

County Board Visioning Session

March 9, 2024

Priorities:

1. Taxes and Finances
 - a. Need to balance needs and wants.
2. Infrastructure
 - a. Broadband
 - b. Airport
3. Zoning restrictions and new influences
 - a. Workforce (new and retention) ==> Housing (workforce and immigrants) → Business growth (economic development)
 - b. Incentives
4. Working together and relationships
 - a. Education of our municipalities – have meetings with them educating them about economic development, etc. – have county board supervisors representing that area attend the meeting.
 - b. Joint efforts with our municipalities
5. Citizen care
 - a. Services
 - b. Health
 - c. Safety
 - d. Connection

Concerns:

Miscellaneous:	Government/County Board
• Making Iowa County a happy place to live and get rid of negativity. • Minimize DEI requirements and guidelines. • Strong core • Collective innovations • Leadership available • Networking to solve problems.	• We will continue to get good staff for the county. • Failure to guide future development within a good plan. • County representative in our communities. • Reduce county board size? • Too many ordinances – too little respect for the law • Solve our employment problem.

	• Consolidation of government organizations to be more efficient and streamlined. • Reduce the infringement of residents from zoning requirements. • Ability to differentiate between needs and wants. • Overcommitting future resources. • Failure to anticipate needs. • Keep the HHS committee meeting expertise. • Adapt thinking to projects
Infrastructure: • Remaining rural and beautiful • Hope that new technology negates the use of windmills. • Facility needs: HHS HVAC system and 2 court rooms at the courthouse. • Broadband for everyone • What can we afford with highways. • Keep up infrastructure for fear that we fall behind. • Would like the roads to improve. • Keep improving the county property. • Continue to improve/maintain roads/bridges (more state funding?) • Roads are not the greatest. • Encourage more businesses to move to Iowa County	Safety: • Concerned that many children in Iowa County are not safe or well cared for (stay under the radar) • Windmills and solar panels and the related health issues • Eliminate or at least reduce the impact of Upland Winds projects on our residents. • Windmills are ruining the beauty of our area
Health: • The elderly population are being left out of things; no or very little computer and phone use. • Social Services • Suicide prevention.	Taxes and Finance: • Maintain taxes where they are. • Encourage more people to move to Iowa County. Taxpayers and not free loaders

• Unhealthy Iowa County citizens (alcohol and drugs, mental health, abuse, and neglect) • The drug problem – some people are still not getting the help needed. • Isolation in both rural areas and in cities; elderly are vulnerable. • Solid plans for senior care	• Try to keep budget expenditures within inflation increases without reducing services and staffing. • Fair and reasonable tax levy rate • Concern for tax levy rates • Taxing vulnerable people out of homes – young startups and elderly • Taxes = rent control and balance • Taxes going up (referendum) • Unaffordable for young families • Costs of county business are increasing. Need the county to become leaner. • Receiving sustained funding • Retain current staff without going crazy increasing salaries/wages. • Money budget for operations • People wanting more money to do their jobs and money not there to compensate. • The trajectory of spending is unsustainable without raising taxes. • Maintaining our staffing levels for necessary services • Money to support projects. • Keeping taxes in line with our needs and not wants • We don't have enough tax base.
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Hopes:

Roads/Infrastructure: • Keep fixing lousy roads (catch-up) • Continued road improvement • Safe and solid roads, highways, and bridges. • Transportation to grow in the community – bus routes daily. • County government is mostly self-financed like the airport.	Citizen Care/Services: • Full county board that represents our county population. • Senior united nutrition – structure and affordable. • State legislature districts – Iowa County is completely in one district. • Maintain services for our citizens.
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• Keep the airport growth. • Hope that we can continue broadband expansions. • Internet and cell phones communication	• Keep our county residents safe through law enforcement. • Continued law enforcement support • Ability to deliver what people need. • Hope to provide services at a reasonable levy rate
Community Connections: • County helps smaller municipalities that have little infrastructure. • To see Iowa County communities work together	Workforce: • Create and retain jobs. • Support our workforce. • Retaining our best employees and administrator (content employees)
Development: • More help is needed for small business development. • Working with City of Dodgeville on development more. I sense a disconnect. • Focus on more, better productive agriculture practices. • Coming up with new ideas to promote more tourism in Iowa County. • Economic development with SWCAP and county housing. • To see Iowa County grow.	General Government: • Avoiding state and political atmosphere. • Provide answers to county residents. • Work with other counties and townships to gain efficiency by consolidating services. • Look in to national counties association benefits. • Training for AI cybersecurity. • The best and most efficient government we can obtain. • Hope to be adaptable and accept new options and technologies.