



# MEETING DOCUMENTATION

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**PROJECT:** Dixon County LEC – Citizens Committee Meeting #15

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**LOCATION OF MEETING:** County Annex Building, 59140 Hwy. #12, Ponca, NE

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**PROJECT NO.:** 222701      **DATE:** November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023      **TIME:** 6:00 PM

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<b>MEMBERS PRESENT:</b>	<b>COMMUNITY/ORGANIZATION:</b>	<b>EMAIL ADDRESS:</b>
Lisa Lunz	County Board of Supervisors	<a href="mailto:supervisordist5@dixoncountyne.gov">supervisordist5@dixoncountyne.gov</a>
Mathew Michl	Martinsburg (Committee Chair)	<a href="mailto:matt67_michl@yahoo.com">matt67_michl@yahoo.com</a>
Ron Mahler	Ponca	<a href="mailto:debron@gpcom.net">debron@gpcom.net</a>
Ken Pavlushik	Township	<a href="mailto:kenp151@icloud.com">kenp151@icloud.com</a>
Cindy Purucker	Ponca	<a href="mailto:cpurucker@hotmail.com">cpurucker@hotmail.com</a>

<b>MEMBERS ABSENT:</b>		
Jack Moore	Newcastle	<a href="mailto:gpajack53@yahoo.com">gpajack53@yahoo.com</a>
Julie Hartung	Dixon	<a href="mailto:juliehartung@nntc.net">juliehartung@nntc.net</a>
Tom Decker	County Sheriff	<a href="mailto:dixonso@dixoncountyne.gov">dixonso@dixoncountyne.gov</a>
DJ Smith	Ponca	<a href="mailto:djsmithband.usa@gmail.com">djsmithband.usa@gmail.com</a>

Larry Boswell	Allen	<a href="mailto:boswell@nntc.net">boswell@nntc.net</a>
Jeanne Blatchford	Maskell	<a href="mailto:billblatch2002@yahoo.com">billblatch2002@yahoo.com</a>
Verlin Hansen	Concord	<a href="mailto:hansonfarms@nntc.net">hansonfarms@nntc.net</a>
Chuck Chinn	Emerson	<a href="mailto:chiefchinn@abbnebraska.com">chiefchinn@abbnebraska.com</a>
Josh Blatchford	Ponca	<a href="mailto:blatchfordjosh@gmail.com">blatchfordjosh@gmail.com</a>

<b>PROCHASKA &amp; ASSOCIATES:</b>		
Steve Johnson	Prochaska & Associates (P&A)	<a href="mailto:sjohnson@prochaska.us">sjohnson@prochaska.us</a>
Curt Field	Prochaska & Associates (P&A)	<a href="mailto:cfield@prochaska.us">cfield@prochaska.us</a>

<b>GUESTS PRESENT:</b>		
Sara Kumm	9-1-1 Director	<a href="mailto:dixon911@dixoncountyne.gov">dixon911@dixoncountyne.gov</a>
Don Andersen	County Board of Supervisors	<a href="mailto:jdandersen@gmail.com">jdandersen@gmail.com</a>
Steve Hassler	County Board of Supervisors	<a href="mailto:supervisordist7@dixoncountyne.gov">supervisordist7@dixoncountyne.gov</a>
Terry Nicholson	County Board of Supervisors	<a href="mailto:supervisordist6@dixoncountyne.gov">supervisordist6@dixoncountyne.gov</a>
Neil Blohm	County Board of Supervisors	<a href="mailto:supervisordist4@dixoncountyne.gov">supervisordist4@dixoncountyne.gov</a>

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## DISCUSSION:

The purpose of the meeting was to consider options for a new Jail, or new Courthouse/County Offices/Jail, in light of previous information gathered by the Committee. The following points were recorded:

1. Lisa reported that the County Board had devised a ballot resolution draft at their recent (11-14-23) Board Meeting, with assistance from Andy Forney from D.A. Davidson (County's Bond Banker), and she asked for input from those in attendance. A few minor revisions were suggested, and the draft will be voted upon at the Board's December meeting. As the County utilizes all mail-in balloting, this ballot issue will accompany the other written material on the County's ballot for the May 14<sup>th</sup> Primary Election.
2. Lisa also handed out a draft schedule for visiting the various communities in the County during the

Campaign. Committee members discussed possible conflicts due to school sporting events, church, and modifications were offered. Lisa will revise and distribute for further comment.

