

NEON Minutes
May 10, 2018, Biotechnology Advancement Center

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

Around the Table:

Doug Knuth/City of Round Lake: Public hearing with New Fashion Park-building permit was approved and signed. Building permit approved for Crystal Valley for Fertilizer office and warehouse space.

John Landgaard/ISD 518: ALC/Gymnastics facility-started moving dirt. Board approved a Referendum to be on the primary election ballot on August 13 for \$35 million. It is to build a Grade 3-5 Intermediate school on the school property on Crailsheim Road. Two groups proposed ideas and both agreed they would support a \$35 million referendum. The second question to appear on the ballot is up to \$4 million for athletic facilities; Trojan field would be the emphasis for this money, anything above that would come out of fund balance. AC&D Bonds will be paid off in the next 2 years. ISD 518 has 20 job openings for next year, 80% are filled. There are two openings for a High School English teacher with no applicants; spread the word if you know of any English teachers looking for a job.

Robert Demuth Jr/Nobles County: County Engineer Steve Schnieder reported there is a \$180,000 State Grant that would fund 12 intersection lighting projects in Nobles County.

Larry Janssen/City of Worthington: A lot of projects in the works: Splash pad, soil boring for Farmer's Market, Runnings new building, Liquor store scheduled to open June 1.

Rod Sankey/Citizen: will have a canopy tent at International Festival available for anyone on the Urban Lawmaker Tour to set up and congregate.

Gary Ewert/Heron Lake Watershed: calm right now, training and meetings.

Colleen Gruis/City of Rushmore: empty tax forfeited lot-city looking at purchasing it. City can purchase the lot before it goes on an auction.

Gene Metz/Nobles County: a lot of livestock facilities going up this year. Approved 5 more housing units through Nobles Home Initiative. A new clinic building is being built in Adrian. PACE—any business that has energy upgrades can apply for funding that is paid back on their property statements. PACE is running out of funds, looking at the future and how to keep funding it.

Don Linssen/Nobles County: Southern Prairie Community Care-MN Healthcare money-decide what to do with insurance and where to purchase it, two groups we could go with or go on our own.

Assessing: Legislation passed in 2016 states anyone who does assessing needs to have their CMA to continue assessing, local assessors need to complete their education by June 2019 or they will be done assessing. Nobles County currently has 9 local assessors and only 2 are currently certified. CMA has to take 4 classes plus 1 year experience to make the application. Cities/Townships that know their assessor isn't going to continue with the education, please contact the Assessor to start communication on future assessing. True County Assessing: County levies and takes on all of the assessing.

2018 Legislative Session (2/20/18 – 5/21/18)

W.E.L.L. (Welcome, Education, Library, Livability) Update: Commissioners Metz and Demuth, Clint Wolthuizen, John Landgaard, and Sharon Johnson met with the chair of capital investments Dean Urdahl. Prospect for funding does not look very good.

Mental Health Centers Update: The state is looking at investing \$6 million each for 5 outstate youth mental health centers with 16 beds. The Kids Peace facility may be a fit. It costs \$1,800/day to house an individual at one of the current facilities. February 2022 bond will be paid off on current Kids Peace facility. Southwest Mental Health has staff here that can help and potentially manage the facility. If bonding bill passes with the \$30 million, the state will look at where the facilities are going to be located.

2018 Urban Lawmaker Tour – July 12th to July 14th, 2018: Received a proposal from Senator Weber that included a list of possible participants. Ideas to include in tour: Kids Peace, livestock confinement, DNR land, good and bad buffer, wind tower, broadband huts, Lewis & Clark, WELL site, Memorial Auditorium. Show how the state has helped us and how they can help us. BAC is reserved if we decide to use it for the Kickoff in the morning.

D.E.E.D. Opportunity Zones community development program: selected 3 zones in Nobles County that are eligible. Housing is a possibility to be included. More information in the future.

Please forward ideas for the next meeting to the Nobles County Administration Office.

Next Meeting:

June 14, 2018 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm
BioTechnology Advancement Center
1527 Prairie Drive, Worthington, MN 56187

The meeting adjourned.