



Community Meeting Northwest Story County

Attendees: Paul Toot – Board of Supervisors; Mike Jensen – City of Story City; Francis Maly – Franklin Township; Tyler Holck – Gilbert School District; Lindsey Beech – Gilbert School District; Andy Webb – City of Roland; Marc Soderstrum – Roland-Story School District; Jodi Meredith – City of Roland; Johna Clancy – Gilbert School District; Rick Sanders – Board of Supervisors; Mark Jackson – City of Story City; Tom Judge – Franklin Township; Sonia Dodd – City of Gilbert; Drew Kamp – AEDC; Wayne Clinton – Board of Supervisors

Meeting Notes

Wednesday, October 1, 2014
9:00 am – 10:30 am
Community Center – Roland, Iowa

- I. Welcome and Introductions
Attendees introduced themselves.

- II. What's happening in Story County?
Paul Toot provided an overview of the budget picture in Story County and process to achieve a balance budget. He reviewed TIF projects, highlighting the Dakins Lake expansion.

Rick Sanders noted the successes of the Board of Supervisors with current membership, including addressing deferred maintenance needs of County facilities; human resources director position established and employee handbooks and revised job descriptions completed; reduced overall budget while increasing funding to Asset, economic development and other entities.

Mr. Sanders noted the Board is facing challenges with infrastructure needs as related to roads and bridges and the transition of the Community Life Program from a County-run facility to a private entity prior to June 30, 2015.

Wayne Clinton outlined the momentum of the current Board and positive impacts resulting from strategic planning by the Board. He noted that it sets the stage to allow Story County to look to the future regardless of what three supervisors are in the office. Mr. Clinton commented that the action by the Board to divide up duties and responsibilities has resulted in an established level of trust at many levels.

Mr. Clinton reviewed the mental health redesign and provided an overview of the new region.

Mr. Toot stated the focus over the upcoming four years will be on roads and bridges and infrastructure needs. He described the motor grader lease program recently implemented.

Mr. Sanders added that the lease program includes graders under warranty for five years and will allow savings and increase levels of service.

Mr. Toot shared the dirty secret responsibility of Board members – the role of a drainage district trustees. Mr. Toot noted that there are 119 drainage districts in Story County with older systems in place governed under antiquated legislation. To address the ongoing needs, the IRVM program has added an individual to complete ditch maintenance to address current needs.

Drew Kamp reviewed his work with communities and school districts on work force development; curriculum integration; telecommunications systems; and small business development center discussions.

III. Discussion and updates

An attendee noted that Dave Toot, tile foreman, has been doing an exceptional job and should be acknowledged for such.

The question was raised as to progress with disaster preparedness. Mr. Sanders responded that Keith Morgan is working through many issues, and each time a plan is finalized, more holes are discovered. The County has identified the need to undertake a COOP/COG through the recent hazard mitigation planning process. Mr. Sanders commented on the importance of ongoing training for all communities in Story County.

Attendees commented on the necessity to improve the gravel road going south out of Gilbert past the new high school. Mr. Sanders indicated that it was on the CIP for 2017, and as Ames begins work on Grant Avenue, the topic will become more prevalent likely. Mr. Clinton suggested the local community and school district look at the bike lane paving project south of the City of Nevada and the cooperation and fundraising efforts that took place to accomplish such to see if that could be replicated for the identified Gilbert improvements.

Mr. Toot noted that the trend has been the County would improve a road and then the cities would inevitably annex the area. Mr. Clinton stressed the needs for all jurisdictions to work together early on and throughout all planning phases to define roles and budget as appropriate.

Attendees suggested the Board also consider evening meetings so that others could possibly attend.

The question was raised as to how roads and bridges are prioritized to be placed on the five-year plan. Mr. Sanders reviewed the process and commented that when the school district approached the Board, the road improvements were added to the plan.

An attendee questioned whether the Gilbert School District had considered contributing financially to the project.

The question as brought up as to what is occurring with North Dakota. Mr. Toot described the current conditions and steps underway to bring the road as much as possible to current standards.

IV. Adjournment

Mr. Toot thanked everyone for attending and encouraged those present that if they had an issue or item to discuss at a future meeting to let one of the Board members know.