

MINUTES OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION COUNCIL  
MEETING OF JANUARY 27, 2009

Walworth County Administrator David Bretl called the meeting to order at 6:11 p.m.

Roll call was made by those present introducing themselves.

Present:

City of Whitewater Council President Patrick Singer  
Walworth County Vice-Chair Jerry Grant  
Town of Geneva Administrator Margaret Downing  
Town of Springfield Supervisor Robert McIndoe  
Village of East Troy Council President Bill Loesch  
Village of Genoa City Trustee Bill Antti  
Town of Lyons Chair William Mangold  
Town of Richmond Chair Wayne Redenius  
Village of Mukwonago Trustee Darlene Johnson  
Town of Bloomfield Chair Ken Monroe  
Town of Walworth Chair Joe Abell  
Town of Sharon Chair Ed VanderVeen  
Town of Sugar Creek Chair Gary Wallem  
City of Lake Geneva Administrator Dennis Jordan  
Town of Darien Chair Cecil Logterman

Also Present:

City of Whitewater Manager Kevin Brunner  
Executive Director Walworth County Economic Development Alliance Fred Burkhardt  
Town of Delavan Supervisor Frank Jones  
Town of Delavan Administrator John Olsen  
Village of Mukwonago Administrator Paul J. Moderacki

Wisconsin State Legislators, Rep. Tom Lothian, Rep. Steven Nass and Rep. Steve Gunderson

**Bob McIndoe made a motion to approve the agenda with a second by Ken Monroe. The motion carried unanimously.**

**Bob McIndoe made a motion to approve the minutes of November 25, 2008 with a second by Ken Monroe. The motion carried unanimously.** (The official minutes were corrected prior to the minutes to correct a scrivener's error to read City of Whitewater Manager Kevin Brunner.)

Administrator Bretl then introduced Rep. Steve Nass and Rep. Tom Lothian noting the legislation was in session today and would be tomorrow. Deputy Administrator Shane Crawford

noted handouts had been placed given to those present. He stated the state representatives would have opening statements followed by questions and answers.

Rep. Nass stated they were in session today and worked on two bills. The main concern, of course, is the 5.4 billion dollar deficit the state is facing. The Governor will be delivering his state of the state address tomorrow night that will probably focus on the budget issues. The budget address will probably be in February and everything will be on the table for discussion. The focus seems to be on how to enhance revenues but he feels the emphasis should be on what can be done to reduce expenditures. Wisconsin is in the company of the states of New York and California in the size of the deficits they face.

Rep. Lothian stated one of the numbers that surprised him today is that Wisconsin has the highest per capita budget deficit in the nation. The Assembly referred a resolution to the committee on rules that moneys that come from the federal government from the stimulus bill would have strict oversight on how those moneys are spent. They are not to be used to backfill the budget or to start new programs for which there is no funding. We need to generate jobs immediately.

Rep. Scott Gunderson joined the meeting and emphasized that the state needs to change how it does business and we need to set our priorities. We need to take care of our infrastructure to attract growth.

Rep. Nass stated that the bill they worked on today deals with how state and local governments make purchases. The bill started the day requiring government to make 2% of purchases locally but it was amended to 10% and finally to 20% that he felt was too high. The language of the bill is to provide a goal with no penalty if it is not met. They are also looking at beyond the state and looking inside the United States before any foreign nation is considered. However, if government meets the goal then they cannot go under that goal. The language needs to be looked at closely. Rep. Lothian stated there is also a question of the World Trade Organization agreement and whether the state can dissociate itself from this agreement.

Jerry Grant mentioned state mandates to local governments and the difficulty local governments find when they can't control issues. Rep. Gunderson stated pressure from local governments must be maintained on the legislators. He also stressed that towns, cities, villages and counties need to let legislators know what mandates the legislators should get rid of. Department of Natural Resources requirements for storm water issues were briefly discussed.

Bob McIndoe felt transparency in government should be everywhere especially with the stimulus money. He is most concerned about transportation funding and the fact that the federal government wants the money spent locally. Rep. Gunderson stated he feels the proposal of having a joint committee consisting of five members from the Assembly and five members from the Senate is the best way to oversee the spending of the stimulus funds not a committee appointed by the Governor. The timeline for receiving the money as well as spending was discussed.

Rep. Lothian noted Wisconsin Eye is now covering state legislation proceedings as well as some committee sessions. This is the beginning of transparency. He suggested they maybe one of the representatives present could develop a website to contain the reports they receive from the fiscal bureau. They all agreed this was a good idea that should be pursued.

Deputy Administrator Crawford advised President Obama met with Republican leaders today regarding the stimulus package. Whether we agree with the provisions or not we should take advantage of the money it provides. He wondered if design/build will be approved. Rep. Gunderson stated he approves of the design/build concept but the Department of Transportation does not support it.

Rep. Gunderson also stressed that he is against any special interest funding from this stimulus package. Rep. Nass agreed and added that no new programs should be included that requires future funding from taxes. He feels transportation funding should be used for repairs only.

Bill Mangold expressed the concern that his community is considered too rich to get funding but he doesn't want his people to have to be poor to get the money. We need help from the county and we need to be vocal about our needs.

Rep. Lothian noted another concern he has is that the unemployment fund is soon going to be without money. A cut in the number of weeks the unemployed will be covered was discussed briefly.

Administrator Bretl noted a bill is pending regarding the phosphorus ban and asked about the chance of it being passed. Rep. Gunderson noted there is a hearing tomorrow on the bill. He noted the difficulty it will present for small businesses and the concerns of the agricultural community. He felt the industry will take care of the problem itself and probably in a few years fertilizers containing phosphorus for lawns will not be available. He feels the bill will probably pass.

Deputy Administrator Crawford then explained the three handouts, copies of which are available at the Administrator's office. He recommended every municipality subscribe to the publication, "The Wisconsin Taxpayer" as it contains valuable information. He also provided contact information for our legislative representatives. Their committee assignments were briefly discussed. A handout was also provided which contained information on the structure of the Assembly and Senate and biographies of each representative.

Rep. Nass stated that Sen. Kedzie had a conflict and could not attend this evening but his door is always open. He also advised the state website contains attendance and voting information. If a person is interested in a particular bill, information is readily available on this website.

Tax exemptions were discussed and the difficulties with changing the taxing structure. Rep. Nass pointed out government has a hard time letting go of money.

Administrator Bretl thanked the legislators for attending the meeting. He stressed they are not afraid of finding out what people think.

Future agenda items suggested included the salt issue and how local municipalities who do not have a law enforcement department enforce their local ordinances. Administrator Bretl stated he would invite the Sheriff to attend the next meeting.

The next meeting will be April 28, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. at which time the group will discuss whether to continue this council or disband.

**Bob McIndoe made a motion to adjourn with a second by Margaret Downing. The motion carried unanimously.**

Administrator Bretl adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dorothy C. Burwell, Secretary