

**TOWN OF PRIMROSE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Minutes

**Tuesday, February 28th, 2017 – 8:00 pm
8468 County Hwy A, Verona, WI 53593**

Meeting called to order at 8:02 by Alex Elkins. Present were Roger Kittleson, Ken Hefty, and Mick Klein-Kennedy from Perry; Phil Van Kampen and Fred Clark from Oregon; and Dale Judd, Martha Gibson, and Alex Elkins from Primrose.

Alex Elkins made opening remarks regarding Dane County Towns Association and the current zoning ordinance amendment #67.

Montrose is not opting-out, but is not interested in Dane County Towns Association, as they feel Wisconsin Towns Association fills their needs.

Martha reported that even within Primrose there is division of opinion regarding DCTA membership. What changes do rural towns want? And can, by being members, small rural towns have an impact on DCTA decisions? Her immediate complaints regarding DCTA procedures were that 1) Decisions are made without seeking membership input. Decisions are made on the executive board level. 2) Disapproval of a DCTA memo dated February 23rd, that references the move (LRB 1041/2), to take voting rights (in regard to zoning) away from town residents, as zoning is being deemed “too complicated” for them to understand.

Phil VanKampen has attended DCTA meetings, and reported that no votes take place at general meetings. He suggested that the business of “opt-out” towns be separated (last part of meeting) from general DCTA business. Opt-in towns could take care of their issues in the first part of the meeting. He questioned the ability of DCTA to stay current with Dane County Zoning procedures and zoning management.

Martha feels that DCTA does not represent the interest of rural towns. Continued membership makes it appear that those towns support them.

Mick Klein-Kennedy stated that these changes (as mentioned above) occurred apparently without votes being taken at meetings. He has withdrawn from DCTA for this reason. Perry Clerk Mary Price has started amassing a long list of increased duties required of Town Clerks should towns take over their zoning. In addition, increased attorney fees will be incurred by towns doing their own zoning. Lawsuits against the towns can cause loss of liability insurance. Having the higher paid attorneys available through DCTA is helpful. He recommended putting together a list of actions that rural towns would like to see DCTA undertake.

Roger Kittleson reported that Mark Hazelbaker attended a contentious town meeting in Perry, and his presence and input was very valuable.

Mick Klein-Kennedy reported that Mark Hazelbaker was also helpful at town meetings to support the Board in explanations of legal procedures.

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Dale Judd reported that small towns don't have employees available to do the zoning work. Using DCTA as a consultant may not be appropriate if a Town doesn't agree with DCTA policies. If we opt-out, can we still ask for legal help from them? Perhaps relying on Wisconsin Towns Association is a better deal for a small town.

Martha reported that we generally have 3 attorneys to ask about things. Our local attorney, DCTA, and WTA attorneys. Additionally, she is appalled at LRB 1041/2, seeing it as undermining the resident's control over their own towns.

Phil VanKampen indicated a lack of trust of DCTA and support withdrawal from the association on that basis. He proposed that this be on the list of issues.

List of procedural changes attendees would like to see addressed:

1. Transparency. No actions, nor bills be introduced without being brought to a vote of the executive committee and input taken from the association members. Any executive members having a financial conflict of interest recuse themselves from voting.
2. Ask for development of a procedure for redistricting so that only active members have votes.
3. Development of a procedure for hiring a replacement for incumbent Board members, rather than being appointed by the incumbent.
4. Segregation of the zoning items from the general meeting items.
5. Provide members information on how DCTA intends to remain experts on zoning and stay up-to-date on changes.
6. Introduction of a bill that protects towns from loss of insurance, due to policy cancellation by insurance companies in response to lawsuits being brought against the towns.
7. Rescind any bill that would remove approval of residents for zoning ordinances and amendments.
8. Annual dues are capped at \$2500 for any township for 2017, even though some towns have 10 times the equalized value as the small townships. This seems inequitable.

Martha suggested putting this list in a letter from this group of towns. Phil VanKampen agreed that a single letter, co-signed by each town would be most effective. Alex felt that Montrose would be part of this, as it aligns with their point of view. All parties present agreed that one letter, co-signed by all would have the most impact.

Alex recommended that this letter not just go to the DCTA group, but be more widely distributed. Phil VanKampen recommended it be in the local papers. Dale stated that it would be helpful to let it be known ahead of time, that towns are putting together a list of complaints.

Martha moved to adjourn. Alex seconded. Meeting adjourned 9:22pm.

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