

MINUTES OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION COUNCIL  
MEETING OF MAY 27, 2008

Walworth County Administrator David Bretl called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

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

Present:

City of Delavan Mayor Mel Nieuwenhuis  
Village of East Troy Council President Bill Loesch  
City of Elkhorn Engineer Gary Welch  
Village of Fontana President Ron Pollitt  
City of Whitewater Council President Patrick Singer  
Village of Mukwonago Trustee Darlene Johnson  
Town of Bloomfield Chair Ken Monroe  
Town of Geneva Chair Dan Lauderdale  
Town of LaGrange Chair Frank Taylor  
Town of Linn Chair David Bollweg  
Town of Lyons Chair William Mangold  
Town of Richmond Chair Wayne Redenius  
Town of Sharon Chair Ed VanderVeen  
Town of Spring Prairie Supervisor Robert McIndoe  
Town of Sugar Creek Chair Gary Wallem  
Town of Troy Supervisor Meghan Sprager  
Town of Walworth Chair Joe Abell  
Town of Whitewater Chair Ron Fero

Also present: Town of Delavan Administrator John Olson

**Chair Monroe of the Town of Bloomfield made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 26, 2008 meeting with the correction that he was present at that meeting with a second by Supervisor McIndoe of the Town of Spring Prairie. The motion carried unanimously.**

Administrator Bretl gave a brief explanation of the items on the agenda this evening. Each item is offered to generate discussion and hopefully will encourage cooperation with each other. He introduced Shane Crawford, Walworth County Deputy Administrator – Central Services who is the outreach person in Walworth County and the contact person for this council. Deputy Administrator Crawford asked those present to sign the clipboards being circulated to ensure each municipality will be notified of future meetings and will receive the e-newsletter distributed by the county.

Administrator Bretl introduced Edward VanderVeen, Town Chair of the Town of Sharon, Chuck Dorn, Village President of the Village of Sharon and Mark Ruosch Fire Chief.

Chair VanderVeen explained the town and village saw the need to work together a number of years ago and did so without a written contract, just a handshake. Mostly the village staffed the fire department but the rural people helped as much as possible. Twelve years ago it was determined that a new fire station was needed and they wrote up the first contract between the communities. They share the cost of the building and equipment 50/50. This has worked very well for them. He believes this is the most economical arrangement in the county. They don't always agree but they try to keep the goal in front of them to furnish the services people deserve.

Village President Dorn agreed that this arrangement has worked very well for the village. He agreed both communities have saved money by not providing duplicate services. He too noted priorities for both communities change over time but the most important thing is to check your ego at the door, listen to the other side and work together rather than fighting. He pointed out the town and village has worked together on other things as well. They split the cost of a wood chipper. Each community keeps track of the time they use it and put money into a fund based on the time used so that funds are available for maintenance of that equipment.

Fire Chief Ruosch advised he has been chief since 1999 and problems have been minimal during his tenure. There is no set staffing criteria between the two communities and they have about 35 members presently. They have an agreement with the Darien Fire Department for help during the day.

Trustee Johnson of the Village of Mukwonago asked about their library arrangement. It was noted that with levy limits the library board had discussed a fee arrangement. They do belong to the countywide system.

Chair Fero of the Town of Whitewater asked if they had enough people available during the day. Fire Chief Ruosch replied they have five EMT's but the availability ebbs and flows as people are out of town. They are quick to call in help but everyone is aware that in the future departments may need to look at some changes to full time employees. Chair Monroe of the Town of Bloomfield noted they contract for full time help. Chair Logterman of the Town of Darien inquired what the cost of the building was and was informed it was about \$300,000. Chair Logterman noted the town and village are working together but are suggesting the cost be split on the basis of population but their estimate for a building is up to one million dollars. Sharon Village President Dorn stressed it is very important to have parity and understanding. Flexibility is very important.

