



PINE ISLAND COMMUNITY PLANNING TEAM

Meeting Notes: Wednesday, March 11, 2015 – 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		Jerry Vettel	City of Pine Island	
Kim Fall	School Dist 255	X	Madge Alberts	Milton Twp	
Rob Warneke	School Dist 255	X	Dale Thomforde	New Haven Twp	X
Karen Doll	Pine Island EDA	X	Mark Thein	Oronoco Twp	X
Troy Kuball	Pine Island EDA		Richard Miller	Pine Island Twp	X
Rick Keane	Pine Island EDA		Gale Hoven	Roscoe Twp	
Morgan Hansen	Van Horn Library	X	Theresa Carlson	Park Board	
Kevin McDermott	City of Oronoco	X	Courtney Schaefer	Chamber Commerce	X

AGENDA

1. Call to Order – 7:00 p.m.

2. Township Updates

- Milton Township** – Election results: Luke Elias was voted 46-36 over Scott Berg. Theresa Benda didn't have any votes as her supporters may have been encouraged to vote for Scott. Erik Lindberg was elected treasurer. It was reported that there is now an "inexperienced" board with Tom Pyfferoen and Madge Alberts as the senior members. Tom gave a report to the board on the fire department situation at our meeting last week, and he very clearly understands all the issues there and expressed them well. Mr. Trom, who is at the center of the feedlot controversy in Dodge, was defeated 117-34. This was a strong message from the township.
 - New Haven Township** – Just had the annual meeting. The levy was lowered slightly by 1.2% equaling \$113,782. After the meeting, 133 voters participated in the township election.
 Mary Andrist – 3 year term as director with 70 votes – Mary defeated Ron Titus with 65 write-in votes.
 Bob Figy – Treasurer with 129 votes. Bob defeated Ron Titus with 3 write-in votes and Mark Hindermann with 1 write-in vote.
 - Oronoco Township**- March meeting was not very eventful. Richard Lyke was voted as a supervisor. Kim Stanton was elected as treasurer. General Levy is the same at 55,000. The road and bridge levy was raised significantly to 400,000. Fire levy was at 70,000. Supervisor rate of pay changed from \$1800/yr + \$45 / meeting to \$200/month + \$15 /hour for other meetings and an additional \$150 for town meetings.
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Oronoco Township would like to continue to investigate options for fire protection. Conversation continued regarding the desire to study the benefits of combining the Pine Island and Oronoco services

- **Pine Island Township** – The fire conversation continued with an interest to look at having a fire district to serve the needs of all. This would take the entire responsibility away from the city. When the agreement was put into place in Zumbrota, many residents were released to allow them to be in closer proximity to fire protection services. 9 voters turned out for the election. Glen Betcher was re-elected to the board and Ken Markson was re-elected as the treasurer. The fire payment for the city was approximately \$14,000. This is an increase and a significant portion of the budget. There was a passing of the resolution that was introduced by Dan Rechtzigel to defeat the zip line. There is good indication that Cannon Falls will get an additional overpass and Pine Island is the second priority.

3. School Updates:

- The school reviewed the current status of the PreK-4 building project. The existing site project was briefly reviewed with mention of the crane that will be placed behind the building. Points of pride were also reviewed: State Champ, Noah Bauer, Choir program was recognized as a star program, Craig Anderson was recognized with an ethics in coaching award and has been nominated for the board of directors for the MSHSL. The school just finished a successful fundraiser to provide shoes for others; soles for souls.

4. City Updates

- **City of Oronoco** - With the onset of spring, Oronoco will be working with Olmsted County on the road setback issue that has not been settled. Recently, a transportation hearing was held in Albert Lea. A representative attended the hearing and made a case for what the city is currently addressing. The dam is scheduled to be dismantled in the winter of 2015. The county is now requesting additional funds for a 60/40 split. Plans are in place for what the desired outcome looks like. Karen mentioned that Legacy funding may be an appropriate avenue to seek help.
- **City of Pine Island** – The city has started the Pillars of Pine Island Award. This was established to bring positivity to the city and recognition for the efforts of others. City street repair bids will be awarded this coming week. The Cheese Fest will be moved to the park for a minimum of three years. There is current litigation regarding a trailer near CJ Auto. They are hoping for a resolution in the near future. Jay Strande was selected as the new fire chief.
A major builder was interested in the area and there is excitement in the air. The zip line was described as being planned to be elevated above all the interchanges and follow the median of highway 52. It has been communicated that the project will not be funded with federal dollars or state dollars. It will be completed with private dollars, both US and foreign.

- **Park Board** – The park board is continuing to look at the pool. The Kasson-Mantorville Aquatic Center lost significant money last year. There is a desire to review a simplified plan, perhaps a park, pool upgrade.
- **Van Horn Library** – The library is wrapping up a big month. They are just wrapping up their one book, one town events. The participation has been fantastic. An event at Better Brew packed the house with a discussion group. The event promoted cross-generational discussions. Upcoming events include: Straw Bale Gardening, the annual book sale (Sat. April 25th), food for fines (waive your fine/fee with a non-perishable item), and a greeting card fundraiser. Upcoming book club events include Gulp by Mary Roach on April 8 and The Aviator's Wife by Melanie Benjamin on May 13th.
- **EDA** – There is a new business opening the 1st of April called Continental Auto. The Pine Island EDA received a \$10,000 grant through the University of MN to collectively with Oronoco study the benefits of a shared water waste treatment facility. A recent meeting with MNDOT is reviewing county road 11 and access to the frontage road. A hotel feasibility study is in progress. The SMIF reviewed regional programs for funding. The regional park and ride pilot was turned down. The image committee is sponsoring a community garage sale. Donations will be accepted the two days prior to the city-wide sale. The creamery will house the community sale.
- **Chamber of Commerce** - The chamber will be supporting flower baskets again. The chamber has committed to 30 baskets and may increase the number to 40. Grimsrud Publishing is taking care of all of the advertising for the community wide garage sales. Saturday nights continues to grow. There are numerous car clubs participating, bands every event, and three vendors are currently signed up. Vendors will be pursued to expand this number.

5. **Adjourned** - 8:30 p.m.

6. **Next meeting: April 8th at 7 pm at the EDA Office.**

Notetaker:

Notes submitted by: Tammy Berg-Beniak