

COUNTY FARM LAND ADVANCE PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING Friday, October 22, 2010

The County Farm Land Advance Planning Advisory Committee meeting was called to order by Herbert Cornell, Chair at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, October 22, 2010, in the County Board Room of the Vernon County Courthouse Annex.

Members Present: Herbert Cornell, Frank McCoy, A. Richard Brose, and Clifford Peterson. Maynard Cox absent.

Others in attendance were Greg Lunde, Kelly Jacobs, Jerry Cade, Benjamin Karp, Virgil Hanold, Tena Fredrickson Tim Hundt, and DOT representatives Michael Hoelker, Paul Wydeven, Daron and Paul.

Affirmed proper public notice of meeting.

Review/Approve Minutes of the September 21, 2010 meeting: Motion by Brose/second by McCoy to approve the minutes as written. All in favor. Motion carried.

First was discussion of Building Square Foot Requirements: Jacobs discussed square footage and distributed handouts, stating that they were based on measurements done for insurance calculations and displayed a layout map. Cade asked about the square footage, and it's comparison to what is currently in use. Peterson stated the number of employees is the determining factor for square footage as well as storage, etc. Cade stated he was opposed to an elevator within any future building. Hanold stated he has 6 or 7 acres now and another acre on Broadway and that there are 20 acres by the salt shed, which should be plenty of space for a future Highway Department facility.

Hoelker stated that the Dept. of Transportation was looking at Hwy BB and Railroad Avenue and based on feedback from the community, as well as how the bypass connects to Highway 14. Wydeven stated there would be small tweaks, same alignment, but that they could re-examine it. He then read over a handout he distributed on the Westby/Viroqua bypass, and further stated that there would be limited access to side roads and driveways. Hanold stated that with the Westby bypass a lot of traffic goes downtown due to the location of Highway 27. Wydeven spoke of mapping a four-lane around Viroqua, stating they would build two lanes and eventually add two additional lanes if needed, but would plan to use the existing corridor as much as possible.

Cornell asked if where the committee thought the county farms could go would be alright and whether they could plan on that and Wydeven stated yes. Lunde stated the biggest effect on county buildings will be what is planned with County Road BB and Railroad Avenue. Hoelker stated he has heard a lot of comments regarding Railroad Avenue and it's use and is thinking that will be the one to be tied in to the bypass. Hanold stated there has been some talk about a frontage road parallel to the bypass, and that would be an option. Hoelker stated 1000 feet is their usual constraint and standard access point, but beyond that the county can do what they choose. He also stated that after the county has a map/plan in place, the DOT could be requested to just stay out of that area. Hoelker also stated that they appreciate the county working with them on this as many counties don't, that they just go ahead with their own agendas.

Cade stated that the concern at this time was for the County Farm. Hanold stated there needs to be access to the salt shed and that most of the traffic goes out Railroad Avenue. Jacobs said the biggest limitation will be the cemetery when it comes to expanding the four-lane. Cade asked whether those using Railroad Avenue would be able to get back on the bypass and Hoelker stated he would want to limit access points which will in turn limit crash points.

A 3rd DOT representative stated that access is going to be somewhat limited, that it is just what happens to get traffic away from a downtown area; that you don't want to funnel people back into the city. Hoelker stated the first thing to be done is to map it out. Cornell stated that he didn't think the bypass will effect what the county plans to do, but would like to see a four-lane right away versus a two-lane. Hoelker stated what he sees as the big concern for the county is access.

Next was Overview of Compiled Information with Benjamin Karp: Karp stated he was starting a regional analysis, taking dams, etc., into account. Jacobs stated she and Karp have discussed storm water management as well and produced a magazine article discussing such, whereby rain water is recycled into other various uses.

Next was Review and Markup of County Farm Maps: Jacob stated she had Doug Avoles add the contours of the topography on the maps to avoid waterways where possible. Members reviewed the county farm map and markup of it and took some time manipulating where buildings could be created. There was some discussion regarding the building of a new Vernon Manor facility. Lunde stated his guess was that the courthouse and Sheriffs Department will end up in close proximity simply for safety concerns/inmate processing. Hanold suggested creating a southwest wall of windows and have it's use be reception to make the best use of the natural lighting. Jacobs stated her office could use some more square footage as the GIS Coordinator should be located in her department, and currently is not due to the lack of space. Jacobs asked how to go about selling county property, sell it off parcel by parcel or what, and whether or not it should be a partnership. Parcel # 036-00804-0000 was determined to be a future building site for the county building facilities with Parcel# 036-00811-0000 being the other possibility.

The next meeting date was set for Monday, November 15, 2010 at 2:30 pm in the County Board Room of the Courthouse Annex.

Motion by McCoy/second by Brose to adjourn the meeting at 2:30 p.m. All in favor. Motion carried.

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