



Community Meeting Northeast Story County

Attendees: Jon Cutler-Colo-Nesco School Board, Roy E. Black-Richland Township, Jim Verlengia-Colo-Nesco School Board, David Muth-McCallsburg, PJ McBride-Zearing Library, Kelly Hendrick-Colo-Nesco School Board, Sandy McBride-Lincoln Township Clerk, Phil McBride-Lincoln Township Trustee, David Perry-Lincoln Township Trustee, Alan Knaphus-Warren Township Trustee, Jerry Johnson-Zearing Fire Department, Jennifer Heithoff-City Clerk, McCallsburg, Wallace W. Loney-Mayor of McCallsburg, Martin Herr-Zearing Council, Kyle Chitty-Zearing Superintendent, Merle Olson-Warren Township, Arden and Ronna Greiner-Sherman Township, Drew Kamp-Story County, Rick Sanders-Story County BOS, Wayne Clinton-Story County BOS, Paul Toot-Story County BOS, Leanne Harter-Story County

Meeting Notes

Monday, June 30, 2014
9:00 am – 10:30 am
Community Center – Zearing, Iowa

- I. Welcome and Introductions
Attendees introduced themselves.
- II. What's happening in Story County?
Paul Toot reviewed the financial picture in Story County and the positive impact which changes to the budgeting process have brought forward. He shared that the County has maintained a balanced budget for the past two years, allowing flexibility to do things more than in the past. Mr. Toot highlighted the motor grader lease arrangement, reductions in County-wide tax level, and communications strategies adopted by the Board in January.

Wayne Clinton referenced the roads and bridges discussion that took place at the annual township trustees meeting. He noted the importance to identify funding mechanisms to address these ongoing needs and support the main arteries to and fro in rural areas. Mr. Clinton described the addition of Mr. Toot and Mr. Sanders as a "breath of fresh air" saying that both have brought

different perspectives to their roles on the Board and this brings potential for doing things.

Rick Sanders noted that there are over 280 bridges with a huge percentage over fifty years old. He stated that while the Board has increased the amounts spent on secondary roads, it's not near necessary levels. Mr. Sanders outlined the new mental health redesign mandated by the State and expressed the sentiment shared by all three Board members that during the transition period, the impacts to clients must be minimized. He states that many planning activities are currently underway and steps have been taken to implement, as allowed by Iowa Code, recommendations of the Government Restructuring Commission and CPAT economic development reports.

Drew Kamp noted his work has included workforce development and communications strategies.

III. Discussion and updates

Mr. Clinton expanded on the mental health discussion and described the design, funding and implement of the regional board. The comment was made that it seems as if more are entering the mental health system than ten years ago. Mr. Clinton agreed and noted that the increased demand has resulted in waiting lists because of lack of increased funding.

Jim Verlengia commented that it was important to the future of the school district, communities and Story County that we look at what we can collectively do to address issues and concerns.

The Board was asked whether members were in favor of local control over (hog) confinements). Mr. Clinton stated that he was in favor of local control, noting that the County can play much more direct role with producers. He further stated that this is not saying the County level should say no to more confinements, but analyze what the saturation level might be.

Discussion took place regarding the drainage districts in McCallsburg and the Board's role as drainage district trustees was discussed. In addition, the primary objective of bringing staff on at the County level to keep open ditches maintained was noted.

IV. Adjournment

Mr. Toot thanked everyone for taking time to come meet and have this conversation.