



Racine County Intergovernmental Cooperation Council

**Intergovernmental Cooperation Council Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday, November 30, 2022**

**5:00 pm – 6:30 pm**

Rochester Village Municipal Hall

300 W Spring St, Rochester

Members Present:

Jim Dobbs, Village of Caledonia  
Jean Jacobson, Town of Norway  
Ed Chart, Village of Rochester  
Steve Wicklund, Village of Union Grove  
Don Houston, Village of Waterford  
Jonathan Delagrave, Racine County  
Jeff Lang, Town of Burlington  
Jeannie Hefty, City of Burlington  
Sam Stratton, Town of Dover  
Mike Rosenbaum, Village of Sturtevant  
David DeGroot, Village of Mount Pleasant  
Cory Mason, City of Racine  
Alison McCulloch, Village of Wind Point

Excused:

Ernie Rossi, Village of Elmwood Park  
Mark Schall, Village of North Bay  
Douglas Nelson, Village of Yorkville  
Kari Morgan, Village of Raymond  
Tom Hincz, Town of Waterford  
Susan Sanabria, Village of Wind Point

Designees Present:

Rachel Naber, Town of Burlington  
Kathy Kasper, Village of Caledonia  
Maureen Murphy, Village of Mount Pleasant  
Tom Kramer, Town of Norway  
Paul Vornholt, City of Racine  
Doug Schwartz, Town of Waterford  
Doug Schwartz, Town of Raymond  
Betty Novy, Village of Rochester

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## Racine County Intergovernmental Cooperation Council

Brian Graziano, Village of Wind Point

### Guests Present:

Russ Egan, Town of Burlington Supervisor  
Marlo Harmon, County Board Supervisor  
Travis Richardson, Racine County  
Andrew Goetz, Racine County  
Jackie Bratz, Racine County  
Jim Weidner, Deputy Chief Sheriff's Office  
Michelle Goggins, Racine County  
Ed Umnus, Chief Rochester Fire  
Dale Gauerke, Town of Waterford  
Leslie Kinsey, Village of Rochester  
Steve Hanson, Chief Racine Fire  
M.T. Boyle, Racine County and RCICC staff

- I. County Executive Delagrave called the meeting to order at 5:03 pm.
- II. Introductions
- III. Approval of the August 31, 2022 minutes

Action: Approve the minutes from the August 31, 2022, meeting.

Motion passed. Moved: Chairman Lang      Seconded: Mayor Hefty

Vote: All Ayes, No Nays

- IV. Welcome from County Board Supervisor and Village President Ed Chart

Supervisor Chart gave a warm welcome to Rochester.

- V. Update from Wisconsin State Assembly Speaker Robin Vos

Speaker Vos gave an overview of a few issues, concerns, and priorities for the next legislative session and Wisconsin as a whole.

Wisconsin is experiencing a demographic challenge. More young people are leaving the State than moving into the State. Therefore, we need to keep attracting people to our communities and keep our young people here. For example, if a person attends a Wisconsin college, he or she tends to stay within the state; if a person leaves to attend an out-of-state school, only 50% come back. Racine County's demographics are not as challenging as the rest of the State.

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Speaker Vos stated that two issues or concerns that he hears consistently from residents are: 1. Economic development and 2. Lack of affordable or available housing. For example, his own business has 100 employees, and their largest complaint is that apartments are hard to find and expensive for average families. Many bills addressing this issue have been vetoed by Gov Evers.

Although we are entering an inflationary time, luckily Wisconsin has a record surplus. The biannual State Budget is \$82 billion. As of now, the surplus “cash in bank” is \$7 billion. This surplus is the result of the legislature’s excellent job as financial stewards of tax dollars and continued efficient government.

Speaker Vos addressed efforts to address levy limits on municipalities. Current revenue caps focus on net new construction. He is working with the League of Municipalities, the Towns Association, and Wisconsin Counties Association, to find alternative solutions. One idea is to take away the property tax from the Counties and instead give the Counties 1% of sales tax which would be approximately \$1.4 billion for mandated services such as law enforcement, EMS or Fire. How this is sustainable long term is a serious question. Guard rails would have to be in place to carry revenue through the down years. Property tax is a more stable source of income. Speaker Vos hopes that this is a non-partisan issue and will seek collaboration for a fair formula. Discussion ensued.

Wisconsin is not going to be high-growth state so in order to increase revenues to our municipalities, we need to either encourage growth or limit expenses. Speaker Vos noted that Racine County does a good job of limiting expenses by consolidating services, such as public health and dispatch.

## VI. Report by the County Executive

### 1. Chapter 980 Placements Update (Aging and Disability Division Manager, Michelle Goggins)

County Executive Delagrave gave an overview of Chapter 980 placements and Michelle Goggins reviewed in greater detail the issues that place the onus on local municipalities to figure out placements of sexual offenders after serving their sentences. These offenders have committed crimes against juveniles or vulnerable adults and are at higher risk to reoffend than those who are listed on websites who show sexual predators in your communities.

Chapter 980 changed the placements from State of WI to mandating convicted offenders to return to home counties, therefore counties have to place active role by forming a

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committee and recommending placements. As of 2022, 67 people are placed in the state. County gets notified only when people are ready to be released from Department of Corrections at Sandridge so cannot plan ahead for placements.

