

CAN's unofficial notes on the October County Council Meeting  
by Richard Bearman CAN member

Closed session 5:00 – 6:00pm

Open session present: Lenny Pfeffer, chair; council members Mike Detmer; Rob Kramer, Ricky Travers;  
(William Nichols absent)  
Jerry Jones, County Manager; Charles MacLeod, County Attorney; Irene Barnes, Exec Admin Specialist

6:08pm Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance  
3 additions to agenda approved  
General fund cash on hand \$32,119,300.00 (+ or -)  
Closed session summarized & approved (Travers abstain)

Legislative Session:

Discussion of solar systems (not residential rooftop); setback; approval required; pilot programs & state bill approval  
Detmer: table to 11/4 meeting

From floor – **Adam Davitsky** – solar needs to be developed the right way; 5 year decommissioning in keeping with historical & environmental sensitivity. Write bill "to adhere to state law". Solar benefits landowner: farmland lost generally goes to residential development. Solar use allows ground to heal from compaction and nutrient depletion. Solar is a good neighbor --doesn't need new schools or parking. **Ann Meredith** – works for solar industry but not at table to write bill; nonetheless feels it is a good compromise  
Detmer: bill is not adversarial. Decommissioning rates need to include recycling.

Davitsky: decommissioning should have a bond to ensure it happens.

Charles MacLeod: DNR requires solar to meet local zoning

Travers: if developer puts solar on ag land, he has to pay (zoning change?) Have 60 days till bill dies

Motion: table discussion to 11/4 meeting (Detmer, Travers) **passed**

6:37 pm Public Session: FY 2025 Schedule of Fees Amendment

No increases at this time;

Motion: approve (Travers, Kramer) **passed**

Presentations:

Department of Health (Dr. Casey Scott showed a video of the HD strategic plan)

Health Officer Roger Harrell announced his retirement 2/28/2025 after 28 years; roundly applauded.

Patriot Point a new, 353 acre site for veterans and their caregivers to enjoy therapeutic retreats, reunions with their military units, and recreational duck shooting. 501(c)3; work with groups, not individuals.

Detmer: juvenile crime wave in Cambridge - we're held hostage by (lenient) state law - can't punish these kids.

Action Items:

1. Airport Lease – renew for ten years – **passed**
2. Public Works Water Heater purchase – **passed**
3. Social Service Advisory Board appointment – **passed**
4. Poll Confirmations
  - a. Packing House submitted request for tax abatement retroactive to 2023 for site cleanup  
Discussion: State has approved enterprise and one other credit; this would be third. Costs County \$37,695.  
Packing House has met all requirements – **passed**
  - b. Letter of Support for Shore Rivers - **passed**
  - c. Letter of Support for Gateways Watershed Project – **passed**

Council's Comments:

Travers: reiterates complaint about juvenile crime – treating 'these' kids as kids gives them the wrong idea. Also complains about mosquito spraying that isn't happening. There have been 2 serious accidents in Cambridge because of MDOT paving Rt 50 – traffic backup unacceptable and they can't work nights because it's too cold.

Detmer: another complaint about juvenile crime.

Next meeting will be 11/4 rather than 11/5 (Election Day)

Public Comments: none

Adjourn 7:40 pm