

SPECIAL SESSION OF THE MOWER COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

November 14, 2007

The Mower County Board of Commissioners in and for the County of Mower, Minnesota, met in Special Session November 14, 2007 at 1:30 p.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 Mower County Board of Commissioners met in special session to receive the report from the Downtown Justice Center Committee. Randy Lindemann and Mike Clark from KKE Architects prepared the report according to the Committee's instructions. The Committee had established the following goals:

1. Construct a new jail/judicial center;
2. Select downtown site to accomplish the project at a County cost equal to or below County fiscal constraints;
3. Provide public safety for the Justice Center as cost effectively as possible;
4. Maintain all County operations in Downtown Austin with Sufficient parking;
5. Maintain existing operational efficiencies and provide cost savings by keeping the Sheriff, Police department and Dispatch in the existing facility if at all possible;
6. Determine the potential for any reuse of the current facility to facilitate cost savings to accomplish project goals;
7. Identify ways to address expansion in the future;
8. Consider geo-thermal; and
9. The final report will provide the best option or options to meet the stated goal and identify the positives and negatives of options so the County Commissioners can make an informed decision.

The Committee worked to have an "apples to apples" comparison. Three Planning Scenarios were developed to compare with the Greenfield planning scenarios. The comparison criteria established were as follows:

1. Cost
2. Expansion
3. Parking
4. LEC Co-location
5. Security
6. Operational Efficiency

7. Geothermal; and
8. Urban Renewal.

It was noted by the architects that the scenarios did not include the geo-thermal costs because it was thought that geo-thermal was not feasible to the downtown location.

Mayor Stiehm commented that he thought it was a fair study and that the County and the architects did a good job at looking at a downtown location.

County Coordinator Craig Oscarson noted that the Board was only receiving the report today and would be discussing and possibly acting on the report at their next special meeting scheduled for Friday, November 16.

Commissioner Tucker noted that the Commissioners will be primarily comparing the presented Scenario 5, options 8 and 9 (Jail and Courts on Downtown Site) with the Greenfield site scenario because of costs.

Off site parking options and geo thermal issues were briefly discussed for clarification only.

Complete copies of the Downtown Justice Center Committee's reports are available at the office of the County Coordinator.

The special session adjourned at 2:30 p.m. until November 16, 2007 at 1:30 p.m.

THE MOWER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BY: _____
Chairperson

Attest:

By: _____
Clerk/Coordinator

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