

Story County
Board of Supervisors Meeting
Minutes

5/17/2012 - Minutes

1. CALL TO ORDER: 6:30 P.m.

The Board of Supervisors met on 5/17/12 at 6:30 p.m. in the Story County Administration Building. Wayne E. Clinton, Rick Sanders, and Paul Toot, with Wayne E. Clinton presiding.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. Introduction Of Story County Elected Officials & Department Heads

Auditor's Office, Treasurer's Office, Attorney's Office, Planning & Development Department, Recorder's Office

4. Presentation Of The Final Report From Government Restructuring Committee - Ted Tedesco

Ted Tedesco, Co-Chair of the Government Restructuring Committee (GRC), noted the members of the committee present. Tedesco reported the committee began with no preconceived ideas; the members considered structures suitable for Story County, and came up with the following recommendations: 1. moving to an alternative/charter form of government with an elected Board of Supervisors and a County Manager; 2. combining/abolishing elected offices other than the Board; 3. improving/addressing security and storage needs; 4. improving communications within the County offices; 5. providing the public with one-stop permitting and licensing; 6. expanding the role in Economic Development, 7. providing assistance to other jurisdictions; 8. combining the offices of the City of Ames Assessor and Story County Assessor; 9. redrawing Soil and Water Conservation Districts; and 10. improving transportation safety.

Sandy Opstvedt, Co-Chair of the GRC, stated she disagrees with the conclusions. The GRC met with each department and, as a whole, county government is positive and works well. A County manager would add another level of bureaucracy and is financially irresponsible. She commends the employees. Her conclusion is county government structure should remain as is; the County can progress with improved communication and education. She thanked the Board for creating the committee.

5. Comments & Questions From The Board Of Supervisors

Clinton commented the report is an excellent blueprint and includes input from a variety of sources. The Board commended the committee for its work. Discussion took place. Sanders outlined the recommendations. Many of the recommendations require citizen action. It is not in the Board's authority to make the changes to the structure of government. A petition is required for changing the number of supervisors, forming a commission to draw up a charter form of government, or combining elected offices. Sanders summarized relevant sections from the Code of Iowa and petition requirements. Security and storage are a matter of priorities and funding availability. Toot reported that Facilities will assist with these issues. The communication suggestions are appreciated and the Board has quarterly meetings with Elected Officials, bi-weekly Department Head meetings, and liaison meetings. One-stop licensing and permitting is a lot for one person; Sanders commented it may be better for one person to direct public to the proper offices. As for economic development, follow up on CPAT is scheduled for the May 22 agenda, along with improving the TIF process. Tedesco reported on the smaller communities needing assistance, giving the example of Secondary Roads. Sanders agrees there needs to be a mechanism. Clinton reported that other counties are experimenting with shared services and we may be able to model assistance. Sanders agrees two Assessors is a redundant expense, and to discuss with Ames. Stephen Holmes commented on Assessors' budgetary needs and current appeals and the amount of time and personnel needed. Clinton stated the administrative portions and purchases can be combined. Sanders stated it is the City of Ames' decision, not the Board's. The Board supports changes to the Soil and Water Conservation districts and will request a presentation. Clinton stated that transportation safety needs a strategic plan.

6. Public Comments

Nancy Miller, Nevada, supports moving from three to five supervisors. Jim Lohr, Ames, suggested the Board to consider technological changes such as cloud computing for storage, computerized forms, and a searchable database. He commented that some states have reduced the number of counties. Jim Cheek, Nevada, does not support changing the supervisor plan. Leonard Anderson, Story City, commented on economic development. Marty Chitty, Milford Township and GRC member, asked if Clinton would run for office if the Board changed to five supervisors. Clinton stated he doesn't know. Stephen Holmes, County Attorney, appreciates the GRC's work, but questions the impetus for change. Clinton read a statement into the record from Recorder Sue VandeKamp to Tom Corrieri, Would you be pursuing the elimination of elected officials as enthusiastically if your daughter-in-law had won the election two years ago? (Mr. Corrieri not present). Sanders moved, Toot seconded to receive this report and to disband this committee. (MCU).

7. Closing Comments From The Board

8. ADJOURNMENT:

Sanders moved, Toot seconded to adjourn @ 9:12 p.m. (MCU).