

At 7:30 a.m. President Terry Lynch opened the meeting saying that we would start with board meeting agenda items. However County Commissioner Mark Richard arrived so Terry introduced him to the audience and asked him to talk about the Milwaukee right of way, the jail situation and the race park.

Commissioner Richard stated that the County Commissioners had met with the Spokane Valley City Council to discuss what the mutual interests were with regard to the right of way. The County's position is to maintain the right of way for multi-modal transportation purposes. The time is not right for light rail but STA is looking at rapid transit buses. The Commissioner stated he has no desire to maintain ownership of the right of way but a majority of the board believes because of economic times, it is reasonable to seek compensation for the property at fair market value. The question was raised as to the fact that Spokane Valley citizens had already help paid for the property. Commission Richard stated that was a valid question to raise as all county taxpayers paid for that real estate and Valley residents may be entitled to a credit. Dick Behm had a question on the Liberty Lake portion of the right of way. Mark Richard said they did give the right of way to Liberty Lake at no cost.

Due to the current economic conditions the county is receiving less revenue in terms of property taxes due to the cap on increases. In addition due to various incorporations and the West Plains deal the county tax base is smaller. The question was asked as to what is the portion of Spokane Valley compared to the total county tax base. What would be the credit Spokane Valley would receive? There followed discussion as to the various populations of the entities at the time of incorporation of Spokane Valley. Commissioner Richard thought that the Valley would have been 1/5 of the total population of the county. There followed a discussion of the width of the Milwaukee right of way as it is too narrow at some points. The question of monorail was asked and Mark Richards said that polling done didn't support it at this time. The STA is reanalyzing all options along the corridor route. Mr. Richard said the issue may be moot as we could solve a variety of problems by moving the mass transit corridor to Sprague. Mark Richard stated that he the monorail system in Utah and that it works very well.

The question was asked as to the STA position for buying land in the pinch point areas of the right of way. Mark Richard said that he felt the land should be split 70/30 between Spokane Valley and STA. The STA has been authorized by their Board to buy the entire Milwaukee right of way but are holding back until after their study.

Bill Gothmann talked about the purchase of the Milwaukee right of way and the reasons why the City would want to purchase this right of way. One reason to buy would be because of failing intersections on Sprague Avenue. However he posed the question as to did the City really need to buy the property as there would other roadways that could be used to handle additional cross traffic. Dick Behm talked about how a city should develop and gave as an example the growth between Seattle and Everett.

The discussion then turned to the jail and Mark Richard said the county commissioners are still going forward with the project. However there was talk that the City of Spokane was looking at building its own municipal jail. The County still needs a new facility as the City of Spokane inmates are only approximately 100 of those in jail. The jail facility was built for 472 inmates but at times has held over 600 prisoners. The lease at Geiger is up in 2013 but the Airport Board will work with the County on a closing date as long as the County is working on a new facility plan. The Airport Board said that having Geiger Corrections on their property doesn't look good when showing economic development people around. And Geiger is old and wasn't built for what the County is using it for now. Mark Richard stated that the Commissioners had looked at systems all over the country as to what was best practices. Science demonstrates that certain programs help reduce recidivism. The judicial system has been working on early case resolution. Also working on a drug and mental health court. Mark said they are using a public relations firm to assist with communication to the community.

Mark stated that he had talked with Mayor Verner to look at better ways to handle the jail situation and they are still working on having one approach to the jail. There was a question as to the location of the jail. Mark Richard said the location was still to be determined. There were benefits of a lateral design as being more effective and efficient with millions of dollars in savings. The most functional site was next to the current jail. Fiscally the best site was next to the raceway park or at the Medical Lake exit. He stated that there has been no participation of the current Mayor of Spokane Valley and the Spokane Mayor has not been attending any of the jail discussions. Why does the City of Spokane want its own jail because they think they can do it cheaper plus they have more liberal ideas on how to handle the jail population. The jail bed rate has gone up. A question was asked on the revenue the county receives from property tax. Mark Richard said the study showed that costs are rising faster than sales tax or property values. He stated that the county is looking at three million dollars in cuts for 2011.

Mark Richard then turned the subject to transportation issues. He said that they had done an internal audit of the road department. And the county needs more banked capacity for road maintenance. He talked about a transportation benefit district and a car tab tax. However he won't ask for a car tab tax without a vote of the people.

Terry Lynch thanked Commissioner Richard for his presentation.

Dick Behm gave a report on the taping of the Spokane Valley city council meetings. He stated that there are not enough funds to cover the cost of taping. Dick Behm moved to have the SVBA pay the \$500 needed to cover the rest of the taping cost. The motion passed.

Terry Lynch told the group that he was checking with the attorney with regard to appointing Diana Wilhite as the recording secretary. Dick Behm said he had talked with Mayor Tom Towey about the Grafos article. Bill Gothmann said he and Rose Dempsey were sending a letter to the editor with regard to Mr. Grafos comments. With that the meeting was adjourned at 8:36 am.