

City/County/Park/School Liaison Committee

January 4th, 2023 Meeting

Members Present:

Mark Jantzer, Lisa Olson, Shelly Weppler, John Fjeldahl (alternate for Howard Anderson)

Members Absent:

Perry Olson, Ken Kitzman, Mike Gessner, Sabrina Herrmann

Others Present:

Margaret Haugen, John Van Dyke, Lance Meyer, Damon Druse, Brian Billingsley, Mikayla McWilliams, Ron Merritt, Travis Schmit, Noreen Barton, Doug Diedrichsen, Dana Larsen, Harold Stewart, David Lakefield, Kristin Kowalczyk, Kelly Haugen, Larry Haug, Ryan Sommers and Marisa Haman

FROM: Ward County Auditor

RE: Meeting agenda for Wednesday, January 4th, 2023
1:00 pm Ward County Administrative Building Room 106 & 108

The City/County/Park/School Liaison Committee meeting was called to order at 1:00 pm, by Chairperson Lisa Olson at the Ward County Administrative Building.

1. Election of Chairman

Chairperson Lisa Olson opened nominations for 2023 Chairperson. Mark Jantzer nominated Shelly Weppler, Margaret Haugen seconded and motion carried unanimously.

2. Approval of Minutes

Lisa Olson moved to approve the minutes from September 21, 2022, Margaret Haugen seconded and motion carried unanimously.

3. Introduction of new 911 Coordinator

Larry Haug, former 911 Coordinator, introduced Ryan Summers, the newly hired 911 Coordinator. Haug provided a brief overview of Mr. Sommers experience. Haug will be training Sommers in for the next few weeks.

4. Extraterritorial Discussions- right of way, nuisance lots and annexations

Chairperson Weppler started conversation highlighting an article she had found regarding “county islands” in Arizona. The article discussed issues around properties that have been left as “islands” within a city after all of the surrounding property has been annexed.

Discussion was held regarding conversations that had started at the prior meeting. Brian Billingsley advised he would email out a document that outlines the city zoning authority. Dana Larsen added that the county follows state law but does not have moving or debris removal ordinances like the city. Part of the difficulty is that if city enforced ordinance within ET they are not able to recoup costs through special assessments since properties within the ET but outside the city limits are not city properties. Marisa Haman presented an agreement she had found that was between the county,

city and First District Health Unit. The agreement had not been signed by any party, however there were minutes stating the Board of County Commissioners had approved signing the agreement in January of 2014. Mr. Billingsley volunteered to research in city records to see if they had a signed agreement or minutes involving discussion of the agreement.

Discussion moved to next steps and what action Ward County is requesting. Chairperson Weppler suggested that a task force be assembled to review these items and bring suggestions. Harold Stewart stated the city could work on an agreement draft and that there would probably need to be legislative change if looking to force property owners to annex to eliminate “islands”.

John Fjeldahl moved that the council and commission recommend each entity have their attorneys review these scenarios and bring recommendations to next Liaison meeting, Lisa Olson seconded and motion carried unanimously.

Discussion moved to right of way within the ET. John Fjeldahl stated he had watched a webinar training that stated cities and townships do not have authority to take right of way unless the county has granted authority to do so. Lance Meyer explained history of platting process along county roads and section lines. Discussion was held regarding easements and right of way and the differences between the two. Thus far no documentation has been located showing the county gave authority to cities or townships in regards to taking right of way.

John Van Dyke provided clarification of subdivision platting process with regards to right of way and enclaves.

5. Other Business

Lisa Olson discussed the postal service issues and asked that it be added to the next meeting agenda. She suggested possibly sending a letter to Senator Hoeven regarding the problems.

Harold Stewart extended a thank you to the county commissioners who attended the meeting regarding the first phase of the Tracks project. He advised the city council had approved tax relief and Epic Companies will be coming to the County and School District sometime in 2023 for approval as well.

The next meeting will be April 6th, 2023 at 1:30 pm, at Ward County Administrative Building Room 106 & 108.

Hearing no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:08 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Marisa Haman
Ward County Auditor