

Sauk County Town Association Unit Meeting
May 20, 2010
Township of LaValle, LaValle Town Hall

Chairman Jim Huebsch called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. The pledge of allegiance was recited. The minutes of the February 18, 2010 were approved as read. The treasure's report showing a balance of \$1169.46 was approved as presented. Roll call was taken. There were twenty-six town officers representing twelve of the twenty-two townships in the county.

Linda Hanefield, a remediation and redevelopment official of the Department of Natural Resources, addressed the group first. She explained what a "Brownfield" is and the tools available for towns to use in cleaning them up. Fertilizers, farm spills, petroleum products and industrial chemicals are some things that may be present in a brownfield. Grants for remediation are available for most municipalities.

Marty Krueger, chairman of the Sauk County Board of Supervisors, was next on the agenda. Mr. Krueger announced the county has received a \$695,000 grant to improve fiber optic service in the county. No town or village, no matter how remote, will be without service when the project is completed. Repairs to the dams at Lake Redstone and Lake Delton will be under budget. The auction at the old health care center grossed \$51,000 and netted \$41,000. A contract has been awarded to Dirty Ducts for demolition of the old facility. The amount of the contract is \$582,000. All but two or three of the buildings will be demolished. A completion date of October has been set. CDBG(Community Development Block Grants) funds are used up. June 12th is the date of the Clean Sweep and it will be held at the old landfill. Tax revenues are ahead of projections though there is no forecast on the final numbers. Work on the new budget will begin shortly. All residents are encouraged to attend the intergovernmental meeting to be held the last Thursday in October.

Steve Pate, Sauk County Information Services Coordinator, explained how the county website is being revised to more adequately serve the needs of users. Mr. Pate said that help is available for townships wishing to develop their own web page.

Art Reese, our district representative, discussed the scholarship program. The essay deadline is May 21. Annual Council meeting is to be held July 30 and 31 in Stevens Point. Mr. Reese suggested that we select an alternate in case our regular representative is unable to attend. The National Township annual conference will be held in Washington D.C. September 15-17. Wisconsin is the host state and the Wisconsin Towns Association would like every county unit

to donate \$100. The money will be used for giveaways and door to help promote business, travel and vacations in the dairy state. The state convention for townships will be in LaCrosse, October 3-6. It would be great if every township had a representative there.

Howard Marklein, Town of Spring Green resident, announced his candidacy for the fifty-first assembly seat currently held by the retiring Steve Hilgenberg.

Brian Kindschi, Town of Sumpter resident, spoke on the impact a new policy of the Nature Conservancy is having on certain townships. The Nature Conservancy purchased much land with the understanding that they would continue to pay property taxes. A change in their policy to not pay property taxes, though legal, is causing hardships for Sumpter and other townships. What can be done?

Jerry Derr, Wisconsin Towns Association board of directors member, discussed the importance of three bills signed by the governor. They are: AB 620, which reverses a Supreme Court ruling on extraterritorial powers of cities and villages; SB 172 which requires that unanimous annexations must be contiguous; SB 601 relates to comprehensive planning changes. The passage of these bills is good for towns and we should thank our legislators for their support. Mr. Derr also cautioned about the prevailing wage law and how confusing it can be. Be very careful.

At this point a motion was made and seconded to send \$100 to the WTA for the national convention. The motion passed unanimously.

Dale Schultz, state senator from the seventeenth district spoke about issue concerning the Nature Conservancy, Amish neighbors, the need to protect small, local businesses, and the need to create jobs and lower unemployment. Senator Schultz also announced that meetings of accountability will be held, though no dates yet. The senator also answered questions from the audience.

Ed Brooks, state assembly representative, talked about the energy bill, the water bill and prevailing wages.

The next meeting will be August 19th, 2010 at the Town of Spring Green. The meeting will begin at 7:00p.m.

Motion to adjourn at 9:25. Refreshments were served by the Town of LaValle.

