

**Village of Holmen
Special Board Meeting
Holmen Village Hall – Board Room
Monday, August 17, 2015
6:00 pm**

President Proctor called the Special Holmen Village Board meeting to order at 6:00 pm on August 17, 2015, at the Holmen Village Hall.

Board members present: Nancy Proctor, Bill Ebner, Steve Johnston, Doug Jorstad, Rich Anderson Dawn Kulcinski and Chuck Olson. Also present were Administrator Heinig, Public Works Director Olson, Clerk/Treasurer Hornberg, MSA Consultant Carter Arndt, La Crosse County Library Director Chris McArdle-Rojo, Sue Ross, Pat Barlow, Dave Mocco, Patti Mocco, Carol Knapmiller, Gail Cunningham, Dave Skoloda, Gretchen Skoloda, Ron Knapmiller, Kara Larson, Jerry Pryor, Rick Beyer and Pat McKnight.

Dawn Kulcinski/Bill Ebner motioned to approve Ordinance #3-2015, An Ordinance Annexing Certain Territory into the Village of Holmen (Richard Beyer, Petition MBR#13866). The motion carried with Proctor, Kulcinski, Johnston, Jorstad, Ebner and Anderson in favor; Olson abstained.

Carter Arndt from MSA presented the proposed future Village of Holmen Library plans. Arndt reviewed the design plans which allowed for a pedestrian friendly, spacious and dual purpose building which could be a focal point for the Holmen community. He commented that the Library would house the La Crosse County Administrative Offices which would allow for a continued lease relationship with the County Library System, as well as have a partial basement for mechanics and storage. The Library would also contain a multi-purpose community room which could be used during Library hours as well as having the ability to be a segregated, secured area with a separate entrance for after-hours use by the Village for many purposes. This area would contain two small conference areas, as well as one large room that could be partitioned off into two rooms; the rooms would have access to a kitchenette area for community needs.

Arndt addressed many questions in regards to outdoor amenities, comparably sized community libraries, built-in current technology needs and energy efficiencies within the facility.

Library Director McArdle-Rojo commented on the perception that library needs were not as strong in the age of new technology; she stated that the check-out traffic still dominated the electronic download needs by 12-1 and she believes that will still be the case for many years into the future. She also answered questions on options and ideas for programs and stated that the County would continue to provide all staffing and resources for the new site.

Administrator Heinig addressed questions relating to fee options for community space rental needs. He also commented on the many meetings held by the design team which included the architect, Village staff, Library staff and Village Board members. Heinig confirmed that consideration was given for space in the facility to house displays for the Historical Society.

Arndt then reviewed the proposed budget for the facility including surveying and fees, construction, and furnishings. Administrator Heinig asked the Board members to comment on the presentation and their feelings on if this proposal was heading in the right direction to fit the community needs.

Trustee Olson remarked on the great community components of the facility plan and complimented the Board for the support to complete the design phase of the library; he feels there is a strong need in the Holmen community for a new library. He stated that he feels with the design plans near completion, funding and possible contributions for the facility could be now be discussed.

Trustee Ebner remarked that he felt the design looks great; he requests that the community be given a chance to decide, by referendum, if there is interest in financially supporting the concept.

Trustee Anderson complimented the design, and agreed that he would support the idea of a referendum to gauge the communities support in the idea.

Administrator Heinig commented that the cost of the facilities would increase the taxes on a \$200,000 home by \$120 annually. He agreed that the Village residents should have a say in the concept as well as the additional costs.

Trustee Jorstad agreed with trustee Ebner; he noted that public support is very important and stated that the presentation was very good.

Trustee Kulcinski remarked that she loved the design; however she is not in favor of spending funds on a new library; she supports a public referendum for feedback on the idea.

Trustee Johnston echoed Trustee Olson that there is a great need for a new library facility; he feels as the proclaimed “#2 community to raise a family”, this is the one weakness in the area. However, he hopes to minimize the impact to taxpayers, possibly by fundraising.

President Proctor commented that regardless of how the decision is made or how the library is funded, she hopes to see it happen in the near future.

Chuck Olson/Bill Ebner motioned to adjourn at 7:20 pm. The motion carried unanimously.

Angela A. Hornberg
Village Clerk/Treasurer