

COMMISSIONERS PROCEEDINGS

Madison, Nebraska

March 10, 2009

The Board of County Commissioners of Madison County, Nebraska met in a joint governing meeting with the elected officials and staff from the Norfolk City Council, Northeast Community College Board of Governors, and the Norfolk Public School Board in the Norfolk City Council Chambers located at 309 Madison Avenue in Norfolk at 5:30 P.M.

Advance notice of meeting was published in the Thursday, March 5, 2009 edition of The Norfolk Daily News. A copy of said notice was mailed to each Board member. An affidavit of acknowledgment of receipt of notice of meeting as published was executed.

Present: Commissioners Rick Uhlir and Lee Klein, County Highway Superintendent Richard Johnson, and County Clerk Nancy Scheer. Absent: Commissioner Jerry McCallum. Norfolk City representatives in attendance were Mayor Sue Fuchtman, City Administrator Al Roder, City Clerk Beth Deck, City Engineer Assistant Dale Bohac, and Norfolk City Council Members Jim Brenneman, Vicki Saunders, David Fauss, Jim Lange, and Ivan VanDyke. Northeast Community College representatives in attendance were President Dr. Bill Path, General Counsel Dave Ptak, President's Executive Assistant Diane Reikofski, Acting Vice-President of Educational Services John Blaylock, and Board of Governors Members Don Oelsigle and John Davies. Norfolk Public Schools representatives in attendance were Superintendent Dr. Marlene Uhing and Board of Education member Clark Froehlich. Also in attendance were District Court Reporter Rita Olberding and two members of the media.

Vice-Chairman Rick Uhlir called the meeting to order. Norfolk City Mayor Sue Fuchtman notified the public of the location of the information regarding the Open Meeting Act posted in the meeting room.

Norfolk City Mayor Sue Fuchtman extended appreciation to individuals in attendance. She explained that the purpose of the joint meeting is to allow information to be shared by the elected officials regarding each entities' current projects, issues, and priorities and how other entities may be able to partner with each other. She stated that the difficult part of decision-making is to be sure that choices are made for the betterment, improvement, advancement, and growth of the organization, while remaining financially sound. She stated that every goal comes with challenges and challenges offer opportunities. In addition, she stated that, in her opinion, all entities have the opportunity to benefit from the direction of other entities in attendance.

Norfolk City Administrator Al Roder reported that the city sales tax collections are very solid with the revenue for February 2009 being at the highest level since 2005. He reported that the study completed for the space needs for the Norfolk City administrative offices projected a need for a building with 27,000 square feet. He reported on the street improvement projects scheduled for completion within the City of Norfolk. In addition, he reported that the top five goals established by the Norfolk City Council members include creating a park and recreation facility master plan, enhancement to the city parks and athletic fields including an aquatics center, creating an arts and culture committee, enhancing economic development efforts, and pursuing city administrative offices.

Dr. Bill Path, President of Northeast Community College, reported that the three priority projects for the college include a new welcome center which is currently under construction on the Norfolk campus, the fund drive to construct the College of Nursing at the Norfolk campus, and the construction of a satellite campus in South Sioux City. He reported that the new welcome center on the Norfolk campus should be completed by the beginning of the fall semester. Dr. Path explained that the satellite campus located in South Sioux City is a unique concept because it blends a comprehensive community college with a public 4-year college into one facility with a seamless educational opportunity involving a 50-50 partnership for residents of the greater Siouxland area. He reported that Northeast Community College would offer all freshman and sophomore level instruction and Wayne State College would offer all junior and senior level instruction. In addition, he explained that Northeast Community College would bring all technical and vocational programs and then Wayne State College would bring graduate studies, most likely in the areas of business and education. He explained that this commuter campus is unique and would be the first one in the nation. In addition, he reported that they hope to release the project for bids in May, start construction during the summer, and have major completion on the building in December 2010 to begin classes in January 2011. Dr. Path reported that the College of Nursing project would be fully supported by a capital campaign and since the bids came in very favorably, the funding goal is \$11.9 million and they currently lack approximately \$1.5 million in funds. He reported that the nursing college is a partnership with the University of Nebraska Medical Center. He expressed gratitude to the City of Norfolk and County of Madison for their funding commitment toward the project. In addition, he suggested that all entities involved in the meeting work together on legislative issues and he proposed joint trips to lobby Legislative Committees on common issues.

Northeast Community College Acting Vice-President of Educational Services John Blaylock reported that NECC has recognized the need for trained technicians in renewable fuels and the college offers a one-year diploma and two-year associate degree program for renewable fuels. He explained that NECC has also added a wind energy diploma to the curriculum to train technicians in the study of wind energy and the technical aspect for servicing wind turbines.

Commissioners Klein and Uhlir reported that the county is in the process of constructing a building for relocation of the Probation Office by June, 2009. County Highway Superintendent Richard Johnson reported that the Victory Road project located near the ethanol plant would be let for bids within 45 to 60 days. He reported that the Nucor Road project, which includes relocation of the road running past the Nucor plant one-half mile to the south, would be completed in three phases. He explained that the first phase would be construction of the road from Highway 35 past the Nucor plant that will tie into Victory Road. He stated that Madison and Stanton Counties and the City of Norfolk would provide funding for the Nucor Road project, in addition to federal aid funds.

Norfolk Public School Superintendent Dr. Marlene Uhing reported that she is trying to involve the community in the education plans to prepare students for the 21st century. She explained that they are discussing career academies and personal learning plans to determine the skills and knowledge required at different grade levels. In addition, she reported that they are studying grade configurations and how this impacts the building arrangement.

Mayor Sue Fuchtman concluded the meeting by encouraging quarterly meetings in the future. Dr. Bill Path agreed that quarterly meetings should be held with representatives from each entity, but recommended an annual meeting with all members of the governing boards present.

No action was taken.

The meeting adjourned at 6:42 P.M.

County Clerk

Vice-Chairman