



MEETING DOCUMENTATION

Planning • Architecture • Engineering • Interiors • Facility Management

PROJECT: Dixon County LEC – Citizens Committee Meeting #16

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

PROJECT NO.: 222701 **DATE:** December 19th, 2023 **TIME:** 6:00 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT:	COMMUNITY/ORGANIZATION:	EMAIL ADDRESS:
Lisa Lunz	County Board of Supervisors	supervisor5@dixoncountyne.gov
Mathew Michl	Martinsburg (Committee Chair)	matt67_michl@yahoo.com
Ken Pavlushik	Township	kenp151@icloud.com
Cindy Purucker	Ponca	cpurucker@hotmail.com
Verlin Hansen	Concord	hansonfarms@nntc.net
Josh Blatchford	Ponca	blatchfordjosh@gmail.com
Jack Moore	Newcastle	gpajack53@yahoo.com
Julie Hartung	Dixon	juliehartung@nntc.net
Tom Decker	County Sheriff	dixonso@dixoncountyne.gov

MEMBERS ABSENT:		
DJ Smith	Ponca	djsmithband.usa@gmail.com
Larry Boswell	Allen	boswell@nntc.net
Jeanne Blatchford	Maskell	billblatch2002@yahoo.com
Chuck Chinn	Emerson	chiefchinn@abbnebraska.com
Ron Mahler	Ponca	debron@gpcom.net

PROCHASKA & ASSOCIATES:		
Steve Johnson	Prochaska & Associates (P&A)	sjohnson@prochaska.us
Curt Field	Prochaska & Associates (P&A)	cfield@prochaska.us

GUESTS PRESENT:		
Sara Kumm	9-1-1 Director	dixon911@dixoncountyne.gov
Don Andersen	County Board of Supervisors	jdandersen@gmail.com

DISCUSSION:
The purpose of the meeting was to consider options for the forthcoming Bond Campaign phase, which is set to begin in January of 2024, with the ensuing election in May. The following points were recorded:

1. Lisa reported that the County Board had approved a formal ballot resolution.
2. Lisa also reported that she had spoken with the Post Office about mailing out the Brochures. It was determined that the County will send Brochures out to all Registered Voters—with one mailing per household. These would ideally be mailed 2 weeks before the first Community Meeting in January (1/24/24). January 10th was decided as the deadline for this mailing.
3. Lisa had also spoken with most of the Communities about presentation facilities. Most do not have projection screens, so the PowerPoint presentation will also be made available simply as a printed copy.

4. Curt asked that a message be relayed to Cathy pointing out that each department had been enlarged in direct response to staff input at the July 6th Omaha meeting. It is very important that the current Plan be described as conceptual only, so as not to make voters believe the "design" does not support their beliefs. A proper Schematic Design phase will occur once the Bond passes, and each user will be asked for input.
5. Steve spoke from printed copies of the in-progress PowerPoint presentations he is working on, asking for feedback. It was determined that the presentations should not require more than 5 – 10 minutes of time. Several Committee members took copy home to offer comments and these need not be ready until the Dixon Community Building meeting on January 24th, so review and revisions by the Committee could take place via email.
6. The Committee discussed the observations from the Wakefield School Bond failure, which recently failed 80% - 20%, with an intent to learn from this experience.
 - The full project cost seemed to be an intentionally high estimate.
 - The Bond Issue was rushed to the public, supposedly to get ahead of the County referendum.
 - Transparency was often thought of as the primary complaint.
7. Steve described the brochure in some detail, which was presented last month, and has since been modified. Several comments were offered, among them:
 - Adding that the City of Ponca is paying for much of the utilities relocation cost.
 - Adding that the basement water intrusion issue requires "three pumps running 24/7".
 - Noting that the entry roadway configuration is required by the State DOT.
 - The presentation schedule dates should be highlighted to stand out better.
 - The words "20-year bond" should be in bold font, to distinguish it from the 30-year Wakefield School Board bond.
8. It was decided that the Brochure would be transmitted to the County digitally and printed and mailed from Ponca. That way, paper quality and number of copies could be decided as needed.
 - Beyond the initial mailing, it was decided that some copies might be made available at several location, including as a Newspaper insert, or in churches, or as a handout during presentations. Ken suggested that churches would be willing to help distribute Brochures, and suggested that several churches should be called to see how else they might help with getting the
9. Lisa wants the finished Brochure to be reviewed by several County officials before it is officially used.
10. Lisa will also work on a list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), for inclusion either as an aid during the presentations, or for use elsewhere when appropriate.
11. Cindy offered to do the presentations whenever she could be available. She stated that she would not be available during much of March. As a retired County Clerk, Cindy is known by many in the County as Clerk, and since retired, she might be better received as a spokesperson with nothing to gain. Mat Michl also offered to attend as many as possible.
12. Lisa encouraged all committee members to attend meetings that work with their schedule. The committee members will work with their community for set up.
13. There will be no need for Yard Signs to promote the project, as the County cannot pay for them.

14. It was decided that Prochaska & Associates will print and mount at least two sets of Display Boards. Don Anderson suggested there may be a need for a third set and suggested a specific location.
15. The committee will work with both newspapers in the county.
16. Curt suggested that the Sioux City newspaper might be very willing to do a follow-up story now that the Campaign period has begun.
17. Curt suggested that several Jail Tours should also be scheduled, and that these tours might be good excuses for repeated reminders on social media, which will be multiplied by others who "share" the posts.
18. As EMS Director, Sara Kumm will be good at social Media distribution, as she is known by individuals in most of the County communities and uses social media frequently. Curt suggested that Jail Tours, with follow-up reminders, could be good excuses to post and re-post on Facebook, etc. The Sheriff's Office has a Facebook page.
19. Presentations could also be made to the various Village Boards or Councils in the County.
20. There was a discussion pertaining to asking for use of the various Community's electronic message boards, such as Allen's board.
21. Copies of these Minutes should be sent to Andy Forney with DA Davidson.
22. Copies of the presentation schedule prepared by Lisa will be included with this emailed Minutes.
23. The next scheduled Committee meeting is to be the January 24th presentation date, and as many Board/Committee members are asked to attend as possible. Curt mentioned that he may be obligated elsewhere on this date, but Steve could likely attend.

BY: 
Curtis Field, AIA
Architect - Principal

December 19th, 2023 _____
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.

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