



MILTON • TOWNSHIPS • NEW HAVEN

**PINE ISLAND**  
public schools



ORONOCO • PINE ISLAND • ROSCOE



## PINE ISLAND COMMUNITY PLANNING TEAM

Meeting Notes: Wednesday, April 9, 2014 – 7:00 PM, EDA Office

### ATTENDANCE

Name	Organization	Present	Name	Organization	Present
Tammy Berg-Beniak	School Dist 255	X	Rod Steele	City of Pine Island	X
John Champa	School Dist 255	X	Jerry Vettel	City of Pine Island	X
Kim Fall	School Dist 255	X	Madge Alberts	Milton Township	X
Rob Warneke	School Dist 255	X	Dale Thomforde	New Haven Township	
Karen Doll	Pine Island EDA	X	Mark Thein	Oronoco Township	X
Troy Kuball	Pine Island EDA		Richard Miller	Pine Island Township	X
Rick Keane	Pine Island EDA		Gale Hoven	Roscoe Township	
Morgan Hansen	Pine Island Library	X	Greg Houdek	Park Board Chair	X

#### • Updates - Townships

- **Oronoco Township** – Bid letting for gravel is in progress, otherwise there is not much new to report. Township Board is working on Fire Department issues.
- **Milton Township** – Gravel bids have come in. The Township recently received an unexpected check from FEMA for \$5,000 due to the 2010 flood. Karen asked if it might be possible to use the funds to clear fallen trees in the river so it could be used by canoes and kayaks. Will the DNR allow this?
- **Pine Island Township** – The tax evaluation meeting is scheduled for April 12<sup>th</sup>. Gravel quotes will be reviewed at the next meeting. Richard also discussed the quality of rock and sources for material. \$47,000 was spent January- March of 2014 on township road maintenance. CAPX 2020 continues to cause damage to the roads, but to this point all invoices sent to CAPX have been paid. The new fire truck has arrived... now township needs to pay for it. The levy may need to be adjusted this fall.
- **New Haven Township** – No report
- **Roscoe** – No report

#### • Updates - City

- **City** – Will be letting bids for East Frontage Road project in the next 10 days. Construction is scheduled to begin around June 1. The City has received an official signed agreement from MnDOT which outlines a new Job Creation Plan and releases the City's from any financial obligation for the \$3.65 million if the job goals are not met. MnDOT wants overhead signs on the County 11 Interchange, and the City is working through this issue. Cheese Fest will be moving to the new area on County 11 east between 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave East and Island Market. The flood buyout areas and Trailhead Park will also be used for the festivities. Public works will increase the power supply to the Cheese Factory building and surrounding outdoor areas to accommodate the Cheese Festival. By the end of May the City should have received 4-5 residential building permit applications. The City Wide Garage Sale is scheduled for April 25-26. Heidi Keiffer was hired and began working as assistant deputy clerk for the City this past week. The Lions Club is hosting their annual Lasagna Dinner Sunday and they are sponsoring the City-wide Clean-up May 3<sup>rd</sup> in cooperation with the City which funds carrier

hauling fees. The Bushman property online auction ends tomorrow unless bidding continues to be active.

- **Library** – New technologies are in the works. Borrowers will soon receive text notifications when items have arrived for pick up or when they have overdue books. There will also be an online regional public catalog. The Library will be co-sponsoring a concert Apr 21 with PAPA. It will include workshops with the high school choral program during the day and a free public concert in the evening. The staff is getting ready for the summer reading program. Tammy asked if the 100 book program is planned for this summer and Morgan said she is open to it and will get in touch with the right people. “Paws to Read” will include storytelling, a visit from the Goodhue County K-9 unit, and a therapy dog in the summer program.
- **Park** - The Park Board has been working with the City to prepare the Bushman property for the on-line auction. Volunteers went through items in the attic and basement and discovered lots of nice stuff for the auction. They have held two open houses. Auction is scheduled to end tomorrow. The meeting scheduled for last night had to be cancelled so there is no other new business.
- **EDA** – Karen continues to work with two companies interested in locating in Pine Island, but there have been snags with both projects that have slowed down progress. A DMC meeting with leaders from a dozen communities surrounding Rochester is scheduled for May 13<sup>th</sup>. EDA has submitted documents to the State Historic Preservation Office for review in a preliminary step to exploration of potential financing for 125<sup>th</sup> Street.

- **Updates - School**

- The **High School Music Department** took students on a music tour during spring break. PIHS will be acting as an **ACT testing** site this Saturday, for the first time. Spring sports are under way, and providing **wifi technology** on activity buses is being investigated. **Prom** is scheduled for the 1<sup>st</sup> weekend in May.

Tammy wrote a paper about the **referendum process** Pine Island has experienced during the past 20 months. There have been many positives on this journey, including the relationships between the school, community, and government agencies. Questions surrounding utilities for the new school have been the focus recently. All Questions & Answers are listed on the school's website and have grown to 7 pages in length. There has not been much discussion about kids. The School Board opted to structure the financing so the taxes would be viewed as a set amount over the next 30 years for total transparency. No deferred or reduced payments were approved by the Board. Two additional information sessions are scheduled for Apr 23 and May 4 at 7 pm at school. Group discussed ways to handle Q & A at public meetings. League of Women Voters was suggested as possible mediators. Jon Eickhoff plans to attend next two public meetings.

- **CPT Discussion**

- The pool committee has indicated their interest in attending the Council meeting this month to discuss the new pool project. CPT consensus was that the community needs first pass the school referendum before moving on to the pool project because the school is a grass roots effort that is needed to help this town move forward.
- City is making some progress on efforts to hold off the ADA compliance requirements for a couple of years. Pool currently loses \$60,000 per year
- People from around the region are watching Pine Island and their support of the referendum, or not. There was discussion about the Milton Township presentation. The vote yes committee has decided not to do phone canvassing and to only place a few strategically placed signs in the community that say, “Invest Pine Island”.

**NEXT MEETING- MAY 13<sup>TH</sup> AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE EDA OFFICE**

**Note taker will be – Morgan**

*Notes submitted by: Karen Doll*