



Racine County Intergovernmental Cooperation Council

Racine County Intergovernmental Cooperation Council Meeting

Wednesday, March 29, 2023

5:00 pm – 6:30 pm

Town of Norway

6419 Heg Park Road, Wind Lake

Members Present:

Douglas Nelson, Village of Yorkville
Steve Wicklund, Village of Union Grove
Ed Chart, Village of Rochester
Don Houston, Village of Waterford
Jean Jacobson, Town of Norway
Sam Stratton, Town of Dover
David DeGroot, Village of Mount Pleasant
Jeff Lang, Town of Burlington
Jeannie Hefty, City of Burlington
Alison McCulloch, Village of Wind Point
Kari Morgan, Village of Raymond
Ernie Rossi, Village of Elmwood Park

Excused:

Jonathan Delagrave, Racine County
Jim Dobbs, Village of Caledonia
Cory Mason, City of Racine
Mark Schall, Village of North Bay
Tom Hincz, Town of Waterford
Susan Sanabria, Village of Wind Point

Designees Present:

Paul Vornholt, City of Racine
Doug Schwartz, Town of Waterford

Guests Present:

Hope Otto, Racine County
James Weidner, Racine County Sheriff's Office
Andrew Goetz, Racine County
Travis Richardson, Racine County
Jackie Bratz, Racine County

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Jack Feiner, Village of Sturtevant
Kari Villalpando, Village of Sturtevant
Carina Walters, City of Burlington
Tom Kramer, Town of Norway
Rachel Naber, Town of Burlington
Lee Wishau, Village of Caledonia
Michael McKinney, Village of Wind Point
Russ Egan, Town of Burlington
Ed Umnus, Rochester Fire
Teri Jendusa-Nicolai, Town of Waterford
Ron Mayer, Norway Fire Commission
Justin Lyman, Wind Lake Fire Department
Bill Virchota, Town of Burlington Fire Department
Dave Wagner, Wind Lake Fire Department

- I. Steve Wicklund called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.
- II. Introductions
- III. Approval of the January 25, 2023, minutes

Action: Approve the minutes from the January 25, 2023, meeting.
Motion Passed.
Moved: President Chart Seconded: President Nelson
Vote: All Ayes, No Nays

- IV. Welcome from County Board Vice Chair Tom Kramer

Initial welcome delivered by Town of Norway Chair Jean Jacobson as Tom Kramer was called out on a personal matter. She shared a brief history and highlights for the Town of Norway.

Kramer joined the meeting later and gave a short welcome that emphasized the importance of the RCICC and collaboration between municipalities to solve common problems.

- V. Roundtable

Jeff Lang, Town of Burlington – Nothing to report.

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Doug Schwartz, Town of Waterford – New town chairman next month, new police officer, updated ordinance on short term rentals

Tom Roanhouse, Racine County Board – Defer to County Executive Reports, briefly mentioned the Microsoft economic development announcement from Monday. Lots of excitement.

Jeannie Hefty, City of Burlington – Followed up with municipal leaders about her letter regarding liquor licenses, tavern league is open to supporting this effort to increase flexibility surrounding the number of licenses per municipality, County Executive suggested that if you can do a resolution it would add teeth to the effort as well as sign off on the letter she sent, Hefty will draft a resolution and send to the group, Jefferson St Improvements.

Kari Morgan, Village of Raymond – Raymond is currently recruiting an administrator/clerk position, advisory referendum for the fire department on Tuesday, Committees been put together for zoning, I-94 corridor (sewer, water, infrastructure), lots going on right now, urgent need for that administrator/clerk position.

Doug Nelson, Village of Yorkville – Things are quiet in the village, everyone running unopposed in the election, discussion with Union Grove regarding the fire station, scoping out roads for possible enhancements.

Jean Jacobson, Town of Norway – Working with Wind Lake volunteer fire dept. and taking over July 1, transfer of personnel and assets is going very smoothly, thanks Justin the fire chief, fire commission appointed. Passed a chicken ordinance.

Steve Wicklund, Village of Union Grove – Drainage District issue, working with DOT for a potential HWY 11 project, Upcoming road projects, well towers and lift stations that need to be repaired and replaced, waiting on word re: shared revenue, working on a well replacement project, lots of bills to pay and little revenue coming in.

Don Houston, Village of Waterford – Looking forward to starting projects—10 Club Park, neighborhood road construction underway.

Alison McCulloch, Village of Wind Point – Working on an RFP for an out lot project, working through some minor delays at the school site, looking to bolster services through potential consolidation, second police car funding – allows for more patrolling and great opportunities, lighthouse grounds enhancements includes Little Free Library, Village

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Board experiencing changeover, She is running unopposed. Looking for insight on a good zoning administration service.

Sam Stratton, Town of Dover – \$1.43 mill rate in the Town, looking for more revenue to support mandated services, feels meetings have been beneficial, behind the 8 ball, but he feels good, sewer project going on – no road improvements anticipated, looking for more funding opportunities to serve residents.

