

Norfolk Insider

City of Norfolk, NE

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“Area Mayors and City Officials Meet in Norfolk”



Mayors and other city officials from 11 different Northeast Nebraska communities met at the City of Norfolk Administration Building Friday morning to discuss current issues affecting their cities.

Norfolk Mayor Sue Fuchtman has hosted the meeting each of the eight years of her two

mayoral terms.

“Over the years, these meetings have allowed us to come together, share our concerns and the best options from leaders of other area communities. It’s been a great way to see each others’ perspective and learn the facts from each other rather than just hearsay,” Mayor Fuchtman said.

Housing was a major topic of discussion with most of those attending agreeing there is a need for more homes in Northeast Nebraska. Tax Increment Financing (TIF) and local option sales tax were discussed as some of the available tools for cities to use.

Candace Bossard, Norfolk Area Economic Development Council, told the group that recent studies showed the Norfolk area needs 873 housing units in the next ten years and that didn’t take into account the addition of 300 workers at the new OCT plant that will be in operation in 2017.

Paula Biehle with the City of Madison suggested that the workforce shortage in the area might be addressed with an incentive program for those taking construction and other sought after jobs.

Attendees at the meeting included Fuchtman; Bossard; Biehle; Christian Ohl, Madison County Commissioner; Gary Hilkemann, Norfolk Housing Agency Director; Jim Scheer, State Senator; David Brown, Mayor of Wisner; Bob Wehrer of Hadar; Shannon Stuchlik, Mayor of Pierce; Michael Holton of Plainview; Rich Lutz of Hadar; Josh Moenning, Norfolk City Council member; Valerie Grimes, City of Norfolk Planner; Shane Weidner, Norfolk City Administrator; Joe Hartz, Mayor of Neligh; Tom Nelson, Tilden City Council member; Pat Leckron, Tilden City Clerk; Rob Merrill, Norfolk City Council member; John Wyant, Newman Grove Mayor; Jean Wyant, of Newman Grove; Bob Kelberau, Norfolk Area Home Builders; Candice Alder, Norfolk Area Economic Development Council; Daren Seip, Mayor of Plainview; and Al Brandl, Mayor of Madison.