

**PENNINGTON COUNTY
PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETING
HIGHWAY/JOINT USE FACILITY
TUESDAY, JUNE 2ND, 2015, 6:30 P.M.**

Pursuant to adjournment, the Pennington County Board of Commissioners met in the Joint Use Facility Meeting Room in Thief River Falls, MN, on Tuesday, June 2nd, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. Members present: Cody Hempel, Darryl Tveitbakk, Donald Jensen, Neil Peterson, and Oliver “Skip” Swanson. Members absent: None. Also present: Bruce Schwartzman – BKV Group, 40-50 public constituents.

At 6:30 p.m. Chairman Tveitbakk called to order the Public Information Meeting; set to provide the public an opportunity to review and comment on the County’s future building/expansion plan.

Bruce Schwartzman provided a presentation to the public during the meeting. Mr. Schwartzman brought up some of the following points:

1. History of the County Commissioners consideration of the building project
2. Explanation of County needs
3. Funding
4. Parking
5. Use of current facilities
6. Operational costs

Mr. Schwartzman briefly outlined the various options that have been considered by the County Board, then outlined “Option B” and “Option D” in greater detail.

As to “Option B” Mr. Schwartzman indicated that a new addition would be built on the Pennington County Campus with the Arena being demolished.

Mr. Schwartzman then outlined “Option D” which would be building a new addition on the Pennington County Campus with the Auditorium being demolished.

Mr. Schwartzman indicated that “Option D” was recommended to the County Board by his firm as it provides for all the needs for the County and is the least costly to execute.

Finally, Mr. Schwartzman outlined a time table for the completion of the building project.

Some of the public comments and questions discussed were, but are not limited to, the following:

1. The Courthouse security issues need to be addressed.
2. A new Campus should be considered.
3. In the alternative, a new judicial center should be considered.
4. Why do the County Commissioners need to destroy a historic building?
5. Although parking is an issue, there are parking lots within one to two blocks of the County Courthouse.
6. A multi-level parking garage should be considered.

7. What is the cost of a completely new Campus?
8. The Auditorium really adds to the character of downtown Thief River Falls..
9. A \$15 - 20 million dollar County Campus may exceed the County's bonding capacity.
10. Build a new judicial center and continue to utilize the current courthouse for other county functions.
11. Build a new judicial center over the jail by adding on a second floor to the jail and annex complex.
12. Keep the courthouse downtown.
13. St. Bernard's utilizes the auditorium and arena for many School functions.
14. Why would the City give up these buildings?
15. The County should consider combining with other Counties, such as Red Lake County.
16. If a new County Campus is built, build it in phases.
17. What is next?
18. Are we going to have another public meeting?
19. Is there any grant money available if the auditorium or arena became a historical site?
20. There can be problems of accepting grant money.

CONCLUSION

The County Commissioners indicated they would take into consideration input from the public when making any future building decision.

Chairman Tveitbakk closed the Public Information Meeting at approximately 7:45 p.m. The Board adjourned to the regularly scheduled meeting on June 9th, 2015 at 10:00 a.m.

ATTEST:

Alan Rogalla, Attorney
Pennington County

Darryl Tveitbakk, Chairman
Board of Commissioners