

**Sauk County Town Association Unit Meeting**  
**November 17, 2011**  
**Town of Prairie du Sac, Town Hall**

Chairman Jim Huebsch called the meeting to order at 7:06. The pledge of allegiance was recited. The minutes of the August 18, 2011 meeting were approved as read. The treasurers report showing a balance of \$552.50 was approved as presented. Roll call was taken and thirty-five board members representing fifteen of the twenty-two townships were present. Chairman Huebsch presented information on whether municipalities should post buildings concerning the concealed carry law now in effect. After some discussion it was concluded that posting no signs might be the safest way to protect from liability.

Kathy Schauf, Sauk County Administrator, gave an update on county level issues. The budget for the next year has been adopted. The total levy is a little over \$28 million. This is a 0% change in dollars levied. Next years' budget will more than likely have a 2.6% decrease in equalized value. According to census information the median age in the county is 38.5. There are 2.43 people per household and 68.1% of homes are owned while 31.9% are rented. The Clean Sweep held at LaValle was a success. The next Clean Sweep will be held June 2, 2012 at the landfill. We are awaiting notification on an EDA grant for fiber optic. County government buildings are undergoing an analysis of usage. A revolving loan fund for business start ups or growing businesses is available.

Marty Krueger, Chairman of the County Board, reported that the intra-governmental business was well attended. The next meeting will be in March.

Sue Nagelkirk, UW Extension / Family Living Programs, reported on a survey being taken on young children whose parents are incarcerated in Racine and Sauk counties. This study being done with \$362,000 of funds from the National Institutes of Health will benefit the entire nation.

Joe Fleischmann, Geographic Information Systems coordinator for Sauk County, presented information on interactive mapping, its applications and goals. Reliable information is available online and it is easy to use.

Dave Werncke and Paul Wolters then presented information on American Transmission Company's proposed Badger-Coulee 345KV high voltage power line than may traverse part of Sauk County. These two members of the Baraboo Range Preservation Board question the

necessity of this line. They wonder if ATC has taken into account all of the efficiency improvements that have been taken and still might be taken. Who will benefit from this project other than ATC? The projected cost of the line is \$425,000,000. The right questions need to be asked and answered before this project moves forward.

District Representative Art Reese invited all to attend spring meetings in February and March where Board of Review training will be featured. Tom Harnisch, though officially retired, is still available for certain meetings on request. State legislator Ed Brooks reported that though the legislature is not in session, one of the hot new topics will be the mining bill.

Howard Marklein, another legislator, says that another topic being discussed is the double dipping that seems to be too common among state employees.

And finally, another legislator, Fred Clark, spoke of a bill developed by a bipartisan group on the Managed Forest Law. There is a form of this bill that may mean more income for towns.

The Sauk County Unit of the Wisconsin Towns Association has received recognition for 100% participation of all townships.

The next meeting of this organization will be February 16, 2012 at the Town of Westfield Hall at 7:30 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 9:36 p.m. with refreshments served by the Town of Prairie du Sac.