

MINUTES

CRAWFORD COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING
Special Board Meeting
February 17, 2009 @ Grayling Senior Center

The meeting was called to order at 9:33am by Chairman Mahank.

Board members in attendance: Jack Mahank, Dean McCray, Linda Munsey, Helen Nolan, Mike Lange and Don Williams.

Board members absent: Howard Taylor

Also in attendance: Director Snyder, Melanie Conway, Jennie Hatfield – Grayling Housing Director and David Thayer - City Manager.

Mahank asked if all postings were consistent with the Open Meetings Act. Director Snyder verified we were in compliance.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Don Williams. The invocation was offered by Helen Nolan.

AGENDA – Motion by Lange, supported by Munsey, to approve the agenda as presented. Ayes (6) six, nay (0). Motion carried.

REVIEW & EVALUATION OF COA BUILDING OPTIONS

Thayer educated Board regarding various issues involving different aspects of the entire County owned Fish Hatchery property located within the city limits. New city ordinances will be going into effect March 10th. The Fish Hatchery is zoned governmental and across the river the property is zoned agricultural. Thayer educated regarding the size of the building and the parking that is required which is 1 space per every 3 people according to the rating of the capacity of the building. Parking needs to be 300ft from the opening of the building.

Discussion regarding well, septic and city sewer and water. Thayer stated that if the property is located within the city limits it must have city sewer and water as they do not allow new individual well and septic systems. The cost to have city sewer and water to the property across the river would cost around \$100,000 or more and cannot be suspended from the bridge. Water/sewer lines would have to be 10ft under the bed of the river.

Overview of the Fish Hatchery building includes needing a lift station and underground bore from Galen Street to property. This would give greater depth and assist in bypassing other systems existing in the path. Thayer provided specs and estimated costs for running city sewer and water to properties.

Thayer reported he talked with HUD pertaining to the Senior Center remaining at the present location at 308 Lawndale Street. He identified this as a possibility if Grayling Housing Commission was in support. Hatfield reported she had a letter that was received from HUD in November 2007 not recommending expanding the building. She stated the tenants and the Housing board didn't approve this in the past and she doesn't believe that position would change. Mahank reported on January 28th 2009 the board passed a resolution to move forward with the realization that the Housing building was no longer an option.

Discussion regarding the service to the seniors in the housing complex by the current senior center. Snyder stated Hatfield and she would talk about what would be possible in the way of services which could be provided to these seniors.

Thayer identified the possibility of closing Date Street as a possibility if the COA is considering purchasing property at that location. Thayer strongly endorsed the Maryanne Street option due to future possibility of senior housing being built in the same area.

Thayer reported at this time the City hasn't put in any requests to the state or federal government for stimulus package monies which would increase housing for residents. Lange reported the County has made a request but didn't expect any money.

Snyder reviewed the potential bond issue for the Fish Hatchery. The building plans would have to be revised because the bond would only be 1.5 million for the existing building of 7800 square foot not allowing for expansion as described in the previously developed plans. With this plan, the COA would occupy the Fish Hatchery building in its entirety.

Discussion regarding the current building options on the Due Diligence process. The cost of remodeling the Fish Hatchery building compared to building a new building were discussed. New estimate was presented for 1.5 million for 11,470 sq ft for a new building. Discussed the public comments that have been heard to date.

Thayer stated the city has many ideas for the expansion and revamping of the hospital which is included in the City's Master Plan. Lange reported the County has always worked to support the hospital and will continue to do so.

Lange stated the county is looking to pass a bond for the courthouse renovations and if the COA would like to pursue the renovation of the Fish Hatchery building he would be in support of adding this to the bond. He stated he would not support the bond for a Build New option. He stated he would fully support the Build New option but funding would have to come from a millage or somewhere else. Lange educated the board on the process of acquiring the bond.

Many advantages about the location of the Fish Hatchery in relationship to the hospital were discussed.

Motion was made by McCray, seconded by Williams to build a new building on the east side of the river on the County's Fish Hatchery property to be funded by a millage. Roll Call vote was taken: Lange - nay, Munsey - nay, Mahank - nay, Nolan - nay, Williams - nay, McCray - aye. Ayes (1) one, nay (5) five. Motion failed.

Motion made by Nolan, seconded by Munsey to accept the County bond offer and renovate the Fish Hatchery building for up to 1.5 million dollars. Lange - aye, Munsey - aye, Mahank - aye, Nolan - aye, Williams - nay, McCray - nay. Ayes (4) four, nay (2) two. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Senior, Vivian Powers stated the Fish Hatchery building is old and questioned why the Board would not want to build a new building. She reminded the Board that they are suppose to do what is best for the seniors.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by McCray, supported by Lange to adjourn. Ayes (6) six, nay (0) none. Motion carried.
Meeting adjourned at 11:23am.

Jack Mahank, Chairperson

Melanie Conway, Recording Secretary