

WASECA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS—JUNE 13, 2006
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING—PUBLIC HEARING

The Waseca County Board of Commissioners met in a special board meeting on Tuesday, June 13, 2006 in the Commissioner's Room, 300 N. State St., Waseca, Minnesota. The Waseca County Commissioners were present as follows: Rick Morris, Chairperson; Al Ruhland, Wendell Armstrong and Richard Androli. Jim Peterson was absent. Also present were Marilee Reck, Human Services Director; Bruce Boyce, Coordinator; Joan Manthe, Auditor; Mark Leiferman, City of Waseca Community Development Director; Kris Busse, City Administrator and many other citizens and Waseca County Employees.

Rick Morris, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Rick Morris explained the purpose of the public meeting was to discuss the proposed new Human Services Building.

Marilee Reck, Human Services Director, gave a presentation on why Human Services needs a new building. The current space has served its purpose since 1981. More space is needed for the employees because of privacy requirements, computer needs, and increased staff and space needs, and storage of records.

Mark Leiferman, Community Development Director for the City of Waseca, explained the history of the Bratrud Property. He explained that the City owns the property and obtained a grant for demolition of the past buildings. Some private business space would be a part of the building.

Bruce Boyce, Coordinator, presented what the county has done to research the sites available for housing the new Human Services Building. He also spoke about the funding of the new building.

Cheri Lewer, Public Health Services Director, stated that we are a member of South Country Health Alliance and have been about five years. Public Health works very closely with Human Services and may be considered to move to this new building because of the addition of seven new employees, fully funded by the SCHA.

Bruce also stated the Commissioner's Room and an additional public meeting room could be located in the new building.

Rick Morris then asked for public comments.

Marv Kanne commented on the need for self help in our political process.

Jane Bluhm, former employee of Waseca County, citizen and business owner. She commented on the municipal building going on taxable property and becoming exempt. It is too expensive for business owners to pay the taxes on new buildings.

Irene Jeddelloh questioned if Human Services and Public Health would be combined, what would the county do with the Public Health building? The commissioners responded there is no answer right now.

A question was asked if the Brattrud building is taxable now. The building is owned by the City and is tax exempt. If a private business is built on part of the land, it would be partially generating a tax.

Mary Jane Stauffer spoke in response to the Human Service clients. Many people get benefits now that did not. We have a responsibility to care for other people. The present building is not safe anymore. Think about the whole picture and the future.

Marv Kanne asked if this matter would be voted on by the people. The answer is no. The public hearing is a chance for all to voice comments.

Mark Leiferman state that the trend is for Life Style Centers. The downtown area would be revitalized by a government building with small shops attached.

Marilee Reck says we serve vulnerable people. Human Services is a safety net for many needy people. About 2,200 people are served by medical coverage. A good number of the people served by Human Services are also taxpayers.

The chairman announced the meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Rick Morris, Chairperson
Waseca County Board of

Commissioners
ATTEST

Waseca County Auditor
Joan Manthe

