

Open meeting law complied with. Quorum verified.

Call to order:

The meeting was called to order at 1:01 P.M. at the Vilas Co. Courthouse by Chairman Ronald De Bruyne with the following members present: Sig Hjemvick, Dennis Nielsen, Fred Radtke and Linda Thorpe. Others present at this meeting: County Board Chairman Steve Favorite, Social Services Director Greg Schiek, William Doerr, Ken Anderson and Clerk David Alleman.

Approve agenda to be discussed in any order by the Chair:

Motion by F. Radtke, 2nd by D. Nielsen to approve the agenda with the agenda order at the Chair's discretion. All voting aye. Carried.

Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting:

Motion by L. Thorpe, 2nd by S. Hjemvick to approve the minutes of the May 30, 2008 meeting as presented. All voting aye. Carried.

Social Service Wing Space Needs Study:

a. Architecture North:

The Chair reported that he had put the space needs study as contracted with Architecture North, on "unofficial hold" pending receiving further direction from Social Services Director G. Schiek. G. Schiek explained that much of the future regarding local and regional human services needs and directions was "up in the air" and extremely hard to predict at this time. A lot will be need to be determined locally and regionally pending the outcome of the Oneida County investigation of the Human Services Center / 5140 Board. Vilas County is a partner with Oneida and Forest Counties in this program. When asked about current space needs, G. Schiek replied that the area allotted to his department was being utilized to its maximum capacity. There is no additional room for expansion. He cited an immediate need to provide secure, private social worker/client interview rooms. At present, his department is forced to use secure interrogation rooms in the Sheriff's Dept. Storage for records is another pressing issue. Entering into future cooperative efforts with other surrounding counties or public/private consortiums, even if highly advantageous to Vilas County, could be negatively impacted by the lack of space to expand. S. Hjemvick responded that it was up to this committee to investigate those needs. F. Radtke wondered if a copy of a previous space needs study was available. L. Thorpe felt that the currently approved space needs study should proceed. S. Hjemvick was concerned that a larger study would ultimately be needed, thus duplicating the costs of the presently approved study. R. De Bruyne stated that all of these concerns were on his mind when he halted the progress of the approved study. Motion by F. Radtke, 2nd by L. Thorpe to have the presently approved space needs study continue onto completion, as this study would better identify immediate space needs relative to the entire Social Services wing. Discussion. All voting aye. Carried.

Request for Information Letters Sent to Department Heads – Results:

The Clerk presented copies of the results obtained from each department to each member, along with a copy of the questionnaire. It was noted that all departments had apparently responded except for the Clerk of Courts and Highway Depts.

Courthouse Parking – Current and Future Needs:

L. Thorpe and S. Hjemvick reported upon their attendance at a recent City of Eagle River Parking Commission meeting. They stated that the issues concerning courthouse parking on Court Street were well received by the commission. It was recommended that a study be done regarding Court Street parking. L. Thorpe reported that Eagle River may have the results of a recent parking study that includes the courthouse area. It would appear that an additional 42 parking spaces could be obtained if an angle parking design was adopted. The City may have their engineer draw up a proposed plan. F. Radtke felt that the county should study the development of additional parking area on county owned land to the north of the courthouse. He felt that an increase in parking space at that site would be sufficient.

County Lands – Current and Future Needs:

F. Radtke felt that a 3rd floor addition to the Justice Center would be the best scenario to consider, as the existing building had been designed to accommodate the construction of an additional floor. Both he and D. Nielsen would favor constructing two new courtrooms and the conversion of the existing large courtroom into county board meeting rooms. General discussion proceeded along those lines, with the results that all present tacitly agreed that a different study would be needed to identify those needs. F. Radtke then asked what constraints this committee had to abide by regarding the purchase of lands. S. Hjemvick responded that this committee had the ability to bring a resolution forward if so desired. R. Radtke then asked again about a previous space need study that had been commissioned just prior to the latest courthouse remodeling. The Clerk responded by advising the committee that neither he nor his staff had been able to locate a file copy of any study. What had been located was the proposed plan of action as presented to Vilas County by Vierbicher Associates, the firm that had been commissioned to study courthouse space needs at that time. That plan was not accepted, and a different firm was awarded the contract to design the courthouse remodeling plan. R. De Bryune doubted if a space needs study had been presented to the county board. He recalled the board being presented with only the Vierbicher proposal. He further recalled that the Social Services wing was specifically excluded from the overall remodeling plan. Any remodeling that ultimately was done in that wing at that time was handled as a “change order”. The committee then discussed general issues regarding local economic and social needs, and the impacts of impacts of increased government ownership of land.

Letters and Communications:

D. Nielsen presented a letter from a firm looking to site an assisted living facility. This item is to be put on the next meeting agenda

Set next meeting date and time:

The next meeting was set for Friday, July 25, 2008, at 9:00 AM.

Adjournment:

Motion by F. Radtke, 2nd by S. Hjemvick to adjourn. All voting aye. Carried.
Meeting adjourned at 3:04 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by:

David R. Alleman
Vilas County Clerk