

TUESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2012

**APPROVED MINUTES OF THE
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING HELD**

**STATE OF MINNESOTA)
DODGE COUNTY)**

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATION OFFICE
MANTORVILLE, MN**

2012-01 C.O.W.

The Dodge County Commissioners met in Committee of the Whole January 11, 2012, in the Commissioner's Room at the Dodge County Courthouse Annex, Mantorville, MN, at 9:00 a.m. CST. Chair Don Gray opened the meeting at 9:02 a.m. CST.

Meeting Convened

The Chair acknowledged those present:

Those Present

Members present: Jane Olive District #1
Lyle Tjosaas District #2
David Erickson District #3
Don Gray District #4
David Hanson District #5

Members absent: None

Also present: Jim Elmquist County Administrator
Becky Lubahn Deputy County Clerk
Melissa DeVetter Zoning Administrator
Mark Gamm Environmental Services
Director
Paul Kiltinen County Attorney

Zoning Administrator Melissa DeVetter met with the Board to discuss odor mitigation.

Feedlot Odor
Mitigation
Discussion

Due to recommendations from the County Attorney, Environmental Services staff is currently amending the feedlot performance section of the Ordinance to include odor mitigation and consolidate feedlot standards found in other areas of the Ordinance into one location.

Environmental Services staff requested time on the agenda to discuss options on how to adequately address odor mitigation concerns and the County Attorney's concern on the ability to enforce such provisions.

Ms. DeVetter handed out a quiz for those present to take regarding tolerable odor levels. The Zoning Administrator asked that the quiz be filled out according to how the individuals felt a reasonable person would answer the questions. Ms. DeVetter noted that the amount of annoying odor referred to in the quiz does not include stirring of the pits. Also pointed out was that the individuals taking the quiz should assume that they are always downwind of the feedlot.

Commissioner Erickson wanted to know if the county uses the OFFSET (Odor From Feedlot Setback Estimation Tool) model, what kind of wiggle room do we give.

Odor, feedlot size, barn style, proximity to other farms/homes and standards were discussed.

It was the consensus of the groups that the county would need to provide options that would help farmers meet any proposed standards.

Environmental Services Director Mark Gamm suggested that the county come up with a standard and the feedlot operator be responsible to come up with a way to meet the standard.

County Administrator Jim Elmquist wanted to know if Environmental Services would have more difficulty enforcing the standards.

The Zoning Administrator stated that enforcement would be easier with the OFFSET tool. They would have a tool that can be used by Environmental Services staff and/or the farmer which would tell them what technology will help the farmer meet the standard which will make it easier in the long run.

Commissioner Hanson stated that zero odor would be ideal, but is it possible during normal conditions without stirring the pit?

Mr. Elmquist questioned whether they believe a new standard would make Environmental Services lives easier?

Ms. DeVetter's response was yes.

The Zoning Administrator shared quiz results as well as figures for the annoyance free OFFSET percentages and hours/month people are impacted by annoying odors.

It was Commissioner Erickson's opinion that they would need to hold a public hearing and find out what the public's perception is on feedlot standards.

Ms. DeVetter was thanked for bringing the information to the Board.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:29 a.m. CST.

Meeting Adjourned

ATTEST:

DON GRAY
CHAIR, COUNTY BOARD

BECKY LUBAHN
DEPUTY CLERK

DATED: