

**TOWN OF DEWEY-HUMBOLDT
TOWN COUNCIL
SPECIAL “ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT VISIONING” MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2014, 4:00 P.M.**

A SPECIAL “ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT VISIONING” MEETING OF THE DEWEY-HUMBOLDT TOWN COUNCIL WAS HELD ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2014, AT THE DEWEY-HUMBOLDT TOWN LIBRARY, DOWNSTAIRS, J.W. MITCHELL ROOM, 2735 S. CORRAL STREET, DEWEY-HUMBOLDT, ARIZONA. MAYOR TERRY NOLAN PRESIDED.

Facilitator Richard Bowen introduced himself and had each Council Member introduce themselves and give a short background of their time on Council and in the community.

1. Call To Order. The meeting was called to order at 4:06 p.m. Mayor Nolan presided.

2. Roll Call.

2.1. Town Council. Town Council Members Jack Hamilton, Mark McBrady, Dennis Repan, Nancy Wright; Vice Mayor Arlene Alen; and Mayor Terry Nolan were present. Council Member Sonya Williams-Rowe was absent.

3. Special Study Agenda. No legal action to be taken.

The Session is facilitated by Mr. Richard Bowen, Northern Arizona University Faculty – Associated Vice President, Economic Development, Sustainability, and Phoenix Bio-Medical Campus Office of the President.

Richard Bowen introduced himself to the group and his background pertaining to economic development. He met Vice Mayor Alen at the Flinn Brown Institute and was invited to speak to the council on the economy of Dewey-Humboldt. He spoke on the history of this area over a long period of time and specifically during the recession and recommended the Council to be more intentional with the changes that will occur and build an economic development work plan.

3.1. Presentation of economic data for Dewey-Humboldt and surrounding area.

Mr. Bowen talked about some of the statistical data that he brought pertaining to the D-H area. This data shows some growth in retail with a steep decline during the recession and now starting to slowly grow again. He spoke on how historically, most Arizona government is sales-tax revenue based, taxing goods and services. With more transactions comes more money, therefore more services are available to the citizens. He asked what the future driver of our economy is. An advantage to the town is being closer to Phoenix, with most people passing through D-H when traveling from the valley to this region. He recommended being intentional, getting a plan together and growing it (the plan).

3.2. Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) analysis, including discussions of economic development, planning, infrastructure, facilities, financial and staffing issues and external influences as they relate to SWOT.

Council reviewed Flagstaff’s SWOT. Mr. Bowen directed Council to write statements on, “What are D-H strengths, not just economic”, and place them on a board. He talked

with Council on these statements. He spoke on needing infrastructure to draw business here first.

Council discussed values, such as rural lifestyle; animals; children and schools etc. They discussed having cores of density within town, which the town already has with Humboldt and the history that created that density.

Weaknesses were listed and posted on the board. Infrastructure; superfund site; not enough commercial property. Council discussed benefits for the town such as Tourism, lifestyle etc.

3.3. Start discussion on “economic development opportunities and requirements” process.

Council considered on-going planning needed for growth; corralling that growth so it doesn’t interfere with the rural lifestyle; identifying those areas for long term growth; and potential economic opportunities. Mr. Bowen spoke on the regional economy, with most people living, working and shopping in different locations. There was discussion on how a signal at Main Street can help with tourism, and other potential development opportunities in this area. Councilmember McBrady spoke on an idea for an RV park on one of the superfund site locations; since D-H is closer to Phoenix, build it as a nice bedroom community.

Kevin Leonard was asked about his mine and whether it could be opened up for tourism. An unidentified person in the audience stated there is a museum in town.

Council was asked to write down ideas for D-H: regional airport, medical facility, hotel, senior housing, and manufacturing, small business incubation (entrepreneurial citizens) (incubation resources are available and important for small towns), finding partners (like the mining idea),

Mr. Bowen spoke on the Council acting as collaborators for these opportunities, and there being a consortium to work with all the entities to make things happen. “Government encouraged”.

Mr. Bowen asked Council for the requirements to do these opportunities that they came up with: Infrastructure; road development; etc.

Councilmember Hamilton spoke on a charette and asked whether Mr. Bowen had read that report. Mr. Bowen was given the report, which he stated he would review.

Mr. Bowen explained Council should consider this information for a strategic plan, and then create a work plan on how to make their plan work, including marketing to get the message out, collaboration, public/private partnerships, who has resources and likes these types of development, with the Town guiding the process.

Councilmember Hamilton spoke on not neglecting the Dewey area while having limited resources.

Mr. Bowen spoke on possible funding assistance through EDA money and other partnerships in economic development and the USDA.

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Mr. Bowen spoke on identifying Sectors within Town: signage; arts, outdoor attractions, country festivals, amenities, retail lifestyle, center core/downtown, service industry, and manufacturing.

Mr. Bowen will take the input provided by Council and provide a report.

4. **Adjourn**. The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Terry Nolan, Mayor

ATTEST:

Judy Morgan, Town Clerk