

**THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE PRINCETON EDA BOARD HELD ON JULY 15, 2010,
AT 6:00 P.M., AT THE CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

Paul Whitcomb called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. Members present were Victoria Hallin, Ben Hanson, and Charles Snustead. Staff present were Dick Schieffer (City Attorney), Jay Blake, and Mary Lou DeWitt.

Absent were Cindy Riddle, Jeff Holm, and Thom Walker

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM REGULAR MEETING ON MAY 20, 2010 (No Quorum for June Meeting)

SNUSTEAD MOVED, SECOND BY WHITCOMB TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE REGULAR MEETING ON MAY 20, 2010. UPON THE VOTE, THERE WERE 4 AYES, 0 NAYS. MOTION CARRIED.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. Rural Taxing District Discussion

The Rural Taxing District is a continued topic from previous EDA meetings. Dick Schieffer, City Attorney has discussed with the EDA Board on how the State Statutes are limited in how they allow municipalities to establish Rural Taxing Districts. Dick Schieffer was present to answer questions from the EDA Board.

Blake said that there are more than 75 properties identified that do not have either connection to City water, sewer, or both. After weeding out properties that were in areas of the City that did not have municipal sewer or water services, there are approximately 20 properties that do not meet our municipal sewer connection requirements.

Hanson asked if those properties that do not have sewer or water would qualify for the Rural Taxing District. They are currently paying for full City taxes and the Rural Taxing District would cut their tax rate.

Blake said that they are currently paying full City tax rates. The hope with this Rural Taxing District is that if the City tax rate is lower than those that want to annex their property into the City, they now would be more willing to do so. It is a risk to the City to drop the tax rate for this Rural Taxing District in hopes to bring more land into the City. The Sherburne County Mobile Home Park is a good example. Residential and vacant property would have to be looked at.

Hanson would like Staff to gather information on what the estimated impact would be on this Rural Taxing District. For those properties that are not hooked up to City sewer or water currently and what their taxes would decrease to if we reduced their taxes by 50%.

Next month a map will be provided that shows the properties without either sewer or water or both. Also, properties that connect to the City limits that are 2.5 acres or more.

Snustead asked if there is financial assistance for homes that hook up to sewer or water that Blake had mentioned at one time.

Blake said the Small City Grant could be used for this. He has not applied for the grant yet so he has not gotten it and also the property owners would have to be approved for it.

B. NSP Program Update
316 10th Avenue North

Habitat for Humanity expects the completion of the two homes to be in August, 2010.

609 Old Highway #18

The burn is scheduled for this weekend with the Fire Department. Essig Construction Co. will be removing the debris.

1503 13th Street North

Bid Packages were sent out and were due on July 13th, 2010. The completion is anticipated by the end of August, 2010.

1003 5th Street South

The buyer has qualified for the NSP Program. The bid packages were sent out and are due by July 14, 2010. Completion is anticipated by the end of August, 2010. Two bids were received and they are different companies than what gave bids on 1503 13th Street North. This home is structurally in good shape.

Arcadian Homes

The Fire Department has requested the opportunity to conduct training burns on all three buildings. The Police Department also plan on using the site for a training exercise. This site should not remain unsafe or be an unattractive nuisance. The burns should be done in the shortest amount of time. The NSP Program Funds need to be committed for the demolition prior to September 20, 2010. It will not be an option to do deconstruction due to the relative newness of the structures. There would be a very limited market for any of the materials found within these buildings. The Fire Department wants to burn all three buildings. The discussion is if they are going to burn one each month or all three units at once. Blake would like to get the EDA Board's approval to have this property site surveyed and marked. The cost for the survey would be \$1,150.

HANSON MOVED, SECOND BY HALLIN TO APPROVE THE PLAT BOUNDARY SURVEY, BUT THE COST NOT TO EXCEED \$1,150. UPON THE VOTE, THERE WERE 4 AYES, 0 NAYS. MOTION CARRIED.

Whitcomb said the Fire Department has met their quota on scheduled burns so they are looking for another entity as a joint venture.

Blake was not aware of this. He would like the burns completed by September 20, 2010. A storm fence would be put up around the site after the burn until the debris is removed. The clean up can not begin till two weeks after the burn by law for the ashes to cool. The City Council has to review the RFP before it goes out for approval on bids. Blake said he is waiting to hear if the City is eligible for the \$150,000 of extra funds on this NSP Program.

NEW BUSINESS: None

OLD BUSINESS: None

MISCELLANEOUS:

A. EDA Balance Sheet

The EDA Board had no comments.

B. Verbal Report

Blake said Sylva Corp. was contacted by two other parties that is interested in biomass energy. Neither of these companies have any ties with the first group. Blake put a list of programs they could get funding from. The car lot Wellman Wheels has closed. Blake talked to Richard Anderson and told him the lot needs to be paved before another business moves in there.

C. City Council and Planning Commission Minutes for June, 2010

The EDA Board had no comments.

HANSON MOVED, SECOND BY HALLIN TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. UPON THE VOTE, THERE WERE 4 AYES, 0 NAYS. THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:29 P.M.

ATTEST:

Paul Whitcomb, President

Mary Lou DeWitt, Comm. Dev. Assistant