

March 9, 2022

Minutes for Infrastructure Committee Open Meeting, 6pm.

Elgin Public Library, Elgin, Texas

Attendance: Board Members Phil Cook (Chair), Herbert Cook, Mike Simmang, Billy Sherril, Sheril Smith, Kay Rogers, Melissa Cole, Elvis Hernandez, Tom Arsuffi. Staff members Jim Totten and Javier Saenz. Jason George of Negrete and Kolar.

The meeting was declared open at 6:04pm by Committee Chair Phil Cook. Jason George of Negrete and Kolar started his presentation of the draft feasibility report regarding the construction of District offices on property owned by the District in Paige, TX. After Mr. George's presentation, questions were open to the board. Director Kay Rogers requested further traffic studies be done at Paige location. Several members of the Board expressed concerns about traffic along Highway 21 and the dangers of approaching the property from Highway 290 through the intersection of 290 and 21. The Board questioned Mr. George about the costs and square footage of the proposed design and whether there was room for cost savings for design materials or construction.

The Board discussed other possible options for the District offices. Chairman Cook raised the possibility of purchasing a property in Giddings that could serve as the District's new offices and a potential public meeting space. Director Rogers asked why the District should own its offices rather than continuing to rent. The Board discussed the logistics for the purchase of a new property including the possible need for a resolution granting authority to a subset of the Board to negotiate and enter into real estate contracts. Several board members commented that the property in Giddings would not be purchased if the staff did not agree with the new location. Director Hernandez asked the General Manager about staff's opinion on the Giddings property, and General Manager responded that given the options available the staff would prefer to keep the offices in Smithville.

The Board also discussed of other possible options for the District offices or locations for other public meetings. Mr. Totten mentioned that Assistant General Manager Javier Saenz had met with the staff of the Smithville Indoor Recreation Center and that it was available and suitable for public meetings.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20.



Sheril Smith, President



Elvis Hernandez, Secretary-Treasurer