

CHETEK-WEYERHAEUSER AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Community Meeting

February 10, 2014

Meeting called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Carri Traczyk at Weyerhaeuser School Building.

Roll Call: Bonczyk, Haselhuhn, Jost, Reisner, Traczyk, and Springer were present. Grover was absent.

Others Present: Mark Johnson, Tammy Lenbom, Rachel Westberg, Al Brown, Larry Leff, Shirley Rouleau, ReNee' Bowers, Robert Bush, Randy Monnier, Erv Murray, Dick Elwood, Tom Cudo, Diane Elwood, Ryan Urban (The Chetek Alert), Janet Kaminski, Don Szozda, and Gary Hecimovich.

Motion by Jost, seconded by Bonczyk to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Mark Johnson, Superintendent, discussed what has been done with the Weyerhaeuser School Facility since the consolidation. A Facility Committee was formed and ideas were developed as to what options exist for repurposing.

Over the past 3 ½ years, the building has been used for housing the Village of Weyerhaeuser offices, hosting community events, birthday parties, WITC rental, photography studio, Open gyms for community, Kitchen use for catering business, Weyerhaeuser Alumni Tournament, Wisconsin Sheep Dairy Cooperative, Ice Age Trail Alliance, Rusk County Restorative Justice, Craft Fairs, Fitness Center, and Bus Storage for Erb Transportation.

In order to accomplish the goals of repurposing the facility, numerous facility committee meetings were held, a vision for repurposing was created, a marketing plan was developed, a website was developed, consultation with Wisconsin Small Business Development Center, potential grant sources were sought after, meetings with various organizations within Rusk and Barron Counties to form partnerships, and an Economic Development Coordinator was hired to help seek out opportunities for the facilities.

Since the consolidation, the district has spent approximately \$180,000 in the operation of the Weyerhaeuser complex. Expenditures are increasing each year by roughly 9%. There is an approximate net loss each year of \$50,000.

Possible options for the building are: continue to find ways to re-purpose the facility, continue to rent the building to generate some income, seek out grant opportunities or innovative ways to use the facility or list the property with a real estate agent.

Mark discussed the potential listing for the building with Coldwell Banker in the hopes of attracting a buyer who can bring economic development to the area. The asking price is around \$500,000 and it would be marketed around the country and the world.

Upon a sale, the district would push for a 60 notice to be given to the current businesses that are leasing space. With the current listing, it is not being considered to be parceled out and sell sections to interested parties. This may be reconsidered if the listing goes on for an extended amount of time. It is currently expected to be on the market for nine months to 24 months.

The decision to list the property will be finalized at the February 24 regular meeting.

Motion by Jost, seconded by Bonczyk to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 6:11 p.m.

Natalie Springer, Clerk