City of Delavan Mayor Nieuwenhuis stated the city has imposed an impact fee so that future businesses and construction will share the cost of a new fire station. The estimated cost is between two and one-half to three million dollars. They are looking at a satellite site and might want to discuss sharing that with the Darien department. Fire insurance rating was briefly discussed.

Administrator Bretl inquired if the Sharon fire station was used for other activities and if there is a conflict with that use. Town Chair VanderVeen stated the town has 920 residents and a small village hall. By using the fire station when needed they have saved the cost of building a new town hall.

Deputy Administrator Crawford introduced Michael Miller, Executive Director of the Mid-Moraine Municipal Association. Mr. Miller explained the composition and purpose of this organization. They have five general membership meetings a year rotating the location. The first half hour is a social gathering to facilitate meeting and discussing issues with other communities. He also arranges to have speakers at four of the meetings with the fifth meeting being an organizational/budget meeting. The legislative committee meets seven times a year with legislators invited to discuss pending legislation. All communities must agree on any motion before a position letter is sent to their legislative representatives.

He also explained the composition of their board of directors and noted they are all volunteer positions. He is paid \$6,500 per year and his duties include maintaining the official records, correspondence, agenda preparation, assist the chair and attend all committee meetings. He also discussed how they apportion their \$8600 yearly budget. He stated there are other similar organizations in the state and briefly discussed those groups.

One important function of this group is to lobby legislators on issues affecting local governments. Legislators are contacted daily with lobbyist who donate funds and this must be balanced by groups such as his group. They have also reached mutual agreements on fire, rescue and storm aid. For example, in the event of a tornado in a community, each municipality will send a piece of equipment and staff to help that community without charge.

He also explained their municipal court system which consists of fourteen communities. They have a half time judge, three full time clerks and two part time clerks at a cost of \$570,457 and revenue of \$582,000.

Administrator Bretl noted the April meeting is reserved to discuss where we go next and this may be good food for thought. He asked if the Mid-Moraine Association had thought about including towns in the association. Mr. Miller advised they have not but he would like to see that happen in the future at some point. We must show how everything will benefit us all. The state is taking more of the shared revenue funds and imposing more on all other levels of government.

Mr. Miller briefly discussed boundary agreements noting that state approved agreements are hard to accomplish. Administrator Bretl advised the August meeting will be devoted to boundary agreements and we have speakers scheduled from the Towns Association and the League of Municipalities. The January meeting will be a legislative forum. Mr. Miller stressed that you need to ask legislators what they are going to do for us. This puts them on the spot and makes them realize they are working for us.

Administrator Bretl recessed the meeting for ten minutes. The meeting was called back to order at 7:10 p.m.

Administrator Bretl introduced Doug Chase and Rich Colbert of the Walworth County Information Systems Department. Director Chase stated he is proud of the county's geographical information system. He pointed out the services his department has already provided such as the 2010 census address verification and the 911 street and address system. He explained the funding for the public access system.

Rich Colbert then demonstrated the interactive mapping system and how to access all of the information such as zoning, taxes etc. on a specific parcel of land. They do not have the zoning maps for cities and village, however. He advised they provide training on a regular basis and they can be contacted at 741-7807.

Deputy Administrator Crawford explained the county's surplus property system and introduced Peggy Watson of his department, who is in charge of the purchasing program. Ms. Watson presented a power point program, which explained the county's system and how municipalities can benefit in various ways. She offered assistance in preparation of specifications as an example. A printed hand out was given to everyone that included various web sites and contact information. Training needs were questioned and Administrator Bretl noted that he had conducted a leadership academy that many present had attended. Additional training sessions and topics were discussed.

Administrator Bretl stated he would be happy to continue to act as moderator of this council but asked those present if anyone would like to chair the council. It was the consensus of those present that Administrator Bretl continue in his role as moderator. Administrator Bretl advised this would continue to be on future agendas in the event the council members wished to make a change.

After a brief discussion concerning future agenda items, **Chair Logterman of the Town of Darien made a motion to adjourn with a second by Chair Monroe of the Town of Bloomfield. The motion carried unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Dorothy C. Burwell, Secretary