Michelle Goggins explained the process for finding properties to place these offenders. She explained the mapping process that shows the areas that have parks, schools, homes with kids, etc. the venders that they County has are looking at houses that in the 120-150K range to fit into the State allocated rent payments. However, the County sends to venders all properties below \$300K. Landlords contract with the State. Lastly, staff drives by the available property and through the neighborhoods to check out if the property fits the criteria. The County will contact law enforcement of the municipalities, but not the leadership and boards.

The supervised release program has strict rules, including no internet and GPS monitoring. Any violations means a return to Sandridge. Offenders move through the program and after serving their sentence, can petition to be released from the program. Individuals who are released from the 980 oversight re-enter the community without these restrictions. They usually have to register as a sex offender, but many are not under the supervision of the Department of Corrections.

Meets every month, very difficult to find placements, have been meeting since 2018. To date placements have been located for 3 individuals.

JD thinks solution is expansion of Sandridge as State solution (and get off back of county). JD would like to see the RCICC sign a document in support of this solution and send it to the state. JD will draft a document and present it for approval at the next meeting to send to the State.

If the County cannot find an option in a timely manner, the County can incur fines of \$1000-2000/ day until a placement is found.

2. Update of Public Safety Communications System (Racine County 911 Center Director Jackie Bratz, Racine County Sheriff Deputy Chief Jim Weidner, and Racine Chief Hanson)

JD gave overview of the presentation and huge expense of County bonding of up to \$30 million.

Racine County Communications Director Jackie Bratz, Racine County Deputy Chief Weidner presented an update on the 911 Communications Center and future

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infrastructure needs. Current system is obsolete and no longer able to be repaired with current equipment. System now is VHF and looking at updating to 700MHz, developed for specifically first responders, has some advantages. Weidner reviewed current mapping of infrastructure and existing gaps in coverage. Currently 8 radio sites, owned by various munis. Weidner reviewed various options to upgrade radio and the pros and cons of VHF Digital: pro, use existing infrastructure and portable radios/flash upgrade to use new system. Cons: antiquated band and won't achieve necessary coverage. 7/800 MHz is more modern bandwidth, can use existing towers, greater interoperability and greater coverage. Cons with this is all new infrastructure and new end-user radios needed. Surrounding counties and other communities moving to 7/800 MHz.

Weidner reviewed cost structures for both solutions. He also reviewed the implementation options to either roll out new entire core radio system and radios or replace the core radio system and use trunked overlays to use existing radios.

2<sup>nd</sup> Q 2023: decide and issue RFP  
18 mo build out

Racine Fire Chief Hanson reiterated that these solutions are all about safety and would all the bullet-proofing our communications between departments and other counties. All frequencies could be used.

Dobbs suggested using ½ cent sales tax to use exclusively for this projects. JD acknowledged that some munis have just bought new radios within the last 5 years. Discussion ensued.

## VII. Treasurer's Report

Chair Jacobson informed the RCICC members that invoices for the \$200 annual fee will be sent in the first part of the new year.

## VIII. Roundtable

**Town of Burlington: the Board of Review Valuation of Town increased 56% to \$1 billion.**

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**City of Burlington:** referendum to keep dam passed by 60%, City Council will vote next week.

**Village of Caledonia: 2023 budget update:** Six firefighters are paid with grant that terminates this year so will lose 3 firefighters in new budget; Consolidated Mount Pleasant, Caledonia and Sturtevant fire departments and established closest unit response for ambulances.

**Town of Dover:** Assessment is up 35%; haven't started budget yet.

**Village of Mount Pleasant:** Passed budget; assessment for houses up 10% and mill rate down.

**Village of Sturtevant:** Passed budget; Economic Development moving forward with apartments and commercial space, a hotel and a new subdivision coming soon.

**Village of Rochester:** Approved budget; new subdivision of 60 lots under construction

**Racine County:** Major announcement on mental health complex coming soon; Will break ground on Youth Care Center in spring; budget passed, and allocated \$14 million out of \$40 million of ARPA money so far

**Village of Union Grove:** Completed budget; Christmas lights event tomorrow, and looking to establish a community garden. Union Grove and Yorkville are looking to collaborate with fire/rescue/EMS.

**Town of Norway:** Budget public hearing is today; Town of Norway is taking over Fire and Rescue company so the staff will become will be employees of the town and volunteers are coming forward to help. The Norway Community Fund awards grants to local non-profits yearly.

**Don Houston:** passed flat budget, new building in Waterford going up, parade on Saturday, new fire chief, new contract covering lower half of town.

**Racine:** passed budget, property values reached what in 2008, mill rate lowest in 20 years, more net new construction, downtown hotel being built, Savior grant for fire dept, biggest challenge: hiring people for CDL and law enforcement. ARPA gave reprieve this year. Excited to use ARPA FQHC Federally qualified health clinic, completed next year.

**Town of Waterford:** Doug pass budget: entered agreement with village to cover fire like before, start working more with village

**Yorkville:** passed budget, election ran smoothly

**Wind Point:** passed budget, flat.

### IX. Items for Future Meetings

None were mentioned.

### X. Schedule Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for January 25, 2022 at 5:00 pm at the **Sturtevant**

### XI. Adjournment

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Action: Adjourn the meeting of November 30, 2022 at 6:55 pm

Motion passed. Moved: Mason                      Seconded: Mike Rosenbaum

Vote: All Ayes, No Nays

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