

Public Information Meeting

Tuesday, October 12, 2021

1.00 Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Diane Felde-Finke at 6:00pm.

2.00 Roll Call

Council Present: Mayor, M. Soderstrom; Councilors: B. Bodie, R. Schmidt

Staff Present: Clerk C. Conway; Public Works Superintendent D. Wolf

Twin Lakes Township Representatives Present: Diane Felde-Finke; Board Chair, John Vernon, Vice Chair; Randy Willie, Supervisor; Sue Chapin, Clerk

County Officials Present: Kelly Lake, Sheriff; Paul Coughlin, Jail Administrator; Dennis Genereau, County Coordinator; Marv Bodie, County Commissioner

The purpose of the meeting was to present information and give the public an opportunity to comment on the annexation request by Carlton County to the City of Carlton. Carlton County is requesting the City of Carlton annex 28.03 acres of Twin Lakes land.

3.00 Public Information

Paul Coughlin presented a PowerPoint explaining why Carlton County is requesting the annexation of the land. The current Carlton County Jail failed the State of Minnesota Department of Corrections (DOC) inspection and received a letter from the DOC stating the jail does not meet current DOC guidelines and cannot be used after July 31, 2023. Six (6) options were reviewed on what should be done and the best option is to build a new jail. The Court System does not have enough space, nor is there an easy way to provide adequate security at the current location. Various sites in the City of Carlton were considered, but due to the amount of slate rock and wetland issues, none are conducive to building large facility. There could also be issues with connecting a new structure to a building that was built in the 1920's. Installation of the water line in Twin Lakes Township provides the County with the option to build a Justice Center on property near Highway 61. This property is already owned by Carlton County. Per Minnesota Statute a County Jail is required to be located in the County Seat, which is the City of Carlton. Minnesota Statute also allows for orderly annexation of property, which does not have to be contiguous property, to build such a site. The proposed Justice Center would have a 96-bed jail, with 16 beds being used as a female offender program, 2 Courtrooms, Sheriff's Office and 911 Dispatch.

Public Comment

Question: Why not use Moose Lake Prison?

Answer: A County Jail and Prison are different. Prison houses inmates who are sentenced to 1 year plus 1 day or more. County Jail is for shorter term.

Question: What will be done to protect Olsonville Residents?

Answer: Current jail has been right next to the Carlton High School since 1979 and there have been no security issues. New jail will possibly have a perimeter fence, but the fence will not be a prison type fence with razor wire around the top.

Question: Will local contractors be used?

Answer: County Commissioners have said they want local contractors to be used as much as possible.

Question: Is Olsonville going to be annexed?

Answer: County is only requesting to annex 28.03 acres, owned by Carlton County, needed to build the Justice Center. Carlton County is not requesting annexation of any other land.

Question: What will be done with the intersection of Highway 61 and Highway 210 by Kwik Trip?

Answer: A traffic study has been completed and “J” turns will be installed. This will probably happen in 2024.

Question: Will the Local Option Sales Tax (LOST) only pay for 30% of the project?

Answer: If the LOST ballot question passes in November 2022, \$60 million will be generated from sales tax revenues. Of the \$60 million, an estimated 30% of the sales tax revenue will come from people who do not live in Carlton County.

4.00 Adjournment

Diane Felde-Finke adjourned the meeting at 6:42pm

Respectfully Submitted:

Carol Conway - Clerk/Treasurer