Ernie Rossi, Village of Elmwood Park – Too much salt put down following the snowstorm, final meeting, appreciates the meetings and learning about best practices, served six years with Elmwood Park, lots of improvements during his time with the Elmwood Park

Ed Chart, Village of Rochester – New subdivision put in last year and seeing movement, passed conditional use for a new cell tower, annoyed by HWY D clearing of the trees.

Jeff Lang, Town of Burlington – Bushnell Park Biergarten asked for a show of hands for positive feelings about topic, 8 raised hands in affirmative, Jean mentioned Biergarten has been successful in building positive atmosphere, special event not impacted by the liquor license conversation

Dave DeGroot, Village of Mount Pleasant – Late due to Microsoft meeting, Monday announcement for proposed economic development in TID 5 (Area 3), \$1 billion in taxable real estate, shared Village and County timeline for approvals, process to close the proposed economic development, Microsoft has an aggressive timeline to get going. Welcoming other municipal heads of government to Thursday's meeting, believes site was chosen because it was shovel-ready, infrastructure there and state aid/federal grants to jump start I-94 corridor.

VI. Reports by the County Executive

1. Chapter 980 Letter

The letter has been drafted, reviewed, and approved by members of the RCICC. A final letter was present for signatures from municipal heads of government. Copies of the letter will be sent to elected officials. Jean Jacobson inquired as to whether we should share the letter with Kenosha County Executive Samantha Kerkman and partners with the Wisconsin Counties Association (WCA).

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2. Mental Health Consolidation

Racine County Human Services Director Hope Otto discussed details of the \$25 million consolidated mental health services building which will be located at 1720 Taylor Ave. in Racine. The attached document was distributed to supervisors and it included general facility details. Otto anticipates a fall groundbreaking, and the facility will be primarily funded with American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) dollars and funds from statewide Opioid settlements.

Chairman Stratton – Voiced concern about the County’s “lack” of funding for domestic abuse shelters, but Otto and Ernie Rossi shared that the County continues to support nonprofits like the women’s resource center. Otto did remind RCICC members that the County’s priority remains mandated services, but it will continue to find opportunities to support additional resources.

Chair Jacobson – Shared that Racine County has been an innovator for many years and has a history of developing “one-stop shops” for services. She reiterated that it will take an entire community working together to solve issues like illicit drug use and mental health in Racine County. The new center will allow for improved access and will have a profound impact on the community.

3. Youth Development and Care Center (YDCC)

Otto shared the timeline for construction of the new YDCC which will be located in the Village of Caledonia. The presentation included a virtual walkthrough of the YDCC. Otto answered general questions about the facility and the attached document has details.

Chairman Roanhouse – Discussed the history of the facility and praised the work of County Executive Delagrave, Otto and the County team for working to secure funding for the YDCC.

VII. Discussion on Vacation Rental by Owner (VRBO) Properties (RCICC Treasurer/Town of Norway Chair Jean Jacobson)

Chair Jacobson shared her concerns about the number of VRBO properties in surrounding municipalities and the possibility of lost tax revenue and inability to regulate. Different municipalities have different ordinances, and Jacobson believes a consistent stance on the topic and possible a countywide ordinance might be a possibility. Municipalities were asked to send standing ordinances on the topic to Andrew Goetz. A subcommittee focused on this topic was discussed. Several RCICC members voiced interest in continuing a conversation on VRBO regulation.

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VIII. Treasurer's Report

Chair Jacobson shared that 10 municipalities had submitted their RCICC dues, but seven were still outstanding. She also shared an update that the RCICC would be forming a 501(c)1.

IX. Items for Future Meetings

Potential discussion items for future meetings include: an update on the 911 center, continued discussion and possible updates on the status of shared revenue changes, a presentation by the Bureau of Public Lands, update on Rails-to-Trails, and an introduction to Racine County's new Public Works Director Roley Behm.

X. Schedule Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for May 31, 2023, at 5 p.m. in Sturtevant. The meeting will be held at the iMet Center.

XI. Recognition of Outgoing Heads of Government

Outgoing municipal heads of government were recognized for their service to the RCICC.

XII. Adjournment

Action: Adjourn the meeting of March 29, 2023, at 6:31 p.m.

Motion Passed. Moved: Chairman Lang Seconded: President DeGroot

Vote: All Ayes, No Nays

XIII. Optional West End Fire Consolidation Subcommittee

Started at 6:43 p.m. End at 7 p.m.

The RCICC Fire and EMS Subcommittee recently convened to discuss ways of improving fire and EMS service delivery in western Racine County by identifying shared challenges and potential solutions. So far, 911 Dispatch Director Jackie Bratz and Chief Deputy Weidner have been examining dispatch call data and working with fire chiefs to identify challenges related to manpower, funding, and equipment. Going forward, a west-end fire and EMS working group made up of RCICC municipal members will be formed to continue identifying and resolving shared challenges. Each municipality is encouraged to recommend one representative for this group.

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