

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE WAUSAU COMMON COUNCIL
Thursday, July 9, 2015, at 7:00 pm in the Council Chambers at City Hall.
Mayor Tipple presiding.

Council Members: Bill Nagle, Romey Wagner, David Nutting, Tom Neal, Gary Gisselman, Keene Winters, Lisa Rasmussen, Karen Kellbach, David Oberbeck, Sherry Abitz, Robert Mielke

Discussion and Possible Action Regarding the State of Wisconsin Budget Amendment Provisions that Allow the Town of Maine to become a Village

Council President Mielke stated the reason for this special meeting is for the City Council to provide direction to those of us on the Council that represented the city in the Brokaw discussions.

Neal indicated that Mielke, Oberbeck and he were assigned on behalf of the City of Wausau to try to be a part of the solution; however, it was also made clear from the beginning that if towns and the village found a solution amongst themselves that we would be happy for them. He questioned if Council wanted them to disband regarding these negotiations. Neal noted that Senator Petrowski was present this evening by invitation for his input.

Rasmussen commented she has been supportive of open discussion of this matter to see what role, if any, we had as being part of the solution versus part of the problem. She indicated the feedback she has received from her district, which directly abuts one of the affected townships, is that they did not want to take on any more debt. She felt we should continue to be active listeners but now sit off to the side and see what they can accomplish.

Motion by Neal, second by Mielke that the City of Wausau step back, but remain open and supportive. Motion carried unanimously.

Senator Jerry Petrowski addressed the Council commenting this has been an ongoing problem and not an easy problem. The debt question and contamination is a large part of the issue, as well as the functionality of water and sewer. He explained this proposal will allow them to become a village, which they can do already; the budget amendment will just make it an easier path and may be a little quicker. He noted this doesn't make them a village; it just makes it available to them if they choose to go that route.

Nagle questioned if this was specifically being adopted by the State Legislature to make it easier to pay the debt, otherwise he saw no reason to become a village. Petrowski felt they had to look for resources to try to cover the things that need to be done, whether through grants or whatever.

Neal commented if the towns and village feel this is workable and the most direct solution to what is deemed a possible future problem, then he wished them the best. If there are other means through cooperation with the towns, state and county that can help that is good. He reiterated the City of Wausau remains open.

Motion by Kellbach, second by Mielke to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:18 pm.