



City of Fort Dodge, Iowa

With iCompass' Paperless Meeting Management Solution the city government will be much more transparent while finding new levels of efficiency with their agenda creation. The public will have direct access to whatever information they are looking for.

"My main focus is on eliminating the time staff spends on things that don't add value."

David Fierke
City Manager



Local Government

Name: Fort Dodge
Location: Iowa
Population: 26,000
Web:
www.fortdodgeiowa.org

Profile

Fort Dodge, Iowa, is experiencing a resurgence due to the influx of agriculture-based industries and the associated growth in retail establishments. The city is investing millions of dollars in infrastructure improvements. As a new iCompass customer, Fort Dodge sees the value of a paperless solution and will be providing updates as the project progresses.

Software Information

- Meeting Management Pro


Challenges

- Cumbersome agenda preparation
- Excessive time in responding to information requests from the public
- Antiquated records management
- Too much time spent keeping city website agendas current

Anticipated Results

- Improved agenda preparation efficiency that will result in freeing up staff to take on new projects
- Searchable database of agendas and records
- Improved tracking of documents and activity throughout the meeting cycle
- Reduced time in keeping published agendas current





“The ability for the public to access the current and prior agendas will be really convenient with the new system.”

David Fierke, City Manager at Fort Dodge.

Recently the city purchased Meeting Manager Pro and is looking forward to being more open, transparent and streamlined in their handling of meeting agendas and records management.

Currently the city uses Dropbox as a way to share agenda items, but according to City Manager David Fierke, “Dropbox is very time-consuming and there are a lot of opportunities for things to get lost.”

David elaborates, “For me to read and approve an agenda item and move it to where it needs to be takes about 15 clicks. I have all these different steps to take just to sign it, save

it in the right place. It’s amazing how long that takes. I can easily make a mistake and put it in the wrong place or rename it the wrong thing. I’ve done that before.”

Eventually Fort Dodge will go paperless, not just the city council but with commissions as well. David relates that his main focus now is on eliminating the time staff spends on nonproductive things like handwriting numbers on pages and uploading individual agenda items to a website.

Fort Dodge is also looking forward to a better flow of information to the public, especially the ability to access

prior agendas and see the vote on a particular issue. David says, “That is one thing that is very difficult under our current system. When someone asks our staff to look back, it just consumes a lot of their time.”

The city selected Meeting Manager Pro because it is both a robust and flexible package. David says, “Some of the other packages force you to do it their way; you can’t do it your way.”

David concludes, “I can’t wait to use it. For me, having Meeting Manager Pro will definitely reduce stress because I won’t have to focus on meeting agendas. I can focus more on just running the city.”