



COUNTY FARM PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES Tuesday, July 15, 2014

The County Farm Planning Committee meeting was called to order by Chairman Dennis Brault, at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 15, 2014, in the County Board Room, of the Vernon County Courthouse Annex.

Members Present: Dennis Brault, JoAnn Nickelatti, Eric Evenstad, Karen Dahl, Bonnie Rath, Bernadine Hornby. Shawn Redington absent.

Others in attendance were Greg Lunde, Tena Fredrickson, Herb Cornell, Doug Avoles.

Affirmed proper public notice of meeting.

Review/Approve Minutes: As the initial meeting of the committee, this agenda item was absent from the agenda as there were no previous minutes to review.

Introduction of Staff: Each of the members and parties present introduced themselves to the committee.

Audience to Visitors: None

Discussion of Committee Purpose and Duty: Cornell stated the City is always looking for land as we, the County, and “before what we have gets piece-mealed out, there should be some guidelines”. Brault noted the facilities plan booklet and how much growth is needed. He stated that the county is at a point where building needs haven’t changed and the county needs to figure out how to pay for it; Highway shop buildings, etc., and that monies should be put away every year to plan ahead for the future. Cornell stated the eventual 4-lane bypass tentatively goes through the County Farm which is a big thing to take into consideration. Lunde stated he believed the survey regarding such is nearly complete.

Brault stated that Dairyland Power highline poles are also a factor and that Land & Water has a nice map showing where all of the cemeteries, sinkholes, etc., are. Cornell stated there are 7 sinkholes in that area. Dahl noted that she would like for the committee to each have individual maps to review. Avoles stated that the official mapping has been suspended to his knowledge, but he could provide maps that do not have the exact boundaries of the right of way if needed. Avoles stated that Paul Wydeven is who informed him everything was temporarily on hold; Lunde stated he should be invited to a meeting. Brault asked if sinkholes, etc., could be super-imposed on the maps before printing/copying, and Avoles stated he would look into that. Cornell noted that the current salt shed was built right on a sink hole.

Brault then read from pg. 6 of the Master Facilities Plan booklet (of which each member has a copy), regarding the Erlandson Office building, and of how the major building issue is a new campus and how clearly a new administration building as well as a new Highway shop are major concerns. Cornell stated that he felt a new Highway Shop should be a first priority. Lunde stated that Emergency Management has a fleet of equipment too and that should be taken into consideration along with any proposed new Highway Shop facility. Brault then noted that what to do with the existing shop if another is built is another consideration the committee will have to take on. Nickelatti stated that contamination is a factor in any sale of the existing Highway Shop as there weren’t all the regulations decades ago as there are now.

Cornell stated that revenue from Monroe County is going to be lost, so that is also a consideration in the planning stages. Brault stated these are topics the committee is interested in finding resolutions too and what the goals are, are to be present to the public for referendum. Brault also stated he would like to get a new department questionnaire out to each department to see how the needs of the departments have changed in the last three years.

Dahl asked for an updated list of what has been done to the county buildings since the Master Facilities Plan booklet was printed, and Lunde stated the Erlandson Building received a new roof and windows and the mold issue resolved. Other members added that the Veterans Service has been moved to the Banta Building and the basement updated; The HVAC systems in the Banta Building is a continued fight, but there have been small improvements, such as the garage. Brault stated what they have is a good snapshot from 3 years ago, but needs of each individual offices have potentially changed, for better or worse, in that span of time so an update would good to have done.

Cornell stated he believed they are getting closer regarding having more and more agree with saving the 1.2 million from Ho Chunk funds and putting that into a new building fund; not all of the monies, but a majority of it, if that's a possibility. Lunde stated that Crawford County gets \$80,000 a year from the Ho Chunk fund and has saved it all along from day one for a new building.

Brault then discussed the booklet more, stating that 60,000 sq.ft. seems like a lot of space recommended for a new administration center, but surely it would get used up. Nickelatti stated yes, but look at all the operations that would be under that roof, so it does need to be quite large.

Brault then stated he believes the committee should study the book until the next meeting and then invite someone to come in and discuss some of the issues with them. Dahl inquired about Skype chat or video conferencing and the legalities of using those possibilities, and Lunde stated that would be legal if it were necessary. Lunde then stated that early in the meeting it was stated that the City was always looking for property and thought it may be a good idea to see what it is they may be interested in.

Next meeting Date: Was set for Tuesday, August 19, at 1:00 p.m.

Before adjournment, County Board Chair, Herbert Cornell, appointed Eric Evenstad Vice Chair of the County Farm Planning Committee as one had not yet been determined.

Motion by Nickelatti/second by Dahl to adjourn the meeting at 1:50 p.m. All in favor. Motion carried.

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Tena M. Fredrickson, Corporation Counsel Administrative Assistant