

Public Hearing

of the

Blackhawk Technical College District Board

July 29, 2020

Minutes

The Public Hearing of the Blackhawk Technical College Board was held on Wednesday, July 29, 2020, at 6004 S County Road G, Janesville in the North Commons and virtually via Zoom.

The following members were present: Eric Thornton, Chairperson; Barbara Tillman, Vice Chairperson; Rich Deprez; and Mark Mayer. Staff present: Dr. Tracy Pierner; Dr. Karen Schmitt; Renea Ranguette; Tony Landowski; Jen Thompson; Lisa Hurda; Rob Balsamo; Troy Egger; Mark Borowicz; Tammy Roehl; Jonathan Reseburg; Alan Hill; and Julie Barreau.

Chairperson Thornton called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Dr. Pierner provided a presentation on the Public Safety and Transportation Center Project. The Research & Planning Committee, formed in 2019, found that our current public safety and transportation training facilities are inadequate, limit training opportunities, and create unsafe conditions.

Key Facility Needs

- A safe, isolated behind-the-wheel training facility for transportation and public safety students and community partners.
- A high-speed track for law enforcement academy students and local police agency training.
- Move noise and space-intensive public safety and transportation related programs to a specialized, dedicated training facility adjacent to Central Campus.

Facilities Opportunities

- Support workforce demand in the growing and strategically important transportation and distribution sector.
- Support demand for train-the-trainer courses for local law enforcement and fire agencies (e.g. water rescue; firearms, EVOC training).
- Leverage growing demand for contract training revenue with area transportation companies and public safety agencies.
- Improve efficiency of college operations by eliminating facilities rental costs and consolidating campus resources.

The Process

1. Purchase: Property adjacent to Central Campus purchased (2018).
2. Research: Research and Planning Committee at work.
3. Develop: Preliminary PSTC plan developed.
4. Share: Share/gather stakeholder feedback through survey and public hearing.
5. Adopt: Finalize plan and adopt ballot resolution (August 19, 2020).
6. Vote: November 3, 2020.

Cost and Tax Impact

- Total Construction Cost: Not to exceed \$32 million.
- Estimated Annual Impact on Property Taxes: Maximum annual increase of \$3.00 over the current debt service mill rate for every \$100,000 of property value.
- The increase in the debt service mill rate will last approximately two (2) years before it begins to decline to current levels.

Next Steps

- College Board Decision and Adoption of Formal Ballot Resolutions: August 19, 2020.
- Community Outreach and Information Efforts: August-November 2020.
- Vote: November 3, 2020.

Dr. Pierner called for public comment. The following individuals provided a comment about and/or support of BTC's Public Safety and Transportation Center Project.

- Rock County Sheriff, Craig Knutson
- Green County Sherriff, Jeff Skatrud
- Chief David Moore, Janesville Police Department
- Chief Ronald Northrop, Town of Beloit Police Department
- Deputy Chief Joe Murray, Beloit Fire Department
- Police Chief Scott Marquardt, Milton Police Department
- Dr. Robinson, EMS Medical Director voiced their support remotely through Zoom chat

With no other comments from the public, Chairperson Thornton adjourned the meeting at 5:33 p.m.

Laverne E. Hays



Secretary