

**TUESDAY, APRIL 10, 2012**

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

**STATE OF MINNESOTA)  
DODGE COUNTY)**

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATION OFFICE  
MANTORVILLE, MN**

**2012-07 C.O.W.**

The Dodge County Commissioners met in Committee of the Whole April 10, 2012, in the Commissioner's Room at the Dodge County Courthouse Annex, Mantorville, MN, at 9:00 a.m. CDT. Chair Don Gray opened the meeting at 9:01 a.m. CDT.

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
	Randy Lenth	Kasson City Administrator
	Terry Meyers	Kasson Park & Board Member
	Steve Howarth	Ice Arena Manager

Kasson City Administrator Randy Lenth met with the Board to provide a 2011 Ice Arena progress report and discuss goals for 2012.

Ice Arena Update

Mr. Lenth informed the Board that equipment maintenance has been an issue at the Ice Arena. The City of Kasson is still working on maintenance issues that were put off for a number of years due to the fact that there wasn't money in the budget to fix or replace failing equipment. The City Administrator noted that city staff and Ice Arena staff are continually working towards the goal of getting arena equipment functioning correctly. They are also starting to maintain everything the way they should and fixing/updating equipment as they can afford to.

Commissioner Erickson wanted to know if they are finding out whether or not their plan to use city staff to fill shifts at the arena is working out or not.

Randy Lenth stated that they are still working on that plan.

Ice Arena Manager Steve Howarth reported that while most of the arena staff have full-time jobs elsewhere, they are very good at what they do on a part-time basis at the arena.

Mr. Howarth informed the Board that they really haven't crossed over and used the city's maintenance staff as initially planned at the Ice Arena. Also noted was that city maintenance staff has been available to help with maintenance issues at the arena as needed.

The Ice Arena Manager reported that one of the benefits of the city managing the ice arena is that the parking lot is being maintained better now that it's paved.

Mr. Howarth informed the Board that if Public Works Director Burt Fjerstad is using the city's part-time staff for city projects that it won't work for him to use this same staff because they would get too many hours in if they also worked at the ice arena.

Compressor issues were discussed.

The Ice Arena Manager reported that they have four compressors at the Ice Arena, all less than two years old.

Humidity issues in the arena were discussed.

Utilization of the Ice Arena during the fair was discussed.

The Fair Board has requested that they be allowed to use the Ice Arena during the fair which would require the ice to be taken out.

Mr. Howarth stated that last year they had hockey camps, figure skating, four-on-four leagues and tournaments scheduled during the fair. It was noted that parking for the individuals using the ice during this time was a problem last year. This year the Ice Arena Manager would like to schedule a women's hockey tournament during the fair, he felt it would draw more families into the arena and fair than the men's four-on-four league did.

Randy Lenth reported that this year they are working on a plan to distribute parking vouchers and discount tickets for the people participating in programs offered at the Ice Arena during the fair in hopes of enticing them to also partake in fair activities.

The Ice Arena Manager stated that this year they will be pushing the Ice Arena facility as a training facility.

Mr. Howarth commented that he feels the new swimming pool will be a benefit to the city and offer another opportunity to promote activities in the Kasson area.

The new outdoor hockey rink was discussed. The Ice Arena Manager informed the Board that it is one of the best outdoor rinks in the state and was frequently used this last winter when weather permitted.

The Budget information for the Ice Arena, which was included in the Board packet, was discussed.

Mr. Howarth reported that anything at the arena that can be fixed by city staff, is fixed by city staff. More specialized repairs are handled by qualified technicians.

Ice Arena revenues were discussed.

Kasson Park & Board Member Terry Meyers stated that it was his opinion that since the City of Kasson has gotten involved in running the Ice Arena, the operation of the arena has gotten better. Things are getting done faster and the arena runs smoother. The building is more functional and working better.

Commissioner Tjosaas wanted to know if the fees have been raised.

Steve Howarth reported that he tries to keep the fees competitive with surrounding rinks in order to keep business local and offer family value.

Ice Arena Update - Continued

The Board thanked the Mr. Lenth, Mr. Howarth and Mr. Meyers for the update and asked that they provide an annual Ice Arena update.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:30 a.m. CDT.

Meeting Adjourned

**ATTEST:**

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DON GRAY  
CHAIR, COUNTY BOARD

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BECKY LUBAHN  
DEPUTY CLERK

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DATED: