



MILTON • TOWNSHIPS • NEW HAVEN

PINE ISLAND
public schools



ORONOCO • PINE ISLAND • ROSCOE

PINE ISLAND COMMUNITY PLANNING TEAM

Meeting Notes: Wednesday, December 12, 2012 – 7:00 PM, EDA Office

ATTENDANCE

Name	Organization	Present	Name	Organization	Present
Tammy Berg-Beniak	School Dist 255	X	Abraham Algadi	City of Pine Island	X
John Champa	School Dist 255	X	Paul Perry	City of Pine Island	
Kim Fall	School Dist 255	X	Jerry Vettel	City of Pine Island	X
Rob Warneke	School Dist 255	X	Madge Alberts	Milton Township	X
Karen Doll	Pine Island EDA	X	Dale Thomforde	New Haven Township	X
Troy Kuball	Pine Island EDA	X	Mark Thein	Oronoco Township	X
Rick Keane	Pine Island EDA		Richard Miller	Pine Island Township	X
			Patrick Morgan	Roscoe Township	

AGENDA

• Introductions

- Mayor elect, Rod Steele, was introduced and asked to give thoughts as he takes on the role of Mayor for the City of Pine Island. Rod commented on believing that the town has previously been divided on growth and priorities. He stated that by working together they will be able to determine priorities and make progress.

• Discussion: Committee Area Projects and timelines

- Each area represented gave a brief overview of upcoming projects and timelines. A brief overview of the discussion is outlined in the following table:

Organization	Projects and timelines
City of Pine Island	2013 Highway 52 frontage road 2013 Solution to current pool situation – aquatic center or repair 2013 – 125 th street plan 2015 and beyond – possible projects: Fire Hall Expansion City Shop Expansion Van Horn Public Library
EDA	Plans to develop more property to be ready for commercial development
New Haven Township	Through a town meeting, it was determined that funds will be spent to improve township roads. The township would like to visit with bus drivers and mail carriers to determine the greatest need. Currently working on the 125 th Corridor Preservation Project. Planning to

	have a joint city council and New Haven Board meeting. A recommendation for a preferred option will follow that meeting. The goal is to have a plan in place by late spring of 2013.
Pine Island Township	It was reported that the township is in a good financial position. All projects have been taken care of with no plans for five years as they have committed to no increase in the levy.
Oronoco Township	A lot of money has been spent working to have impact on the placement of power lines. There is currently a date for appellate court. The power line project is going forward, but there is uncertainty on how it will impact Oronoco.
Milton Township	Milton Township is in an excellent financial state. All flood projects have been completed. They have a new town hall that is currently available for rental. As the township moves forward they are very aware that the Elk Run Project will have significant impact.
Pine Island Schools	The district is currently spending a lot of time studying the current state of district facilities and the state of technology. The recent audit of the district's finances demonstrates a sound financial state.

- **Community-Wide Projects Discussion:**

- Kim Fall led the discussion on a community meeting to listen to the priorities of the community. Fall stressed the importance of really finding out what the community believes is important. A sub-committee proposed a town hall meeting to hear the voices of the community. Jeff Leland is willing to facilitate a town hall meeting to determine stakeholder priorities. It should be noted that Jeff Leland is the school board chair, but would serve strictly as the facilitator for this meeting. Following approval from the group at large, tentative dates for the meeting are January 9th or 10th. Fall will also look into video streaming the meeting.

- **School Facility Evaluation and Timelines:**

- Rob Warneke and Rod Steele addressed the state of the current school facilities. Steele stated that as a realtor our school facility keeps coming to the forefront as to why families are choosing to establish their homes in other communities. He stated that communities that have taken the steps to enhance their facilities have seen gains. He suggested that the community needs to look at how we can drive growth. Steele stated, "We have not addressed our facilities and we are paying the price." Steele went on to state that the school is the "cornerstone" of our community. Steele noted that the school will drive the progress of this city. As the community recognizes the priorities, Steele stated that, "we can have the best fire department, pool, etc... and it will not matter if we don't have the best school facility in place."
- John Champa reviewed the facility timeline stating that the school will be giving the full analysis on the current state of the facility, enrollments, projections, and possibilities. Champa stated that the school will be prepared to answer the questions of what can we and what can't we do with the current facility.
- The question Why? was posed. Why did previous referendums fail? Discussion from this question recognized that all three proposals in the past were very similar and that land site was questioned. It was recommended that there is an action plan to involve and listen to those who may be opposed to a new or altered school facility.

- **Report of Meeting with SMIF:**

- It was briefly reported that the Pine Island School met with representatives from higher education including University of Minnesota – Rochester, Winona State University and Rochester Community and Technical College, and representatives from Austin, and IBM. Appreciation to the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation and specifically Tim Penny was extended for the opportunity to hold a discussion primarily to meet the needs of the Pine Island Schools. The question generating the meeting was: If Pine Island expands the current facilities, what else can be done to ensure that our students experience a state of the art education. How can we be partners to best prepare our students for post-secondary education?

NEXT MEETING

- **January 16th at 7:00 p.m. in the EDA Office**

Notes submitted by: Tamara Berg-Beniak