

WOODBURY COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AGENDA ITEM(S) REQUEST

8b

Date: 6/22/2016

Weekly Agenda Date: 6/28/2016

ELECTED OFFICIAL / DEPARTMENT HEAD / CITIZEN: Supervisor Jeremy Taylor

WORDING FOR AGENDA ITEM:

Consideration of Veterans Affairs Location / Expansion and Payment of Rent to Sioux Rivers Region

ACTION REQUIRED:

Approve Ordinance

Approve Resolution

Approve Motion

Give Direction

Other: Informational

Attachments

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Sioux Rivers Region according to our liaisons Supervisor Ung and Supervisor Monson have insisted that Veterans Affairs now pays "fair market value" for being allowed to serve veterans in the TriView building. This will comply with their request as it was alluded to when we brought suggestions for a space request expansion. It is clear that either way, Sioux Rivers Region cannot abide by Woodbury County Veterans Affairs being there without paying.

In response to Supervisor Clausen's 6-21-16 inquiry as to what the Region feels comfortable with, I sent an e-mail to Shane Walter as well as to the Sioux County Supervisors (Chair and Vice-Chair) Jim Loutsch and Dennis Wright. I will share this upon learning whatever there is to be learned.

The Woodbury County Board of Supervisors absolutely owes it to the Veterans Affairs Commission--and veterans themselves for that matter--to not delay past July 1, either by failing to act on a new CSVO coming on board and not being able to function in that building or by wasting taxpayer dollars with an improvement request that cannot be fulfilled. The Veterans Affairs Commission has given the Board several months, and we must make accommodations to complement the improvement request that was approved.

BACKGROUND:

The Veterans Affairs Department was asked to go into the building when it was not occupied. At that time, no rent was required. Utilities were paid and after renovations and "load shifting," the Board of Supervisors allocates this on a square footage basis. The building is deeded to Woodbury County, insured by Woodbury County, and renovations have been taken care of by Woodbury County including to parking lot maintenance and LED lighting retrofit projects. According to our Assistant County Attorney, the disposition of the building is under the purview of the County.

While case management is no longer handled by the Region, the number of personnel in a building this size has been reduced by over 60% on the "Region side." The Region personnel occupy 74% of the building and Veterans Affairs 26% of the building (approximately 4400 square feet of the 5600 square feet is occupied by the Region). They will have a maximum of 6 employees and Veterans Affairs will have 4 employees.

h the addition of a new Service Officer that the Board approved under Veterans Affairs, space for confidential counsel / management of veterans cases is required.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

\$19,200 - \$28,800 annually

IF THERE IS A CONTRACT INVOLVED IN THE AGENDA ITEM, HAS THE CONTRACT BEEN SUBMITTED AT LEAST ONE WEEK PRIOR AND ANSWERED WITH A REVIEW BY THE COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE?

Yes No

RECOMMENDATION:

Consider at what funding level the Woodbury County Veterans Affairs department should be paying Sioux Rivers Region and subsequent modifications and entertain the following motion.

ACTION REQUIRED / PROPOSED MOTION:

Consider motion(s) to approve the "fair market" value of \$1600 - \$2400 monthly (or other such amount) via a budget amendment given "fair market value" or another amount the County is comfortable with. Move to authorize the Building Services Director to construct a window in the office for the new service officer in the present conference room and give a timeline for when subsequent construction might take place to meet the needs of the Region should conference room prove necessary.