

Fertile City Council Minutes
Special Meeting
May 17, 2017

The Fertile City Council held a special meeting on Wednesday, May 17, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. at the Community Center. Present were: Mayor Daniel Wilkens and Council members Linda Widrig, Reid Jensrud, and Stanton Wang. Also present were Fair Meadow Administrator Angie Leiting, Director of Nursing Peggy Erickson; Advisory Board members Bud Roof, Sam Lindberg, Marla Swenson, Alyssa Raaen, and John Swanson. Also present was City Administrator Lisa Liden Terry Baumgartner, Roger Narlock, Andrea Broden, and Jeff Adams.

The first item addressed on agenda was the agreement with MnDOT Aeronautics for crack sealing at the airport. Administrator Liden explained that the agreement was standard for all airport projects and that once signed by all parties, that the crack sealing could be done at the airport. The City would pay for the project once completed and MnDOT would reimburse the City for 90% of the total cost which was \$21,750.

The next item to be addressed was the operational assessment on Fair Meadow Nursing Home that Council had approved at the regular meeting on May 8th. Administrator Liden passed out further information on the assessment that had been provided by Health Dimensions Group (HDG). Nursing Home Administrator Leiting then inquired about whether the meeting was closed or not since there were members of the public present. Liden explained that it needed to be a public meeting since the subject matter did not fall under the very limited circumstances allowed by State Statute for a council meeting to be closed. Those present then read through the materials that had been provided by HDG.

Mayor Wilkens then explained that the goal of having the assessment done was to have Fair Meadow run as efficiently as possible while maintaining its standard of excellent care. He explained further that the matter had been under discussion before he was even Mayor and that it was decided at the last meeting to have the full assessment done.

Some of those present then expressed their concern that the top solution listed on the HDG materials was a reduction of staff. Mayor Wilkens assured those present that HDG would be making recommendations after the assessment and that any particulars about staffing would be addressed at that time.

Sam Lindberg then questioned about when it was decided to do the assessment. She referred to the date given on the HDG proposal, April 11th, which was the same date as their April Advisory Board meeting and she was wondering why the Advisory Board didn't receive the proposal sooner. Mayor Wilkens explained that Council had requested that Administrator Liden get proposals and information on firms that do these assessments and that April 11th was simply the date that HDG had on their submittal. The proposals were then given to Council prior to the May 8th regular meeting when it was decided to accept the proposal from HDG.

Sam Lindberg then commented that it was interesting that HDG's focus was on senior care, which is the same focus as Fair Meadow. She asked then if there were particular areas of

concern that Council wanted HDG to focus on. She stated that Angie and Peggy have access to free resources to address many different areas and that it would be less expensive to use free resources rather than paying for a full assessment.

Sam Lindberg then questioned who was going to pay for the assessment. Mayor Wilkens explained that HDG had explained that the money paid for the assessment was an operational expense that should flow through Fair Meadow's books since it would impact their rates later down the road.

Roger Narlock who was present at the meeting then introduced himself and explained that he works as a financial officer at Riverview Health in Crookston. He stated that Riverview Hospital and also Riverview Nursing Home regularly have consultants come in. He explained that it helps to keep operating costs down by having a third party come in and look everything over periodically. He then directed the Advisory Board to look at the "solutions" information on the HDG materials.

John Swanson then brought up the fact that Fair Meadow has a State inspection each year as well as an audit and that an assessment didn't seem necessary because of those. Administrator Liden then explained that Fair Meadow's audit focuses on financial information and that the auditors don't even look at operational issues.

John Swanson then commented on the marketing aspects that were mentioned in the HDG materials and that marketing wasn't very relative at this time since both the nursing home and assisted living were at full capacity.

This was followed by further discussion on who would pay for the assessment. FM Administrator Leiting commented that this was something that the home could not afford at this time especially when they needed to replace three bath tubs. Mayor Wilkens then responded that the City would work with Fair Meadow on paying for the assessment but that the cost did need to go through the home's books.

This was followed by further discussion on the cost of the assessment as well as questions about why the Council felt it was necessary at this time. Jeff Adams who was present at the meeting stated that he had four family members who worked at Fair Meadow and that they were all concerned about keeping their jobs. Council member Jensrud commented that there were no plans at this time to eliminate any jobs.

After further discussion surrounding questions already addressed earlier in the meeting, the meeting was adjourned.