



**Auditor's First Election on New Voting Equipment:** This Primary election was the first election to use the County's new voting machines. Nancy Reiman reports that considering all of the new equipment and new administrative rules, everything went pretty well. She explained that some of the precincts had a few glitches early on, like problems removing the bar that restricts ballots from going into the new ballot box, but as Nancy and her staff arrived at each precinct, they were able to resolve the problem easily. Nancy explained that the new administrative rules testing the equipment take twenty times longer than the prior equipment since each machine must be tested individually and there is a touch pad machine and a ballot scanner at each of the 10 precincts. In the past, all the ballots were returned to

the scanner at the Courthouse so only one machine required testing. The testing may take longer but counting of ballots is much faster. To date, the Auditor's office is not receiving transmitted ballot information from the precincts but Nancy expects to implement that procedure in 2008. The touchpad voting machine was used the most at the Lake Park precinct where 30 voters opted to use the touchpad verses a pencil & paper ballot. Nancy also reported a very low turnout for this Primary with only 9% of the registered voters voting.

**New Courthouse News from Roger Gilbert:**

**Project Status Narrative:** Demolition of the old courthouse is complete. The building area for phase 2 is excavated to 1<sup>st</sup> floor sub-grade level. Footing layout and excavation will start by the end of the week. Reinforcing bars are already on site. McHan has scheduled footings and foundations to be completed by September 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Project Budget Summary:** The total of approved Change Orders to date is \$507,834.00. The majority of Change Orders for Phase 1 included Phase 2.

**Project on Schedule:** The new schedule from McHan Construction shows Substantial Completion of Phase 2 to be 8-31-2007 with Owner move-in to take place in September 28, 2007. Demolition of the Engineer's building and the County Attorney's building and project completion are all scheduled for early November, 2007. McHann explained that this schedule is very tentative right now and will firm up as construction of Phase II moves forward.

**Critical Issues:** There are still some punch list items on Phase 1 that need to be completed, but no problems are anticipated. Mike McCline assured the County that he realizes that there are issues that need to be taken care of and the McHann will take care of them and asks for some patience from everyone.

**As a reminder,** if there are construction issues in the courthouse that need to be reported, like elevator failures or electrical problems, do not go straight to the vendor responsible. Please report them to Beth Will and she will contact McHann. Most everything in the new courthouse is under a 1 year warranty through McHann and not the vendor.

**County Auction Date:** The date for the County auction of all properties stored at the Milford shop is scheduled for August 13, 2006. Beth and Sue have recorded all items identified in the move and will produce the list for Dick Long, the auctioneer. If anybody has items that they are not using and want them placed on the action, please let Beth or Sue know by July 1, 2006 - A date will be set up to remove the items and get them to the auction site in Milford.

**Brick sales:** The Veterans Foundation of Dickinson County sold bricks from the old courthouse on June 3<sup>rd</sup> to help support the new veteran's memorial. The sale turned out to be a great success. Over 250 bricks were sold in just four hours which far exceeded expectations. Erie Cupp would like to thank the following members of the foundation who helped with the sale; Cleo Johnson, Jim Koele, Elmer Larsen, and Maurice Dougal.

**Pam Jordan's Report:** Courthouse mini open house June 3 weekend brought 200-250 citizens in to look at Phase I. Most had not been in previously. Comments were positive for the most part.

Thanks to the senior volunteer greeter corps whose regular "duties" were suspended June 1. Volunteer greeters will be asked to come back and help us with greeting and directing people on days when heavy traffic is anticipated e.g., tax sale day, busy court days.

Other tour groups through include the Rotary June 14 and the Kiwanis June 15.

Dickinson County Endowment Fund, a newly created 501 c 3 organization with all-county representation on its Board, will launch the inaugural grant-making round July 1. The organization, which is independent of county government, was formed in 2004 to respond to legislation that provided counties in Iowa which did not have gambling to share in gambling revenues, 1% of monies collected per year by the State. The DCEF is obligated to distribute 75% of the funds to local non profits and other governmental entities within the county and to retain 25% in a permanent endowment. The amount to distribute in 2006 is \$45,315. A website with information and application instructions will be available soon at [www.dcefund.org](http://www.dcefund.org)

**Safety in the Courthouse:** A special Safety Committee meeting was held on Friday June 9, 2006. The items on the agenda include the annual training that was held and the recent evacuation on Wednesday May 31st.

Mike Rainer informed the committee that the annual training was poorly attended and that the training is MANDATORY for all employees. Beth Will estimated that the County was missing about 25% of the employees. There was much discussion on how to get 100% participation and it was noted that the most recent evacuation is a GOOD example why it is so important. NO ONE KNOWS JUST WHEN THESE PROCEDURES WILL BE NEEDED. Under the circumstances, it was reported that the evacuation of the building went fairly well. Don Gude from the sheriff's office went office to office and informed the staff of the situation and to evacuate to the parking lot. It was noted that the procedure for this type of emergency is under the control of the fire department. Wind and weather factors were reasons why other surrounding businesses were not notified of the danger. The buddy system did seem to work well inside of the building. One major problem was that the employees STARTED their vehicles and left the scene creating the danger of causing an explosion and leaving the County with an inaccurate count of employees remaining at risk. The Committee is working on fine tuning the evacuation procedure and reminds every employee that the training sessions are so very important!