

SPECIAL SESSION OF THE MOWER COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

September 18, 2007

The Mower County Board of Commissioners in and for the County of Mower, Minnesota, met in Special Session September 18, 2007 at 9:00 a.m. at the Courthouse in Austin, Minnesota.

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

The Chair summarized the reason for calling the meeting as needing to look at a downtown Austin location for the proposed jail/justice center project due to the cost and the City of Austin voting to keep the Austin Police Department in a downtown location. The Chair requested input from each of the other board members.

The Chair passed the gavel to the Vice-chair.

Motion by Commissioner Lang, seconded by Commissioner Tollefson to reopen serious consideration for a downtown jail/justice center site and to work with the City of Austin to complete a downtown study within sixty (60) to ninety (90) days. Discussion followed the motion. After motion, the following action took place.

Motion by Commissioner Hillier, seconded by Commissioner Tucker to amend the motion to add that this downtown study will be the final consideration for a downtown location and to amend the time limit to complete the study to sixty (60) days. Motion carried. Motion to amend the original motion carried unanimously.

The original motion as amended carried 4 to 1. The minutes are to reflect that Commissioner Cummings voted against the motion as amended.

The Vice-chair returned the gavel to the Chair.

The County Coordinator reviewed fourteen areas of proposed criteria for a downtown study and the results of a survey of County Board members as to whether they agreed with the criteria. The fourteen points are as follows:

1. KKE to perform study.
2. Cost of Study (answer one)

- a. Paid by Austin
- b. Paid by Mower County
- c. Shared cost
3. County offices in new facility  
(APD is decision of City)
  - a. Jail
  - b. i. Sheriff (includes shared spaces)  
ii. Sheriff (excludes shared spaces)
  - c. Dispatch and Records
  - d. Courts
  - e. Court Administration
  - f. County Attorney
  - g. Correctional Services
4. Use of vacant space at Courthouse
  - a. Health and Human Services
  - b. APD
  - c. Sheriff
  - d. Dispatch
  - e. Expansion zone for LEC offices
5. 50 feet public safety clear zone
6. Identify expansion zone for inmate housing unit to bring total to approximately 300 inmates.
7. Identify expansion zone for 2 additional courtrooms.
8. Identify expansion zone for other departments in new facility.
9. Require City of Austin to guarantee expansion as site ready at no additional cost to county within two years of notification.
10. City to acquire all downtown property and transfer to Mower County as site ready. County will reimburse City of Austin an amount up to the current project estimate for site acquisition and site development (6/25/07 report.) This amount will be reduced if project differs in scope.
11. Identify and acquire property for geothermal system.
12. City of to waive all zoning requirements requested by county.
  - a. Green space
  - b. Building exterior
  - c. Fencing
13. Downtown Parking
  - a. On site government vehicle parking.
  - b. Limited on site employee parking (i.e. judges)
  - c. 50 -70 customer parking stalls
  - d. Off site employee parking (225 – 250 stalls.)
14. Property to be acquired by 9/1/08 or City pays an inflation premium to Mower County.

The Chair appointed Commissioner Tollefson and Commissioner Tucker to the Downtown Study Committee.

Motion by Commissioner Tollefson, seconded by Commissioner Cummings to appoint KKE Architects, Inc. for the downtown study. Motion carried.

Motion by Commissioner Hillier, seconded by Commissioner Cummings to extend the unpaid leave of absence of an employee for medical leave for four weeks. Detail on this request is on file in the Human Resources office and is subject to data practices. Motion carried.

Motion by Commissioner Cummings, seconded by Commissioner Hillier to approve payment to thirty employees for a total amount of \$1,195.00 for recognition of years of service pursuant to Section B220 of the Mower County Personnel Policies. Motion carried.

Motion by Commissioner Tollefson, seconded by Commissioner Tucker to adjourn the meeting at 10:10 a.m. until September 25, 2007 at 8:30 a.m.. Motion carried.

**THE MOWER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**BY:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Chairperson**

**Attest:**

**By:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Clerk/Coordinator**

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