frank Lamm for coming and thanked Louise Olson for the great job she has been doing. Those present may call her if they have questions.

Wisconsin Working Lands Initiative – Louise Olson, Deputy Director, Land Use & Resource Management Department

Louise Olson noted this law went into effect July 1, 2009 at part of the 2009-2011 biennial budget process. She stated there are three components of the law. Expansion and modernization of the state's existing farmland tax programs, establish Agricultural Enterprise Areas known as AEA's and develop a Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easement (PACE) which is a state funded grant with either a municipality or nonprofit organization. Handouts related to these programs are available tonight. The county has conducted informational meetings and held a public hearing. She emphasized that Chapter 91 requires every county to prepare a farmland preservation plan which shall comply with the recently adopted Comprehensive Plan of 2035 or Smart Growth Plan and the applicable zoning ordinances.

She stated the most controversial part of the plan is the conversion fee for any lands rezoned out of A-1. Whether the landowners participated in the Farmland Preservation Program in prior years or not they would be required to pay this fee prior to county board approval. If a town is not under county zoning they will be required to collect the fee, account for the fees collected and pay them to the state. She stated most farmers have indicated to her the fee should be paid as they have been paying lower taxes on this land. The question of lands annexed to a city or village and payment of this fee was discussed briefly. Josh Clements stated it was his understanding that all lands zoned out of A-1 will have to pay the fee but there will probably be a court challenge on this. Ron Fero noted the rezoning process will now probably be six to eight months. Louise Olson advised the County Zoning Agency and Land Conservation Committee will be working on this and the public hearing comments will be received through March 10th. If you have any questions, she urged people to call her.

Presentation by Audrey Boss, local building inspector, concerning her permit information/issuance website, "Permit Path", and its accessibility to all residents of Walworth County

Administrator Bretl asked Town of Geneva Administrator Margaret Downing to introduce Audrey Boss and explained she had asked that this be put on our agenda. Margaret Downing stated she found this website to be easy to navigate and then introduced Audrey Boss. Audrey Boss gave her background and why she had started this website. She then demonstrated the website in detail.

She asked that if any municipality changed an ordinance to let her know immediately so that she could make the change on her website. She would remain after the meeting to answer specific questions.

Administrator Bretl noted agreements from the Towns of LaFayette, LaGrange and Walworth need to be signed and filed with the county.

Discussion regarding Wisconsin Department of Revenue's recent proposal to implement countywide assessment

Administrator Bretl advised that Bloomfield Town Chairman Ken Monroe asked to have this item on the agenda. Ken Monroe stated this issue had been discussed at public hearings and the Wisconsin Towns Association website stated the idea has died due to the opposition of the towns. Administrator Bretl was grateful the towns didn't want this passed. He read from an e-mail provided by Town of Delavan Administrator John Olson from Senator Neal Kedzie who stated the Department of Revenue will be pursuing asking towns to join together. It was noted the state wants to discontinue the equalized valuation process. Administrator Bretl asked if anyone hears any more about this proposal to let him know so that he can follow up and let everyone know.

Discussion of future agenda items

Administrator Bretl asked if anyone wanted something on the agenda to let Chair Russell, Deputy Administrator Crawford or him know. Cecil Logterman wanted to know where Walworth County stood on the railroad issue. Chair Russell stated our county is not involved and Administrator Bretl stated we might have this as a future topic.

Set date and time for the next Council meeting

Deputy Administrator Crawford advised the next meeting will be a round table with the state legislators but he was not sure of the date as two dates were suggested and he did not remember which date had been chosen. He will let everyone know the date and advised the meeting may be in the new meeting room upstairs.

In response to a question of Bob McIndoe, he advised the county is in good shape with their salt supply.

Adjournment

Bob McIndoe made a motion to adjourn with a second by Ken Monroe. The motion carried unanimously.

Administrator Bretl adjourned the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Dorothy C. Burwell, Secretary