

## Special Meeting

Feb. 12, 2024

The Plankinton City Council met jointly with the Aurora County Commission at a special meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, February 12th, 2024 at the Aurora County Courthouse Community Room.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss communication between the County and the three city councils (Plankinton, Stickney and White Lake) regarding contract law and how to move forward on the subject.

Members present: Mayor Brad Kehn, Councilpersons Carl Bode, Magdalena Popek-Hurst and Terry Schuldt. Absent: Jason Schurz and Jack Marette. Also present was Finance Officer Kylee Urban.

There was much discussion between all visitors and the commissioners. JP Studeny started off by commending Sherriff Briggs for his choices on law enforcement and keeping the town safe and secure.

Bode thanked commissioners for keeping communication lines open. He had also mentioned that he invited Clyde to his home to discuss the contract further but had not gotten any response yet. He let the commissioners know his objective is to keep the community safe and secure as well and use public funds wisely and he sincerely wants to see a productive meeting.

Dethlefsen explained to the council and visitors that last year's budget was true figures and it's not likely to have any excess funds at the end of the year. He also mentioned that the current formula has worked for around 20 to 35 years. He wants to see how we can connect on the contract.

Bode responded stating that there have been substantial increases in the past years and he had previously proposed a different formula to the commissioners and would like it to be considered for future years.

Dethlefsen explained to everybody that they have no control over vehicle costs and that everything is going up. Just vehicles were around a 10% increase.

Keith Lingle asked the auditor if there was a projected cost for next year.

Susan Urban said no but she will figure them and let the towns know and to call her or get on the agenda for any questions with it.

Studeny stated the only way to solve disputed before they become a problem is communication.

Dethlefsen said we assume everything and everybody's happy when we don't receive any communication back.

Dwight DeBoer asked the commissioners how the jail budget was entered and said fees can be stiff. He mentioned the county gets the burden of those fees.

Dethlefsen said those fees are not built into the sheriff's budget.

Dethlefsen asked the public what they would like them to do differently to make it work.

Bode stated that he thinks it would help if the cities were part of the budgeting process. He also mentions it is hard for him to make it to the open budget meetings as they are during work time hours.

Thiry, of white lake, voiced her concern on the call logs. She mentioned that it seems like all of the logs for when somebody is in white lake only lasts around 17 minutes to 1 hour. She said that's not enough time to see what's going on and watch the flow of traffic.

Roman said there are times where we get called away or sometimes that is for when we are at the school in the mornings for drop off, then have to hurry to the next school.

Jody Hauge, a former sheriffs' office employee told everybody that they do not have enough time to log every little thing, they are very busy.

Kehn stated that he looked at call logs and out of 107 calls in one month 51 of them were interstate. He doesn't feel it's fair for taxpayers. He also asked if we get any money for any of that.

Dethlefsen said anything on interstate or drug busts in the county is on them. The county pays for it.

Dwight DeBoer said it's too bad we can't bill the state. Our deputies are taking all these calls. Even GFP doesn't have to go out, our deputies do for any deer accidents or anything.

Dethlefsen commented that they do a lot more than just write tickets.

Kehn said he would like to have two people from each town and 2 commissioners get together and go over everything every 6 months or something so we can keep communications.

Dethlefsen asked if the cities have seen any improvements.

Kehn said Main Street is like a drag strip.

Dethlefsen said they can be in town, but just not in the right spot to catch everything.

Roman said they would need a dozen more guys to do what he wants them to do and cover everything.

Keith Lingle said when nobody is getting citations it looks like nothing's getting done.

Thiry said it's a free for all with speeding in White Lake.

Dethlefsen asked for the consensus on the contract of law.

Thiry of White Lake said they will be having a meeting next week to discuss it.

Lingle of White Lake suggested the county make a proposal and send it back to the towns.

White Lake council member Nathan Schroeder suggested comparing it to other counties.

Bode said he did try to do this but there was a lot of confusion in trying to do that and nothing could come into comparison.

Dethlefsen said they will do a meeting with 2 people from each town and 2 commissioners and get this worked out.

Meeting adjourned at 7:51pm

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Brad Kehn,

Mayor

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Attest:

Kylee Urban,

Finance Officer