

VENANGO TOWN HALL MEETING NOTES

March 24, 2010

Meeting Purpose: Perkins County Planning & Zoning Commission seeking public input on update of Comprehensive Plan.

Comprehensive Plan Components & Purpose:

Attendees: (See attached spreadsheet)

Current Attributes of Perkins County & Communities in Perkins County – (Strengths)

- Public Transit – serves everyone, especially great for aging population
- Venango Downtown Development
- Mail Delivery
- Arts Council
- Wide Open Spaces
- Easy Access to Travel
- Outdoor Recreation
- Farming Community
- Vested Community Members
- Fiscally Conservative
- Pride in Children
- Facilities for Elderly e.g., assisted living
- Excellent Schools
- Good Hospital
- Medical Services e.g., fire, EMT, ambulance
- Low Crime Rate
- Low Cost of Living
- Good Rural Roads
- Clean Air & Good Water
- Good Law Enforcement
- Good People
- Churches
- Alumni Association

Vision (Desired Future - What We Want to See in 10-15 Years)

Priority Score	Projects/Goals/Objectives
10	Variety of business options to retain and/or recruit young people including encouragement for young people who want to farm

8	Available amenities e.g., lodging options, gas station, convenience store etc.
7	Water to meet needs for drinking and agriculture (protect water supply)
6	Infrastructure to grow and/or support businesses such as grain industry, fertilizer, agriculture etc e.g., railroad
6	Invest in ourselves – collaborate for capital improvements e.g., private funding such as annual donations, hunt challenge etc. and using tools like tax increment financing
5	Useable truck route to elevator – easier access, “business loop”
4	Wind Power
3	Support for existing businesses – economic maintenance
2	Financial Institution
2	Housing options e.g., size, affordability, safe, decent, sanitary
1	Helping with school debt (similar to what the hospital is currently doing)
1	Paved road going north & south to highway 6
0	Up to date technology e.g., broadband
0	Housing options for aging population
0	Capitalize on tourism and agri-tourism
0	Trees on Main Street – community improvement

Assets (What We Bring to the Table)

Community

- Fire Department
- Water System
- Electrical System
- Churches
- Clubs – Lion, Legion
- Post Office
- People

- Existing Businesses
- Community Development Groups
- Clean Up Town Day
- Ann Burge & Southwest Nebraska Community Betterment Corporation

Individual

- Carpenter
- Fire Department Member
- Knowledge of Equipment
- Experience Working with People
- Desire to Help
- Organization
- Work with Children
- Like to Work with Flowers
- Business Owner
- Ability to Work with Groups – Lead if Comfortable with Subject
- Like to Write
- Ability to Speak in Public
- Energy
- Driver
- Leader
- Knowledge of Ag Economy
- Desire for Better Life
- Family
- Professional Business Experience
- Organic Crop Production
- Curiosity
- Ambition
- Helping People
- Working with Kids & Church
- Gardening
- Business Owner
- Help Keep Town Clean
- Helping With People – Helping With Projects
- Knowledge of and Access to Information Regarding Community Development Block Grants for Business Development, Tourism, Housing & Community Development

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Challenges & Opportunities

- Address day care Needs
- Recreational opportunities
- Housing that meets needs vs. cost of housing
- Marketing attributes – framing rural – outreach to young people while still in school to appreciate rural living
- Eligible for grant programs – encourage completion of Census
- Labor force – recruit & retain – employment opportunities for spouses & availability of day care
- Getting young people involved

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Trends – (What we Need to Be Aware of)

- ü Legislation or regulations that create unnecessary barriers e.g., to water usage, application of fertilizer etc.
- ü Increase in taxes.
- ü Wind energy development benefit to our local communities (consortium formed – landowners association).
- ü Children leave after high school and don't return perhaps due to job opportunities and/or low wages.