

# Dickinson County Newsletter # 40

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Articles written & pictures taken by Mardi Allen, information provided by participating departments... Thanks Ernie & Alissa



**Courthouse Construction Update:** As of 10-28-08, the courthouse construction was 99.9% complete and there was \$33,942 left in the construction contract. The County has \$278,837 held back in retainage and with all considered, the project is expected to complete within budget. There are still some major issues to be resolved – heating & cooling, pitted windows, and bent flag poles to name three. On October 1<sup>st</sup> there was meeting of Hander, Tessiers, Trane, McHan, Clark Reekers, Beth Will, Pam Jordan, and Mardi Allen to discuss the issues with the heating and cooling systems. Some issues were thought to be resolved that day but it was decided that the representative of the boiler system should be called in for additional expertise. On October 7<sup>th</sup> another meeting of McHan and their subs was called. At this meeting the County negotiated its claim of \$19,552 for hours spent fixing problems, lost work hours and materials not installed related to the phase I phone wiring and data wiring construction. The meeting resulted in a credit back to the County of \$14,150. On October 30<sup>th</sup>, the boilers representative, two Trane representatives, McHan, the glass manufacturer, the window installer, Beth Will, Sue Dunn, Clark Reekers and 4 of the Supervisors met to discuss the heating and cooling issues along with the issues related to the windows. The meeting broke up into 2 groups in order to cover both issues effectively. The heating & cooling group spent most of the day in the boiler room. At the

end the day, they were able to report the discovery of several solutions. They reported that the boilers have never been controlled by the programming software as was designed, causing cold areas throughout the courthouse. They were not able to fix this problem at the time as they did not have the proper equipment with them. Trane expects to return the week of November 3<sup>rd</sup> to fix the programming. It will take a few days of cold weather after the programming is fixed to make sure this solves the problems that the courthouse has experienced over the past 3 years. The window group spent most of the day looking at all of the windows identified earlier as having issues. At the end of the day, the window group put together a list of windows potentially needing replacement. The members of the group did not come to an agreement on which of these windows will be replaced. It was agreed that the Supervisors would submit their list by close of day on Tuesday.

In addition to the HVAC, the windows, and the flag poles, the contractor is working on the inside and outside punch lists. The County has a few things that will be left to do when the contractor is completely done. Among those are the sidewalk to the south, additional security cameras, adding a water meter for the sprinkler system, putting the boardroom on the generator, and the employee parking lot.

**Employee parking lot:** On 10-21-08 the Board of Supervisors hired Beck Engineering to design and engineer the employee parking lot. When the bond for the new courthouse was passed, parking for employees was to include all of 19<sup>th</sup> street and the public parking to the south where the bank now resides. In acquiring the Ferguson property, the board was able to provide space for employee parking, however, the Ferguson property and its development is not a part of the courthouse bond. Beck Engineering has been asked to include 90 parking spaces, lighting, green space and low impact development practices in their design. The Board also included the completion of the south sidewalk and landscaping along 19<sup>th</sup> Street.



**The Nature Center:** Last year the Conservation Board hired the architectural firm of CANNON MOSS BRYGGER & ASSOC to re-design the exterior of the Nature Center. With the exterior project coming close to completion, on September 30<sup>th</sup> the Board hired CMBA to complete the project and design the interior of the Center. The new CMBA fees will be based on 12% of construction costs or an estimated cost of \$85,600 to \$95,940. CMBA provided a high end estimate of the total project at \$1,273,593.65 which includes the \$331,557.19 bid by Eckhard Construction to construct the exterior. The Conservation Board is considering a phased interior project as funding becomes available. At the October 21<sup>st</sup> Conservation Board meeting, the Naturalist reported that there are several fund raising events in the works.

**Veterans Affairs:** On Sunday October 26th, Ernie Cupp participated in a Transition Assistance Program for 95 returning soldiers in Algona. Due to scheduling conflicts Ernie was the closest county representative qualified to do this presentation. He provided information on Traumatic Brain Injury, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, VA Health Care, the advantages of using the county VA representatives to file claims, state benefits, employment rights, discharge security, and a generic version of county benefits. It was a great group of young men and Ernie said they were a pleasure to deal with.

**Information Technology:** Alissa Julius, IT director, spent 3 days in Minneapolis learning about VMware. She described the classes as very informative and very intense. VMware is short for Virtual Machine Software. There were a few attendees at the class that were already using VMware; Chicago Transit Authority, Grainger, Chase Bank, and Playboy. Warren County in Iowa is also using VMware. The reason to use VMware is that many servers do not utilize their full potential and many programs cannot co-exist on the same server. Having virtual machines allows you to have one physical server with many virtual machines residing on it.

Some of the benefits of VMware include the following:

1. Flexibility of resources
2. Virtual servers are not tied to physical hardware
3. Live migration of virtual machines between servers without disrupting users
4. Single Management interface
5. Servers can be setup very quickly
6. In the event of a hardware failure virtual servers automatically start up on another host machine
7. Distributed Resource Scheduler – the ability to migrate virtual machines based on load

Disaster recovery is also a big part. Alissa would be able to backup a snapshot of a virtual machine. In the event of a disaster she would take the snapshot and upload it to a host machine and be backed up within a few hours. Currently, she would have to rebuild all servers which could take a few days.

One company attending the class is going to go to purchase vmware and expects to go from their current 300 servers to 100 servers. There are some factors that come into play when deciding how many virtual machines can be on one server. Currently, GIS/CAD software will not work on the virtualized servers.

Alissa also reports that wireless access is available throughout the Dickinson County courthouse. There are 2 networks, one public and one private. The private network access is only available for county employees. The password should not be given out to anyone unless they are a county employee. The public network is available for anyone to use. In order to use this network you have to login to a webpage. The IT department will provide the password for the public network upon request.