

TUESDAY, JULY 10, 2012

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

**STATE OF MINNESOTA)
DODGE COUNTY)**

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATION OFFICE
MANTORVILLE, MN**

2012-13 C.O.W.

The Dodge County Commissioners met in Committee of the Whole July 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 9:00 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
	Jim Jensen	Sheriff

Sheriff Jim Jensen met with the Board to discuss the Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) Consolidation Study.

PSAP
Consolidation
Study Discussion

Sheriff Jensen reported that for the past year Dodge County, along with the other ten counties in Southeastern Minnesota, has been involved in a Regional PSAP Study. The final report has been given to the Sheriff's Office just recently with several different options.

Throughout the study the Sheriff's Office has been approached by other agencies with offers for his office to consolidate with their agencies. The Sheriff's Office is now at a point that they need to hire a consultant to look at Dodge County's options. A consultant would be able to help them determine what they would need to do and what their costs will be for each of their options.

The following are what the Sheriff sees as their options:

- Continue maintaining their own PSAP
- Consolidating with Goodhue and Wabasha Counties
- Consolidating with Wabasha County
- Consolidating with Rice and Steele Counties

The County Administrator has contacted Jeff Nelson who is a consultant at PSC Alliance Inc. Mr. Nelson has been recommended to find out what the estimated cost for each option would be.

The Sheriff reported that it is anticipated the consultant would have a report ready for the Board after the first of the year. Also noted was that the projected cost of hiring the consultant is between \$20,000 - \$24,000.

PSAP
Consolidation
Study Discussion -
Continued

Mr. Jensen informed the Board that he feels maintaining our own PSAP here in Dodge County is going to cost more money because the radio consoles need to be updated. The Sheriff stated that a neighboring county recently installed two new radio consoles; model MCC750, at a cost of approximately \$300,000. If the county is going to update the two and a half stations they currently have, he suggested that they consider updating to three stations.

County Administrator Jim Elmquist commented that he feels they need a feasibility study on each of the options so they can review what the equipment options are, what is needed, the cost, etc.

Commissioner Tjosaas wanted to know if there was a timeframe.

Mr. Jensen indicated that there wasn't a timeframe; however he would like to have the study done by the beginning of next year since they will be required to start e-charging next year. Sheriff Jensen would like to know the direction the county is going before they invest money in equipment and technology that doesn't support the route they decide to take. The Sheriff felt it was important for them to determine what the best PSAP option for the citizens of Dodge County is.

Commissioner Erickson commented that consolidation is not an easy task. There are a lot of questions, staff is impacted and they will need a consultant to look at all of these issues.

A brief discussion took place regarding the fact that a number of part-time Dispatchers train here in Dodge County and then eventually end up going elsewhere to find full-time employment.

Sheriff Jensen informed the Board that if the county decides to keep the PSAP here, he plans to restructure and incorporate more full-time staff in dispatch in an effort to retain the employees that they spend time and money to train.

Mr. Elmquist noted that one of the benefits of having Jeff Nelson as the consultant would be that he has worked with some of the other surrounding cities and counties and is already familiar with the systems they are using.

Commissioner Olive suggested that a summary of the PSAP study that was recently completed be presented to the Board members that aren't aware of the study results.

The Sheriff was asked to schedule a PSAP study presentation to report on the study results at a future meeting.

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

Meeting Adjourned

ATTEST:

DON GRAY
CHAIR, COUNTY BOARD

BECKY LUBAHN
DEPUTY CLERK

DATED: