



New Courthouse News from Bob Schlaeger: No news from Bob this month.

County Assessor: *A Day in the Life of an Assessment.*

One of the County Supervisors went along with the County Assessor while she assessed our Assistant County Attorney's new home. Prior to the field trip to the house, they spent a great deal of time talking about how assessments are done on various types of parcels within Dickinson County. The next newsletter will carry more details about the process

long with an explanation of the roll the State has in assessments in all counties. In the meantime, to let you know how good our Assessor is, when all was said and done, she was right on the money with her assessment of our Assistant County Attorney's property. Sorry Lonnie, your taxes on this property are going to go up!

Supervisors' Activities:

Four of the Dickinson County Supervisors and Okoboji Mayor, Bob Schneider, traveled to Des Moines for an all day meeting on April 13, 2005. The meeting was arranged by Representative Mike May, who along with Senator David Johnson was able to join the group off and on throughout the day. The day started with discussions about land use plans with Bill Ludwig of William J. Ludwig and Associates, LTD. and Steve Hallgren, Northwest Iowa Planning. This Supervisor's take on the difference between the two entities, Ludwig and NWIP, is that NWIP provides the outline for a detailed plan and then companies like Ludwig provide the details to parts or all of the outline. The Supervisors then had separate meetings with Michael Blouin and Mary Lawyer, DED, Mark Wandro, DOT, and Jeff Vonk, DNR. Each meeting stimulated interesting discussion about Dickinson County with several grant opportunities also discussed. A list of programs and services which could include funding from the DED was passed out. Hi-way 86 was discussed with Wandro, who encouraged the Supervisors to present a proposal for Hwy 86 to the Commission at their May meeting. He suggested the presentation include any local funding being proposed for that project. There was also a discussion with Mr. Wandro about the possibility of a stop light at the junction of Hi-way 71 and what is fondly called the Taco House road. The discussion with Mr. Vonk varied from registration centers for deer kills and deer management to the timing of the study on the Iowa Great Lakes impaired waters. He was asked how the Iowa Great Lakes could get moved up in priority for the completion of the 10 yr. study. Vonk suggested that a legislative directive was about the only way to get priority. He also said that dredging was not necessarily the answer to the problem. This then led into the discussion of a local port authority. Mike May passed out a copy of the proposed port authority legislation, House File 733, of which Vonk said he whole heartedly supported. Vonk also said that the Commission was working on new Dock rules but was not clear on what they might be. The Supervisors met with Christopher Rants, House leader, and Senator Mike Gronstal and Senator Stu Iverson, Jr. There was a short debate with Senator Iverson about the Mediacom bill of which he seemed to support, along with discussion with Rants about Mike May's boat License bill. House File 2250 was also discussed, which encourages merger of local governmental units and the sharing of services by local governments. The final meeting at the Capital was with Jeff Pomerantz and Clyde Evans of West Des Moines. Discussions centered around how to work together with different interest groups, cities and the county to accomplish a successful working relationship. Mr. Evans talked about Citizen's Advisory Boards, Citizen surveys, and County and City Service agreements that include zoning agreements. Mr. Evans offered to come to Dickinson County and facilitate a meeting of the cities, county and any other groups the county might want to include. At the conclusion of the scheduled meetings, Judge Rosemary Sackett arranged for a tour of the new Judicial Building. Paul, Bob and Mardi were met by Dan Marvin from Judge Sackett's office and were lead through some of the security devices installed in the building. They toured the beautiful courtrooms and peeked into the offices of this stately \$32 million domed Judicial building.

Tech hiring Committee:

Alissa A. Julius has been hired as Dickinson County's Data Communications Specialist. Her home town is Sioux Center, Iowa. She graduated from Robert Morris College, Chicago, Illinois, in 2003 with a BS degree in Computer Information Systems. She is Cisco certified as a Network Associate with a GPA of 3.96/4.0. Her strengths include troubleshooting, data base management, systems maintenance and is familiar with phone servers, system backups, and document imaging. She has experience planning and moving IT systems from one building to another. Her top five priorities for Dickinson County will be to keep the systems and applications functioning, learn systems maintenance from R&D, lead the transition to new technology in the New courthouse, assist in setting up the new phone system and communicate regularly with the departments, vendors, committees and the Board of Supervisors. Alissa doesn't have a firm start date yet but she will start work no later than May 15, 2005.

Sheriff's Office:

The Sheriff's office is about to implement a new method of sharing information with other law enforcement agencies within Dickinson County. The Department is in the beginning stages of putting together a secured internet system to provide information between agencies. Sheriff Baloun explained that the system will require a pin number assignment and it will report who, what and when it is accessed via that pin number. He expects to share a variety of information including information regarding suspected drug activities and investigations throughout the County. This process is covered under the current 28E agreements in Dickinson County and is expected to be available to any City wanting to participate. Sheriff Baloun hopes that someday it will expand to other Counties.

New Furniture for the Courthouse:

A tentative date for review of the new courthouse furniture is planned for May 5th. The review will be presented by Cathy Neumann of RDG and will include the style, finish and colors of all of the new furniture.

Other Departmental News will be included in Newsletters to come.