

WORK SESSION OF THE MOWER COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

April 10, 2007

11:15 a.m.

Courthouse in Austin, Minnesota.

All members present, viz: Dick Lang, Chair
 Richard Cummings
 Raymond Tucker
 David Hillier
 Dave Tollefson
 Craig Oscarson, County Coordinator

On Tuesday April 10th at 11:15 am the Mower County Board of Commissioners held a work session to discuss potential capital improvement projects including a new jail, criminal justice center and relocating the Health and Human Services facility. There were five questions for debate as follows:

1. Is the board interested in continuing to explore capital improvement options to maintain all current county services downtown? This could be Commissioner Tollefson's proposal or other similar proposals.
2. If yes, what timeframe and budget should be set to re-explore a downtown option? If no, then if downtown is not a satisfactory location for the justice center project or portions of the justice center project (i.e. Jail portion), then what is the preferred location?
3. Should the county relocate the Health and Human Services facility from the leased office space at Oak Park Mall to a downtown location?
4. The proposed justice center project is contemplated to include the jail, law enforcement and court related offices (courts, court administration, attorney and probation). If the final decision on funding does not accommodate the contemplated project, what is the priority of these functions and the Health and Human Service facility needs?
5. What level of funding is appropriate when weighing the facility needs and priorities and the financial ability of the taxpayers?

The Board debated the first question with all commissioners providing input and comment. After all input was heard the County Coordinator summarized that the majority of the Board was not interested in continuing to explore additional downtown options to keep everything downtown. No disagreement was registered and the Board debated the second question.

All commissioners provided input and comment on whether the "Cook Farm " location or the "South Airport" location was better suited for the needs of the facility. The Coordinator summarized the discussion and concluded the preferred site was the "Airport" location for the jail portion but noted there was not full agreement on the criminal justice offices location. No disagreement was registered and the Board debated the third question.

All commissioners provided input and comment. The Coordinator summarized the discussion and concluded the full Board supported the relocation of Health and Human Services to a downtown location in the near future. No disagreement was registered and the Board debated the fourth question.

This debate ended with no final direction as the Board noted they needed more cost estimates on these options and directed the Building Committee to work with the architects and other professional services and prepare a cost analysis associated with construction costs estimates and operational cost differences for a stand alone jail with all other criminal justice departments remaining downtown, a criminal justice center at the airport location and relocating Health and Human Services downtown.

At the end of the work session the Board directed the Coordinator to place the first three questions on the next Board agenda for action.

The work session was concluded at 1:23 pm.

THE MOWER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BY: _____
Chairperson

Attest:

By: _____
Clerk/Coordinator