3. P&A offered a mock-up copy of a tri-fold brochure for committee consideration, and various comments were offered:
  - In addition to use as a hand-out, the brochure should be used with a mailing to all registered voters in the County (3,800?), so a space should be reserved for an address and postage. It was decided to try a four-fold version, using 8½" x 14" paper to achieve this. Steve circulated a four-fold brochure example.
  - Lisa will check with the Post Office to verify the needed space on the Brochure for addresses and postage.
  - Under the heading "Estimated Bond Cost", it was decided that there would need to be a better explanation for why \$20M was decided, when the total cost listed is only \$19,287,308. The wording "unforeseen expenses" was suggested.
  - DA Davidson has not yet furnished figures for the "Tables of Applied Bond Cost..." heading, and this may yet be available from the County Clerk, Cathy Stilwell.
  - The heading: "Tables of Applied Bond Cost..." should be revised to read "9.5 Cents per 100", in lieu of the "9.1 Cents" figure.
  - Under the Heading "Citizen's Committee", the wording should be changed to read: "The process involved completion of a Needs Assessment study..." (removing the words "three-year").
  - Under the Heading "More Reasons Why?", Lisa believes there should be some reference to the difficulty of moving the County Seat to other communities.
  - Also under the Heading "More Reasons Why?", Lisa suggested that Voters will not care about the item referring to the lack of E911/EMS storm protection.
  - Also under the Heading "More Reasons Why?", Lisa suggested that Voters will also not care about the item referring to the existing generator being non-compliant.
  - Lisa mentioned that the Heading "More Reasons Why?" might be retitled: "Reasons for Building a New Justice Center".
  - Under the Heading "Existing Facility", a comment was made that the original Courthouse building was constructed prior to the availability of electricity, and that this might be added somehow.
  - The revised schedule of Community presentations should be put into the enlarged brochure once Lisa has revised it.
  - It was suggested that there would be some advantage to scheduling a daytime Presentation, since some older folks may not want to drive after dark. Possibly more than a single presentation would make sense in the larger communities of Ponca and Wakefield.
  - All communities in the County may not have scheduled presentations, since some have no place to meet.
4. It was decided that the Committee should meet in December following the formal County Board action, so December 19<sup>th</sup> was determined, and the revised Schedule and Brochure could be reviewed at that time.

5. It was suggested that a PowerPoint presentation could be devised for use at the various Community presentations. Curt offered P&A to begin work on this and submit it for further Committee input. Sara Kumm also mentioned that a projection screen might not be available at every location, so the County should plan to bring one along.
6. Sara was also mentioned as someone who could devise a program to utilize social media during the Campaign phase. Several Communities have Facebook pages. Ken mentioned that churches may be willing to place mention of the ballot issue in their bulletins.
7. Another suggestion was to include some kind of positive publicity of the upcoming Bond in "The Rocket", an advertising supplement, but also a stand-alone mailer. The County may not by statute advocate specifically to pass the Bond, but may only describe the need.
8. Curt also showed an example of a Display Board and Yard Signage utilized for previous Bond Issues with which P&A has been involved, suggesting locations be identified for longer-term placement of them in such locations as Community Centers, the Courthouse, and Libraries. Other ideas would be welcomed. Curt stated that P&A is willing to revise the existing Display Boards or offer use of the two existing boards as-is if the County will pay for additional printing and mounting costs.
9. No decisions were made on use of Yard Signs.
10. Curt showed an example of "Frequently Asked Questions", which could be added as an insert to the brochure, or possibly be added to the expanded four-fold version. P&A will begin a list for distribution to the Committee and comments.
11. It was suggested that a Board Member, one or two Committee members, and staff should attend every presentation, if possible. Curt commented that P&A may not be able to attend every meeting but should not be placed in a key role at any of them. Lisa offered to attend each Presentation but did not want to become the primary speaker. Cindy offered to speak at any presentation she would be able to attend, and Curt commented that she would be uniquely qualified to do this, and have high credibility, due to her former position as County Clerk.
12. Lisa felt that the length of time that the Citizen's Committee has been meeting is one cause for lagging attendance at the Meetings. She offered to invite the present membership via a mass text, and to ask for renewed enthusiasm to help with the Campaign phase, and possibly for each to bring a friend who might also assist. *Curt commented that the true value of the Citizen's Committee is the length of experience each member has had with the pre-bond process which lends credibility to their comments to fellow Voters during the Campaign.*
13. It is hoped to have a high degree of participation during the Campaign phase by the Committee membership. All are urged to attend the December 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting to be held at the Annex building at 6:00pm, if possible. The Meeting closed at approximately 8:15pm.

BY:   
 Curtis Field, AIA  
 Architect - Principal

November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
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 Date

***If any of the parties present take exception to these meeting notes, please notify Prochaska & Associates within five (5) days of issuance for correction or they shall be presumed to stand as written.***

## PROCHASKA & ASSOCIATES

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