

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING OF THE
WISCONSIN TOWNS ASSOCIATION

Chairman Erwin called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Roll call was made and recorded.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given.

The minutes were reviewed.

Motion to accept the minutes was made by Jim McLain.

Motion seconded by Gary Moore.

All in favor with a show of hands.

Chairman Erwin reviewed the financial report. He also stated that unit dues have not been paid since 2000 because of Covid. The amount is about \$200 per town. He would like to see the unit dues get activated again. Chairman Erwin stated that these dues go to pay for town members to get training and for the expenses involved with the training.

Representative Dylan from Tom Tiffany's office got up to speak. He stated that Congress was currently on recess.

Representative Dylan stated that there was a round table to address the fentanyl impact on Wisconsin communities. He stated that the Violent and Dangerous Drug Act is being introduced. Concerns can be addressed to Representative Tiffany's office.

Director for District 4, Kevin Koth, got up to speak. He stated that the annual council meeting was in August. He also stated that the budget passed with an additional \$25 on dues. He also stated that the WTA is in better financial state now. They even have a "rainy day" fund now.

Director Koth stated that the Fall workshop for WTA will be on September 29, 2022, in Wausau.

Director Koth stated that this area is very good about being TAC members. He stated that of the 2005 bills introduced 300 were supported by WTA. 71 election bills were introduced by the WTA. 62% of registered bill supported by WTA were passed. Zero percent of the bills opposed by the WTA passed.

Director Koth stated that the WTA provides a lot of education programs to its members. They also provide a Pod cast now.

It was inquired if there were any updates on how ARPA funds could be used and if they could be used to fund wages. Director Koth stated that yes, they could be used for wages, but they must be in the town's budget if they are being used for wages. Director Koth stated that further questions could be addressed to Jake Langenha of WTA.

Dwaine Drewa inquired if Director Koth knew the status of EMT Services. He stated that there are many concerns from the community regarding this matter. Director Koth stated that there may be money available through grants. He also thought EMT, and Fire were together. Director Koth stated that WTA tries to lobby for funding. Fran stated that only County can tax for funding the EMTs and that it needs to

be put on the tax rolls. Each community needs to have a garage and 20 people lined up to work with pay.

Old Business

No old business was discussed.

New Business

Joe Witynski introduced himself as the Highway Commissioner. He inquired if any of the towns had any questions or concerns. He said the Town of Florence would be happy to help with any projects or field any questions from other townships.

Joe stated that State Road 70 will be redone, Highway 139 to Enderman Road will be done next summer and the northern part of 101 will also be addressed. In 2024 downtown Florence will be redone. He stated that the DOT often changes their schedule, so these dates are tentative.

Eric Printz introduced himself as the new Economic Developer for Florence. He stated that he is working on broadband for the county. He also does tourism. He is hoping to have a one-on-one meeting with each township.

Daymond Saak inquired if Air B&B's need to be registered. Eric stated no they did not. He stated that the Spread-Eagle Chain of Lakes passed an ordinance that no Air B&B's were allowed on the lake but there is no enforcement to keep them out. Director Koth stated that it used to be required for Air B&B's to have to have a permit from the County & Town to operate but it was taken away. There is now no authority in place.

The next meeting will be on January 16, 2023, in the Town of Fence.

Adjourn

Moved by Dale Ritchie.

Motion seconded Jim McLain.

Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Patti De Clark, Town Clerk