

January 28, 2016

A Special Meeting of the McCook County Commission was called to order in the Community Room of the Courthouse basement by Vice-Chairman Sheldon Butzke. Members present: Marc Dick and Ralph Dybdahl. Members absent: Ron Scharffenberg and Steve Gordon.

Butzke led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Butzke called for approval of the Agenda. Motion made by Dybdahl to approve the Agenda as sent. Second Dick and motion carried.

This meeting is being held with city officials to discuss processes for demolition of dilapidated properties in an effort to clean up our communities. Present: Laurie Schwans, Register of Deeds, Carol Lauer, Treasurer, Tracy Hofer, Dir of Equalization, Lori Heumiller & Robin Rayman, Salem City, Darin Nugteren, Canistota City, Mike Damm & Bob Anderson, Bridgewater City, and Brad Stiefvater, EDS Director. Montrose City and Town of Spencer were not represented. Also present Geoff Fillingsness, Code Enforcement Officer for Salem City, and Tom Frieberg of Frieberg, Nelson & Ask, LLP. States Attorney, Mike Fink, began the meeting with recap of first meeting held on December 8, 2015. Fink noted that the County cannot take over code enforcement for the municipalities and won't be hiring a code enforcement officer, as discussed at first meeting, but the Commissioners are willing to help finance the demolition of properties.

Fillingsness noted that the cities will need to adopt international codes for property maintenance, adopt a budget to take care of properties and deal with absent landlords. Fillingsness added that county clean-up is also needed.

States Attorney Fink said he sees the cities hiring a code enforcement officer and the county assisting with demolition.

Frieberg added that the cities need to make an assessment within their communities and prioritize problem areas.

At this time, Fink asked if there were any more questions for Fillingsness and/or Frieberg. And if not, would these gentlemen be willing to leave the meeting allowing discussion to be held between county and city officials.

Fillingsness and Frieberg thanked the group for their time and left the meeting.

Following more discussion, Fink asked the Commissioners if they would consider paying for a county-wide assessment. Each of the cities would decide to participate in an assessment or not. The enforcement officer would meet with the city councils to present his/her findings. Each city now decides on their participation to hire a code enforcement officer and then contacts the Auditor to inform the county of their decision.

The Commissioners present declined a decision today because only three board members are present. The county-wide assessment will be discussed at the February 9th Commission meeting and the Auditor will notify each city of the decision from the Commissioners regarding payment for the assessment.

The meeting adjourned subject to call at 1130 a.m.

Dated this 28th day of January, 2016.

Sheldon Butzke _____
Vice-Chairman, McCook County Commission

ATTEST:

Geralyn Sherman _____
Auditor, McCook County