



New Courthouse News from Bob Schlaeger: The Phase I roof has been topped off and McHann is in the process of pouring the floors in the attic. The iron workers are welding the window lintels on the wall. The drywall company is on site and putting up and sheeting the outside studs. The steel company should be on site in the next week to erect the jail cells. The block layer has 99% of the basement complete. First floor is about 75% complete and they are working on second floor now. The contractor started on the sally port but due to all of the rain they have had to quit. Tessier has put up a great deal of the duct work. The low sloped roof should be sealed in the next two weeks,

which will help if it rains. The white stone is on site and McHann will start to put that up soon.

County Assessor: During a day in the life of an Assessment, Pat Dodds, Dickinson County Assessor, explained that the State sets the expected county assessed valuation dollar amount each year. The State takes all sales in the county and uses the median of the sales to calculate the % increase/decrease in assessed valuation dollars. This in turn sets the dollar valuation the State expects to see from that County that year. When there are not enough sales in a county, the State will send out State appraisers to determine the assessed valuation. The Dickinson County Assessor's office uses actual sales in each area of the County, which Pat feels is more consistent and fair to the property owner. If she used the State method, each property owner would get a % increase/decrease regardless if their property had really increased or decreased in value. Regardless of how Pat assesses, the Assessor's office in the end must provide the amount of assessed valuation that the State is expecting or the State will mandate a State ordered equalization. In that case, the property valued will be increased or decreased by a % set by the State. In the case of Commercial property, Pat did not change any assessments this time so she is expecting the State to come in and issue a State ordered increase of 15% to 20%. The Assessor's office can contest the order but in all cases of a State order, the Assessor must have concrete evidence in order to get a reduction. The property owner can contest a State order through the Board of Review but the Board is limited to a change of less than 1% of the increase. Pat is also expecting a State equalization order on Ag land of 9% to 15%.

History committee: On Tuesday, May 10th, the History Committee put forth their formal request for attached and unattached items in the Courthouse. Wayne Northey led the discussion. Any furniture requests will have to wait for the RDG list of reused furniture. The County expects to hear from RDG regarding the furniture in the next couple of weeks. In the meantime the Supervisors agreed to donate the following items to the Committee to put in the Museum: the cupola stored in the attic, the Westport school water cooler (to go back to the Westport school), All remaining Spirit Lake Beacons, unbound copies of the Spirit Lake Herald, and a couple of the Chattel Mortgage books. The BOS moved to present the list of the attached items to McHann Construction for their approval. Unattached items include newel posts, finials, stair railing, brass triangular corners on the back stairs, Dickinson County sign over the north entrance, a section of door molding, door hardware from the Clerk of Courts door, the attached jury chairs, and a few bricks from the exterior..

Veteran's Memorial Plaza: Jack Topp of RDG met with the Supervisors, John Tonsfeldt and Ernie Cupp Thursday, May 5th to discuss several items needing decisions to complete the plans for the plaza & tower. The Supervisors instructed RDG to proceed to get costs for the following: The Veterans Memorial Plaza signage to be placed at the NE entrance of the Plaza, 6 iron benches matching those of Spirit Lakes and 4 trash receptacles, redesign of the pavers to bring the pavers closer and around the central tower in the plaza, and a redesign of the kiosk with 2 screens not 4 and just a simple pedestal style. It was decided not to change the 5 granite monuments to ones less expensive as they were already budgeted for in black granite but to eliminate the granite benches from the plans. A decision was made to have any information presented on the touch screens in the kiosk reside on hardware in the courthouse. Because of space constraints, the group agreed not to have any display cases but to have the four inside corners of the tower finished with a flat surface allowing for some space for displays. No decision was made on climate control for the tower. Topp was also instructed to furnish the BOS options and pricing for a corner stone containing a time capsule.

Auditor's Office News: Nancy Reiman reported that the Auditor's office is looking at the Diebold AccuVote and ES&S AutoMark voting equipment and systems. They expect to make a decision sometime in July. Total cost will be approximately \$153,000 for Diebold and \$148,000 for ES&S. The Hava funds available to Dickinson County are \$115,000. Nancy will be combining some precincts in order to save on the costs. Also, some polling places will have to be changed to comply with HAVA; for example the Excelsior church & Montgomery Shed can no longer serve as polling places. The County will be converting to I-Voters, statewide voter registration system, in July.

Along with this and the Phase I moves, the conversion of the county's financial system software to InForum Gold will begin September 12. This will probably involve some training in each county office as it is expected that all departments be able to access the Auditor's information electronically, if only to inquire on claims paid status and budgetary expenditures. There is expected to be some changes in policies and procedures in the Auditor's office with this new software. More information will be forthcoming

Alissa Julius' first week: After my arrival on Monday, no time was wasted getting me acquainted with the other employees. My plans were to meet with all the departments, however, after meeting with a few I found that each had a little something they wanted me to work on. To those I have not yet reached, I am still on my way to your offices and look forward to meeting everyone. I had the opportunity to meet the members of the board and get a glimpse of what happens in a Dickinson County Board of Supervisors meeting. One of the most challenging times of the whole week was meeting with the phone vendors. The vendors came with a lot of questions and I had to quickly get familiar with the new building and all of the phases involved. I feel privileged to be part of the new construction and am looking forward to the completion of the new courthouse. I ended my week with a highly anticipated visit to R&D industries to meet Don and Matt. They were able to clear up some of the problems I had encountered and they gave me insight on the county's computer systems. After a week of work and getting reacquainted with the area I am excited for the opportunities that Dickinson County has provided me and look forward to getting to know everyone better.