

## NEON Minutes

July 12, 2018, Biotechnology Advancement Center

Meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance and Nobles County Administrator, Tom Johnson, presided over the meeting.

### Around the Table:

Linden Olson/ISD 518: Referendum for a new intermediate school on August 14, 2018. Second question is for Trojan Field-not ADA compliant, track needs work, locker rooms, and field needs work. ALC/Gymnastics Building on Crailsheim Drive is way behind due to the weather. ALC Principal resigned and took another job; held interviews today. Hopefully will be approved Tuesday night and they can start on Wednesday. Complaint filed against the District by one of the teachers; please read the correctives before you believe everything that is posted.

Jennifer Weg/Sanford Hospital: Making a major investment in the Cancer Center, which is 11 years old, needs current technology. Sanford decided to make the investment in Worthington.

Rod Sankey/Citizen: Revamping Pioneer Village, accepting volunteers to help revamp it. Next year celebrating the 50 year anniversary so want to get a lot of work done this year.

Cheryl Janssen/Seward Township: Lots of rain that caused washing on the township roads.

Robert Demuth Jr/Nobles County: Okabena/Ocheda Watershed-challenges with Prairie View Golf Sand Filters. Wink Engineering has taken over the engineering and are trying to get the filters cleaned. The spillway washed out. Hard to fix issues with all of the rain. Specialist from Bowser is coming in on July 16<sup>th</sup> to do some testing. Paid \$600,000 for the system and it isn't working.

Kathy Hayenga/Water & Light Commission: No report.

Julie Foote/MVTV Wireless: Pioneer Village-have provided free internet there. Nobles County Hot Spots-Seward will be repaired by the end of the week. Worthington Chamber Agribusiness Committee is hosting their Farm to Table event on Tuesday, July 24<sup>th</sup>. \$50 per ticket, you receive a \$10 certificate to the Farmer's Market, everyone is welcome to attend.

Gene Metz/Nobles County: Buffalo Ridge Rail is looking to develop an off load site to bring cement powder in by rail. It will take wear off of the highways. Hopefully bring other products in the future. AGATE terminal. Would like to be up and running by the end of 2018. Working on soil borings so construction can begin. When the timeline is up Nobles County would like to sell the railroad so we are not in charge of it and we can receive taxes off of it. Very progressive company and have been good to work with so far.

Don Linssen/Nobles County: Southern Prairie Care, looking at going to a county based purchased health care, currently looking at PrimeWest. Investment of \$1,800,000; it is a big jump but we need to get the coverage for those that are eligible. Several counties have already committed to PrimeWest.

Justin Ahlers/Nobles County: Reading Sewer Project-receiving some preliminary reports, so decisions will need to be made in the near future. True County Assessing: bringing all of the assessing to the

County. There are fewer independent assessors able to do the assessing due to the increased regulations for credentials.

Tom Johnson/Nobles County: Budget process is underway at the County. Lismore Tel broadband-working with SDN to connect the schools to fiber, Leota is almost ready to go. Darlene Macklin sent a message that Neel Kashkari, President, Federal Reserve Bank in Minneapolis, is hosting a town hall meeting at the Fire Hall tonight at 7:00-everyone is welcome to attend. PACE program – federal money is used up and the program is trying to decide the future of the program, if they don't find funding, the program will end. International Festival is this weekend. Kickoff is tonight, activities/food vendors Friday and Saturday. Landscape project at the Government Center is behind due to the weather.

#### Child Care Survey Results:

Karen DeBoer: Resource & Referral Advocacy Referral Agency for 9 counties. Distributed the Worthington Child Care Survey. Have seen an extreme decline in the number of people providing daycare over the years. Two surveys were done this spring: employer responses and parent employee responses. Parentaware.org is the official site that shows the complete list of more than 12,000 programs in available in Minnesota. Pam Duffy from Kids R It also participated in this presentation.

We would like to form a small group of interested individuals/groups that would like to work on this as a focus group to work with providers and legislatures. Please contact Tom Johnson if you are interested in serving on the committee.

SWIF – focus of the year is the children.

#### Housing – Nobles Home Initiative:

66 applicants, 65 approved. Very successful and active program. It has been a good program for housing.

Other: None.

#### Next Meeting:

August 9, 2018, 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm  
BioTechnology Advancement Center  
1527 Prairie Drive, Worthington, MN 56187

The meeting adjourned.