

**Village of Holmen
Planning Commission Minutes
February 26, 2013**

Village President Proctor called the Planning Commission meeting to order at 6:30 PM on Tuesday February 26, 2013. Present were commission members Proctor, Szak, Johnston, Ebner and Evenson, along with advisory members Olson, and Heinig; members Horvath and Dunham were excused. Also in attendance were Andrew Bremmer (MSA) and Charlie Handy (La Crosse County).

Motion by Evenson, seconded by Ebner to approve the minutes of the January 29, 2013 meeting - carried unanimously.

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Agenda Items

#4 – Presentation of Coulee Vision 2050 progress.

Andrew Bremmer provided an overview of the project. Coulee Vision is a long ranged land use and transportation study of the area's projected needs. Initially the Consultants met with area Planning Commissions to present goals and some of the mechanisms planned to gain information from residents of the area. After gathering area input, Focus Groups were approached for input regarding specific sectors, such as Education, Business, Freight, Government and Bike & Ped organizations. From those focus groups, the Consultants learned of specific areas of concerns that might also be considered. After dissemination of the data, the trend points toward improving and expanding mass transit. This combined with higher densities in municipal development projects that provide walk able connections will help with projected transportation issues. The one area that was clear, based on public input was that construction of new roads was not the preferred option.

Steve Johnston questioned why we were going down a path that was intending to change the culture in which we live. Pursuing the higher density development scenario appears to be following a model established in European areas rather than the "American Dream" thought of owning your own piece of land. Other members of the Commission had mixed feelings regarding the information provided, finding value in portions and concerns in other areas.

Administrator Heinig thought the preservation of the area's farmland, a recommendation of this study, helps maintain areas adjacent to the Village where future planned growth can occur.

The Consultant expressed appreciation for the comments during the discussion and would give them due consideration prior to finalization of the plan.

#5 – Possible Action and Recommendation on Apostolic Life Lutheran Church.

The Church has petitioned for annexation to the Village. The application was sent to the Department of Administration for review and was determined to be against the public interest. The property is located on the east side of Hwy 35, south of the Hwy 53 interchange. The legal description for the annexation application started at the intersection of the two highways and continued southerly along Hwy 35 to and around the property. The "Balloon on a String" configuration is typically not an acceptable one in the eyes of DOA. Because of this decision, the Town of Onalaska could challenge an annexation, if it were to move forward. The Pastor of the Church and Administrator Heinig has discussed the annexation with the Town Chair, so they are aware of the request.

Since this property is in an area defined as part of the recommended Boarder Agreement in the South Holmen Drive Corridor study and is also in close proximity to other properties in the Village, Administrator Heinig recommended the Commission approve a favorable recommendation to the Village Board.

Motion by Szak, as long as the Town does not object to the Annexation, seconded by Ebner to recommend approval of the Annexation to the Village Board - Carried unanimously.

#6 – Other items that may come before the commission - None.

Motion by Szak, seconded by Johnson to adjourn at 7:40 PM - Carried unanimously.

Dean K. Olson
Director of Public Works