



Board of County Commissioners Agenda Request

7C

Agenda Item #

Requested Meeting Date: September 13, 2016

Title of Item: Facilities Update and Next Steps

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> REGULAR AGENDA <input type="checkbox"/> CONSENT AGENDA <input type="checkbox"/> INFORMATION ONLY	Action Requested: <input type="checkbox"/> Approve/Deny Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Adopt Resolution (attach draft)	<input type="checkbox"/> Direction Requested <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Discussion Item <input type="checkbox"/> Hold Public Hearing* <small>*provide copy of hearing notice that was published</small>
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Submitted by: Nathan Burkett	Department: Administration
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Presenter (Name and Title): Nathan Burkett, County Administrator	Estimated Time Needed:
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Summary of Issue:

Please see the attached memo.

Alternatives, Options, Effects on Others/Comments:

Recommended Action/Motion:

Financial Impact:

Is there a cost associated with this request? Yes No

What is the total cost, with tax and shipping? \$

Is this budgeted? Yes No *Please Explain:*



AITKIN COUNTY ADMINISTRATION

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TO: County Board
FROM: Nathan Burkett 
CC:
DATE: September 8, 2016
RE: Facilities Update and Next Steps

Street Vacation

As per the County Board's request, the City of Aitkin did vacate the portion 3rd Avenue NW between 1st and 2nd Streets. I believe that at this point, the City will forward a resolution, and the vacation needs to be recorded.

The net result of the street vacation is that the County now "owns" the street. You can think of it as a private driveway. The County therefore has responsibility to maintain the road, including snow plowing. This should be a consideration as we get closer to winter.

During my discussion with the City Council the following points were discussed:

1. I made it clear to the Council that we did not have a specific building project in mind, and had no immediate plans for the road, but that it would seem fair they should be consulted on any City traffic impacts in the event the County does close the road.
2. The City was interested in ensuring that there was still a pedestrian route going north/south between the school and 1st street. Based on all the plans I have seen it appears that would still be possible.
3. The City wanted to make sure that we did not exacerbate the flooding problem on 1st street. I am reasonably certain any permit we pulled would have restrictions on such.
4. The City suggested that we sign the north and south entrances to the Street in some fashion marking that it was county property and that it was a slow speed zone. They also suggested a crosswalk. The Board should consider these low cost safety upgrades in the near future.

As an aside, and not because of the street vacation, the City chose to change the parking arrangement on 2nd Ave NW. From a diagonal style to parallel style; according to the police chief, after looking at it he probably would recommend this change regardless. Most of the parking on that road is County employees.

Moving Forward

The Board has indicated an interest in obtaining public input on a potential building project. The Board has appointed the Economic Development Coordinator as the internal project coordinator. We also have an Architect and Construction Manager on the team.

If the Board wants to set dates, I recommend that you wait until the next Board meeting when the Economic Development Coordinator can be present. I recommend that at that meeting – the Board receives and reviews a draft of a presentation and materials to be given at the public meetings. I will provide a draft of the presentation I have used in the past that would likely serve as a good starting point.