

Ely City Council & ISD 696 School Board Joint Meeting February 8, 2011

The Ely City Council joint meeting with ISD 696 School Board was called to order by Mayor Skraba at 6:05 p.m. on February 8, 2011 at the Grand Ely Lodge.

Present Council members Shedly, Salerno, Nikkola, Debeltz and Mayor Skraba. Absent Council member Omerza. Also present Operations Director Langowski and City Attorney Klun.

School Board members present: Richter, Marsnik and Bill Skradski. Also present Belcastro.

The following items were discussed:

I. DISTRICT HEATING

Langowski spoke at length on the Biomass Heating System for the district. The system would potentially reduce the school's heating cost by \$50,000 to \$70,000 per year. The system could also be used for cooling, such as ice arenas. Various grants are being looked at to fund the project. Full support will be needed from Ely Bloomenson Hospital, ISD 696, the HRA and VCC to make this a profitable venture. Total cost is estimated to be \$24 - \$26M.

The School Board discussed the Referendum for the school's heating system replacement which will be up for vote on March 29, 2011. They propose to change to a low pressure boiler system that could be adapted to the Biomass Heating System. They pointed out that it would cost more to move people and equipment out of the Industrial Arts Building than to get a new heating system for that building.

II. LIGHTS ON SHERIDAN ST AND CENTRAL AVE

The school board raised the issue of possibly purchasing crossing lights for the problem areas on Sheridan Street. These lights would flash red when a pedestrian pushes the button requesting to cross. These lights cost roughly \$5000 each. It was discussed to have fundraisers by the PTO or to approach the Ely Jaycees for funding assistance.

III. ADDING FALL LAKE TOWNSHIP TO ISD 696 TAX BASE

Mayor Skraba discussed the need to get Fall Lake Township tax base to be included in the 696 School District instead of the taxes being sent to the Two Harbors School District. Discussion on this issue needs to be addressed with the state senators and representatives.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25pm by Mayor Skraba.

Terri Boese
Clerk/Treasurer