



Date: June 5, 2018

To: Board of Health

From: Kurt Eggebrecht

Re: East Central Weights and Measures Consortium

History

July 1, 2003, the East Central Weights and Measures Consortium was established as a means of cost-sharing the equipment, staff, training, certification of weights and other related costs of providing a high quality program.

The first communities to join Appleton were New London, Waupaca, Kaukauna, Kimberly, Little Chute and Ashwaubenon. In 2004, Ripon joined the consortium and Berlin joined in 2008.

To meet standards for Weights and Measures jurisdictions, Appleton has had to maintain a large inventory of specialized inspection equipment. This equipment must be of high quality and accuracy to be able to do the various inspections required under Federal Codes and State Laws. These devices and the cost of operating them are now shared by consortium members. In November, 2004, Appleton put into service through the consortium a new, 5000 lb., 150 gallon test trailer used for testing fuel oil, gasoline and lubricant meters on home delivery trucks. By its increased size and improved functions, it responds to current meters in use and better serves both the consumer and oil distributor alike, while reducing staff time to conduct inspections. This is one example of how the consortium has been a win-win for all communities.

Administered by the Appleton Health Department, each municipality within the consortium now has regular inspection services provided to all individuals and businesses who buy or sell by weight or measure or operate retail price scanners. What's more, each municipality now has its own approval seal displayed on scales, pumps and measures in use in their community.

Appleton's Weights and Measures inspectors currently conduct routine inspections in member communities of scales, gas pumps, packaged products and scanning systems. This program, like Appleton's, works closely with business management to achieve compliance with federal standards, state laws and municipal ordinances. Response from businesses in all consortium communities has been very positive and excellent rapport and communications have been established.

What's New?

Fox Crossing has recently expressed interest in joining the Weights and Measures Consortium. The benefits to Appleton and contracted municipalities are many, including:

To Appleton:

- Helps share the expense of purchasing and maintaining expensive inspection equipment and standards. This includes a special constructed pickup truck, a second heavy duty pickup truck, and two different petroleum meter test trailers. Also, we have three laptop computers with printers each loaded with WinWam inspection software.
- Helps share the cost of recertification of standards by the state Weights and Measures laboratory.
- Helps share the cost of recertification of inspectors by state Weights and Measures— now 7 days per year.
- Neighboring cities share the costs with Appleton in testing mobile heating oil or lubricant trucks and concrete and asphalt plants based in their cities, but who have been inspected and certified by Appleton annually in the past.

To Contracted Cities or Villages:

- Contracted communities have their own Municipal Weights and Measures Department and have control of its budget, inspection emphasis and enforcement actions.
- Local citizens are able to report their complaints and concerns locally to the municipality's own representative rather than a state (800) number, and have faster response to their concerns.
- Contracted municipality is able to use contracted Sealer in setting up and maintaining a Weights and Measures fee system. Currently, all contracted communities utilize the same fee structure as Appleton's, which provides a uniform approach.

What is the Impact?

Based on an environmental scan conducted by Appleton Weights and Measures staff, to add Fox Crossing would require 9 service days per year. The current daily rate of \$414 per day would result in \$3,726 in fees. In consulting with staff, it is my belief that this additional work could be absorbed with existing staff levels. Therefore, I would recommend the Board of Health and, ultimately, Common Council approve of this request to add Fox Crossing to the East Central Weights and Measures Consortium effective July 1, 2018.