

Minutes

Brown County League of Women Voters

November 10, 2014

Present: Julie Winn, Janet Kramer, Pam Raider, Marge Cook, Shari Frank, Ruth Reichmann, Mary Perez, Sue Cannavo, Cathy Rountree, Robyn Rosenberg Bowman, Keith Baker and Jeanne Lager.

Minutes of October 13, 2014 meeting approved with date correction.

Treasurer reports \$7,016.85 in Treasury. PMP check in amount of \$713 still needs to be paid.

Correspondence: Thanks you note from library in Kentucky for our check on behalf of Julie's mom. Brown County Community Foundation reports \$7,790.97 in Dorothy Stewart Scholarship fund.

Current Business:

Fiscal Viability Study: Met on Friday November 7th. Some offices easy to track - expenses just personnel and supplies out of one fund. Others are way more complicated. Julie presents chart on how Brown County compares with counties of similar population. 78% of our property taxes are from residential. Also we have highest per capita income and debt service. Ruth wants us to also focus on whether elected officials are doing their job. She is very concerned that the Planning Commission is practicing "spot zoning" - making exceptions and changes in spots to allow for business interests. Next step on fiscal is to begin to interview experts such as Dan Eggerman, Julie Ness and Stephanie Yager.

Update on Fire District: No word yet on pending appeal case. Decision was NO from Department of Local Finance on whether Nashville Brown County Fire department (Washington Township) can take out loan to pay fire fighters to be paid back with tax on Washington township residents. Discussion of revisiting Emergency Services position – need to review position with eye to what questions have not been answered. Shari agrees to type up previous position and board members can review on line.

Vision 2020 Update: Appears bogged down again. Plan needs to go to community at large to get community encouragement - who will do and when?

Peaceful Valley Heritage Group has been formed as part of Vision 2020 – group to focus on log jail as first project – has applied for grant from BCCF to fund preservation on old log jail. They are getting help from Mark Dillase on getting more old homes in town on national historical registry.

2015 State Convention: Dates established for April 17-19 2015. Linda Shanks is contact person for Bloomington League – Pam to contact and begin set date for first meeting at the Lodge. We are responsible for setting up silent auction and getting entertainment and bags of goodies. On committee: Janet, Mary, Marge, Shari, Julie and Pam.

New Business:

We need to address water problems in county. Who will replace Diana Biddle on county council now that she won as Commissioner?

Committees:

Health care: Advocate Cathy Rountree reports on Health Care screening held at local YMCA on October 25th. Follow-up care or referrals will be handled by physicians or Wind Rose federally funded clinic in Trafalgar. Clinic was success around 50 participants. County health Dept. wants to be involved next time.

Membership: Pam reports last conference call was on telling your story of getting involved with League as way to recruit new members. Next call Wednesday November 19th.

Observer Corps: Pam makes brief report on commissioner's meetings attended. County health plan changed to Landmark. Bids for highway position taken and candidates heard. Bridge over Eel River comes to BC for trail – state to pay. Presentation from ESPY services on recouping overcharges from AT&T. Annual timber sales allocation to county \$55,282 to General Fund – vote taken to give \$4,000 to each fire department and local EMT. Kennard addresses charges against Mike Thompson giving him full confidence – nothing will change. ATRA and ORCA and BB serer board to meet.

Newsletter: Judy not present – another one to come out before end of the year.

Partnership: Janet reports presentation of final report of 2020. Plan to host power point presentation to community with Don Anderson.

Next Board meeting is December 8, 2014, 10 am BC Library.

Pam Raider

Secretary

League of Women Voters of Brown County