



PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETING REGARDING PROPERTY EXCHANGE AGREEMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 24th, 2019

Portage County and the City of Stevens Point are exploring a tentative property exchange agreement to address current and future facility needs. The collaborative options being explored would save taxpayer dollars compared to the entities working independently. Although talks between the County and City are in their early stages, public input is being sought through a series of meetings **which will be held from 6-7:30pm at the following locations:**

April 26th: Pine Grove Municipal Center
5444 County Road W, Bancroft

May 7th: Plover Village Hall
2400 Post Road, Plover

April 30th: Junction City Village Hall
1001 Main Street, Junction City

May 9th: Lettie Jensen Center Community Room
487 N. Main Street, Village of Amherst

May 1st: Rosholt Village Hall
125 W. Grand Avenue, Rosholt

One of the possible options that the parties are exploring would involve the County transferring ownership of the County Annex Building (1462 Strongs Avenue) and the Portage County Law Enforcement Center (1500 Strongs Avenue) to the City, in exchange for the City transferring to the County the ownership of the County Public Library Main Branch Building (1001 Main Street) and the Aging and Disability Resource Center (1519 Water Street), along with approximately 20-25 acres of land located in East Park Commerce Center, east of County Highway R and north of County Highway HH.

Under the collaborative property exchange agreement, the County would then have adequate land to explore the opportunity to relocate their facilities to the east side of the city, in a location that should improve response times and provide easier accessibility for a majority of county residents. The City would then be able to establish City Hall in the current County Annex Building, thereby improving efficiencies and eliminating the need to construct a new building for City Hall.

Both the County and City stress that these conversations are still in their conceptual stages. Final decisions depend on other factors to be discussed during upcoming exploratory talks between the two parties. Currently, there are no final decisions, and both the County Board and City Council will evaluate all details of any such agreement. Nevertheless, the County and the City view these talks as being critical and timely, given both parties are in the process of creating a long-term strategic plan.

Any questions or comments should be directed to:

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