

June 26th, 2019
Special Meeting

A Special Board of Supervisors meeting was held at the Wood River Town Shop on June 26th, 2019. Present were: Chairman Ron Burg, Supervisors- Gilbert Meyer, John Hennessey, Clerk Raylene Swanson, and 24 others.

- I. **Call to order:** Chairman Ron Burg called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.
- II. **Pledge of Allegiance:** The Pledge followed the meeting coming to order.
- III. **Historical Report and update by Chairman Ron Burg:** Ron stated that there were informational packets at the entrance. This project started last fall and has had some delays with the lot next door. Feels it is still in the best interest to wait for Burnett Dairy to come through. Burnett Dairy is still waiting on reports from DNR before they can move forward. Burnett Dairy was supposed to have the sale of the lot to the Town of Wood River on their June 19th Board Meeting. Ron did not hear anything from Dan Dowling after that meeting.
- IV. **Citizen Input and queries:** Joel Johnson stated that this project should have started months ago and there is no reason to keep waiting. Very frustrated at the strides that the previous Board had made to get this going and now it's just waiting for one person to do something. Concerned about the potential increase in cost. The April meeting stated that they were to go with option # 3, if approved by electors to purchase land and Burnett Dairy signed contract. Electors approved but Dan did nothing. Was stated to proceed with other options for building if no effort by Burnett Dairy. That didn't happen. Joel would like it noted that certain decisions that had been made were not followed through with and citing actions that may not have been taken into consideration. Stan Peer asked if contractors are holding bids for us. Wayne Lake replied: We have pre-ordered material sitting at the lumber yard. Subcontractors have not notified him yet of any changes. Overall, no changes in building costs. Jobs changed around due to lack of this project moving forward. Will continue to watch pricing. Stan also asked if the soil issues were Burnett Dairy's issue. Yes. Stan also asked if there were grants for clean-up. No. Patrick Hanson asked if we could see a picture of the building facing east-west. Craig showed what he had available. Bud Olson stated that the Dairy needs to make a move. At this point we do not have confirmation from Dan. Ron Burg stated that Burnett Dairy has made several e-mail confirmations to him that they will work with us. Dale Halverson asked if the Dairy said they would pay for the cleanup. Craig said they are aware of their responsibility. But, we don't know when they will address it. Dale's concerned that the Town has in writing that they are not liable for any future issues related to the soil in the future. Dale also asked if there had been a "drop-dead" date for Dan. Ron, Craig and Joel stated together "YES". Brian Nelson said that Joel and the former Board should be commended for doing the work in initiating this contract with Burnett Dairy for the land purchase. Stated it would look great facing south. Cindy Jensen asked what the rush was. Clerk Raylene Swanson replied that the purpose of starting construction in late spring and being completed by late fall was due to not having any elections for the rest of the year. Rick Cunningham asked how long it would take to get started if purchase agreement was signed tomorrow. Wayne Lake stated there was no definite answer. Other work has been taken by his crew and other subcontractors. Carol Huff stated that 30 years a. go she moved to Burnett County and over time Burnett Dairy has made a lot of improvements. John Hill stated it would be a much better flow to go east to west. Suzanne Vitale said the project should wait. Brian Nelson asked if we were aware of who is on the Burnett Dairy Board. Stated that it was probably on website. He said maybe people could contact them. Joel Johnson stated that he was accused of the New Town Hall costing 1.3 million. He said if something doesn't start, it will cost that much. Cheryl Wedin stated that the 1.3 million was for 20 years of principal and interest. Stan Peer asked if the meetings could be held someplace else. Raylene Swanson stated that this is what the Election workers have to deal with. This is a short period of time. Stan Peer, Patrick Hanson and Dale Halverson stated that they would prefer it facing south. A non-binding straw poll was done asking which direction they would prefer the building to go. Majority voted in favor of east to west facing highway.

- V. **Board Discussion:** John Hennessey asked if the Dairy's Board met last Friday why didn't the Dairy reply with any information as to what happened at the meeting. Very frustrated. Said if Dan cared enough he would have let us know something. Gilbert Meyer said he was nervous about the signed contracts and that at some time they could be pulled. If we have to get new contracts it would take time. He would like to review Wayne's contract to see contingencies. John would really like it to face Hwy 70, but has great concerns over the time it is taking. Dan is constantly delaying things. Gilbert has frustrations that Dan is not moving in a favorable direction. We need to press the idea and get some answers. He's not moving. John Hennessey made a motion to move the July meeting date to July 17th at 6:30 p.m. due to him being out of town on the 10th. Gilbert Meyer seconded it. All voted in favor. MC. Gilbert would like to view the contracts to review them.
- VI. **Adjournment:** John Hennessey made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Gilbert Meyer seconded it. Ron Burg adjourned the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

Raylene Swanson, Clerk