



Community Meeting Southeast Story County

Attendees: *Greg Schlueter-City of Collins, Tom Plunkett-Indian Creek Township, Jim Long-Indian Creek Township, Kristy Armentrout-Collins Township, Lynn Lathrop-City of Nevada, 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, July 30, 2014
9:00 am – 10:30 am
Community Center – Collins, Iowa

- I. Welcome and Introductions
Attendees introduced themselves.
- II. What's happening in Story County?
Paul Toot noted the financial situation and addressed the TIF projects currently underway, highlighting the Dakins Lake Project and work in downtown Zearing and the positive changes occurring in that community. Mr. Toot discussed changes ongoing in Story County, commenting on the State-mandated change to a regional provision for mental health services.

Wayne Clinton addressed the steps occurring for the mental health redesign, describing the process to form the region and collaboration amongst community services directors in the region. Mr. Clinton described the Community Life Program (CLP) and provided information regarding the upcoming release of the RFP for transition of CLP's services to a private sector provider.

Rick Sanders commented that the amount Story County taxpayers put into the mental health system in the regional model does not change, however the decisions shift from the Board of Supervisors to the regional board for funding. Mr. Sanders stressed the continuum of services for the clients of the CLP must extend throughout the transition.

III. Discussion and updates

The question was raised as to whether the general trend is for everyone to go towards privatization. Mr. Clinton comments that it does seem to be a trend and those federal funds and requirements are starting to impact and change how services are being delivered, using the example of Residential Care Facilities (RCFs).

An attendee questioned whether after closing the County home, expenses increased or decreased with the CLP model those first five years, and whether transition back to a large facility was again being considered. Mr. Sanders noted that the practice is to locate consumers in locations close to home in smaller facilities with independent living as allowable.

Mr. Toot commented that the outright closing of the services provided by the CLP model was not an option and the Board is committed to ensuring a successful transition from the public to private provision of the programs.

Mr. Sanders described the mental health funding process and noted that Story County is the largest financial contributor to the region.

The question was posed as to whether client numbers have increased over the past years. Mr. Toot responded that numbers have remained consistent as the programs' capacities were operating at maximum levels.

Mr. Toot noted the Board had recently heard a report by George Bellitsos with YSS outlining the impacts on youth and the great need for service provisions in that area.

Mr. Sanders stated that economic development has been a new focus for the Board, following the premise that while it was not the County's place to be a leading force, it was appropriate for the Board to assist smaller communities. Mr. Sanders shared that the Board has committed about \$400,000 for economic development, primarily directed towards smaller communities in Story County, during the past fiscal year.

Drew Kamp described projects that Story County has been offering, such as the Urban Renewal Area Applications, Technical Assistance to Communities, Façade Grant and other opportunities.

An attendee asked how bridge design and locations are decided upon, specifically noting the placement of the one-car bridge west of Iowa Center however not by Maxwell.

Mr. Toot addressed the question, noting there are over 280 bridges in Story County with limited funding for ongoing maintenance and necessary replacements.

Mr. Sanders described the five year plan adopted annually by law each April, and asked those present that if they have concerns about something that is or not defined in the plan, to let the Board members and County Engineer Darren Moon know.

The question was raised whether there is a public meeting to adopt the plan. The Board responded affirmatively and also stated that the plan is made available online for review.

Mr. Sanders commented that it costs approximately \$13,000 per year/per mile to maintain a paved road and \$4,000 per year/per mile for gravel roads. These costs have led the Board to start discussions to identify what existing roads could be reclassified from a Level B to Level C.

An attendee noted that the road north of Peoria, during the fall, should be hit by a grader every couple of days because of its use.

Mr. Sanders described the motor grader districts and changes made to the numbers and how they are defined. Mr. Sanders also reviewed the recent acquisition of ten new motor graders through lease arrangements and the benefits of such a model of equipment acquisition.

An attendee noted that the lease arrangement has been used by their community and is a good arrangement.

Mr. Sanders shared that actual spending is down in Story County with reductions realized to the County-wide levy to a \$5.39 level.

Mr. Toot noted increases to the Story County 4H Fair Association, historical alliance, and local libraries with recent budget actions.

An attendee noted that rural cemetery funding is a concern, commenting that most rural cemeteries are maintained through volunteer work.

It was requested that the Board consider raising salary figures for township trustees and clerks.

IV. Adjournment

Mr. Toot thanked everyone for taking time to attend the meeting.