

## NEON Minutes

May 2, 2019, Biotechnology Advancement Center

Meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance and Nobles County Commissioner, Robert Demuth Jr, presided over the meeting.

Interest in forming subcommittees:

- a. Daycare – If you are interested in serving on a committee or know of someone who would be good to serve on this committee, please contact the Nobles County Administration office.
- b. Infrastructure for Natural Gas –
  - i. Round Lake – has natural gas, would like to put a bigger line in.
  - ii. Rock County – there are businesses across the county line that are interested.
  - iii. Regional Contact for Southern MN is Paul Sullivan.

Flood/Disaster Updates: FEMA Preliminary Damage Assessment scheduled for 9am, Tuesday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, in the Community Room of the School Building in Rushmore MN. FEMA: from working with them on past events, now we know what information they need when we have a new event. MN Rural Waters is someone to partner with, they have large pumps and generators they can bring in to assist in disasters.

Around the Table:

Don Linssen/Nobles County: Nobles County Work Session on Monday presented with information that the Library is looking at buying Westminster Presbyterian church, this is the first the commissioners heard of it. Library Director says Library Board is not in favor of the WELL project: location, not enough green space, loose identity. The City, School, and County has spent a long time working on collaboration towards the WELL project.

Linden Olson/ISD 518: ALC/Gymnastics Building probably won't be ready until August 1<sup>st</sup>. School Board Meeting on Tuesday: 1) going ahead with High School Addition, adding on 6 classrooms. 2) WELL project–look at how are we going to work with the City and County. 3) Intermediate School–looking at options for referendum: Lease levy, fund balance, state bonding–will know by May 20<sup>th</sup> if there is funding available. Tax Valuations: Just because valuations go up it doesn't mean your taxes go up; need to get that word out, people mix percentages and dollar amounts.

Lori Dudley/ISD 518: In the fund balance we need to keep enough money to operate for 6-8 weeks. There are 8 new FTE positions added for next school year. An additional Kindergarten classroom will be added.

Doug Knuth/City of Round Lake: Firemen have open house Sunday 3-5 at the fire hall. School votes May 14 for the addition at the Brewster School. 25-30 people attended an informational meeting in Round Lake. They are adding on to the school regardless if it passes or not; the difference will be in funding and tax break for ag land.

Abraham Algadi/WREDC: May 16 board meeting. There are 4 NHI applications in process (3 from Adrian). Working with many developers/contractors to work on the housing shortage issues. Did not have a bioscience conference this spring, the board desires to cover more than just the bio technology field; looking at trying to fill some amenities in the area. Quik Trip ground breaking tomorrow. Running's is doing well. Brewery is still on schedule for August 1. WREDC

has received \$37,000 in private memberships. WREDC partnering with WIN to develop new businesses. LDO money has been good, helped Sailor Plastics and Purnet; have more freedom with money to help than the city or county has. Having discussion with Menards regarding Shopko property, or activity center for kids, something will come in to the property.

Julie Foote/MVTV Wireless: FEMA Preliminary Damage Assessment review meeting on Tuesday in Rushmore, spread the word to attend. Discussion was held on the upcoming Elks convention and lodging.

Robert Demuth Jr/Nobles County: Attended the Historical Society Annual meeting. They are aggressively pursuing the armory.

Other: None.

Next Meeting:

June 6, 2019

5:30 to 7:00 PM

BioTechnology Advancement Center, 1527 Prairie Drive, Worthington, MN 56187

The meeting adjourned.