

## **FALL RIVER COUNTY MINUTES OF APRIL 24, 2013**

The Fall River Board of County Commissioners met in special session on April 24, 2013. Present: Mike Ortner, Joe Allen, Anne Cassens, Joe Falkenburg, and Sue Ganje, Auditor. Absent: Deb Russell.

An invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance were given. The meeting called to order at 2:05 PM. The agenda was reviewed for conflicts; none were noted. Motion by Falkenburg, seconded by Allen, to approve the agenda as written. With no further discussion and all voting yes, the motion carried.

Jennifer Buddenborg, Senior Field Officer for the National Trust for Historic Preservation, met with the Board to determine the county status on the proposal to close the VA. A brief discussion was held on the proposed budget. Ortner recapped the leadership role the county has taken in veterans' issues both locally and nationally, including investing in the campaign to save the VA and encouraging the VA to work on proposals for substance abuse and back-to-work programs.

The designation of the site as an historic treasure was discussed with regard to limitations that it imposes on what can be done with the facility. Buddenborg noted that the VA is not done with their review process and talked about projects associated with the National Treasures program, stating it is their focus to keep the facility open.

Don Ackerman noted that arrangements for the display of the Vietnam Wall are complete and reported that the Save the VA committee will again be travelling to Washington, DC, on May 6, 2013. The budget for moving the VA programs has been deleted, which would delay any movement of services until 2015 to 2017. Letters of support for retaining the VA, which could be sent to Congress, were encouraged.

Susie Hayes, Director of Equalization, was present for continued discussion on proposed plans for a countywide reappraisal. The proposal to complete the assessments in three years was favored but work space for department employees needs to be resolved. Discussion was held on some alternative ideas for office space. Motion by Cassens, seconded by Allen, to authorize the Director of Equalization to proceed with a three-year reappraisal plan, including the hiring of an additional full-time appraiser. With no further discussion and all voting yes, the motion carried.

Motion by Cassens, seconded by Allen, to adjourn. With no further discussion and all voting yes, the motion carried and the Board adjourned at 3:00 PM.

/s/ Michael P. Ortner  
Michael P. Ortner, Chairman  
Board of Fall River County Commissioners

ATTEST:

/s/ Sue Ganje  
Sue Ganje, Fall River County Auditor