

TUESDAY, AUGUST 28, 2012

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

**STATE OF MINNESOTA)
DODGE COUNTY)**

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATION OFFICE
MANTORVILLE, MN**

2012-16 C.O.W.

The Dodge County Commissioners met in Committee of the Whole August 28, 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
Jennifer Nelson SMIF Development Director
Alissa Blaha SMIF Development &
Operations Associate

Southeastern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF) Development Director Jennifer Nelson thanked Dodge County for their past support and provided the Board with an annual review of SMIF.

SMIF Annual
Review

SMIF Development & Operations Associate Alissa Blaha was available to comment on the annual review.

Since 1996, SMIF has been a catalyst for economic growth in 20 Minnesota counties. Their work focuses on building a prosperous region with vibrant communities, innovative businesses and a skilled and valued workforce.

Over the past 26 years, SMIF, together with hundreds of partners, has supported over 450 businesses with loans and technical assistance, totaling more than \$24 million and securing more than 7,300 jobs. It has benefited hundreds of communities and organizations through grants, training, and asset-based community development initiatives totaling more than \$24 million.

This year the theme is "Investing in Children." SMIF believes early childhood development is critical to achieving economic prosperity and community vitality. SMIF continues to invest about half of their annual budget within this area and will be featuring stories on their early childhood partnerships throughout 2012.

SMIF's investment in Dodge County was listed as follows:

| | |
|-----------|-------------|
| 29 Loans | \$1,315,309 |
| 32 Grants | \$ 160,262 |
| Total | \$1,475,571 |

This year, with the help of new donor partner ABDO publishing and AmeriCorps LEAP partner sites, SMIF launched a new early childhood effort. The “Reading Rocks” program put 2,400 books, a total value of \$45,480, into the hands and homes of children who attended SMIF’s AmeriCorps early childhood partner sites.

A kick-off event was held in November at the sites – including The Center Clinic in Dodge Center. AmeriCorps LEAP member Alneida Madrigal introduced the book and read to the children, along with reinforcing the theme by doing creative learning activities.

Each child received the book in a take-home bag along with learning resources and educational information for their parents.

AmeriCorps members also followed up with on-going activities around the remaining books in the series. Every child in Ms. Madrigal’s class received three books, for a total of 60 books distributed through Reading Rocks to students at The Center Clinic.

Here in Dodge County, SMIF supports business growth by providing a variety of financial and management tools, including the following highlights:

- Clean Plus, Inc., West Concord 1994, 1997, 2002, 2004, 2007, 2008, 2010, 2012
- High Country Energy, LLC, Kasson 2010
- Kasson-Mantorville Nursery Group. 2006
- Prairie Stone Coffee & Juice LLC, Kasson 2006
- Foam Pro Insulation, Hayfield 2004
- Woods Metal Works, Inc., Kasson 1993, 1994
- Tri-Star Manufacturing, Inc., Kasson 1992
- Hiawathaland Tool, Inc., Kasson 1992
- RDM of MN, Dodge Center 1989

Tornado Business Recovery Fund

\$1,000 in grants awarded to one farm in response to the June 2010 tornadoes.

Flood Recovery Fund

\$5,000 in grants awarded to two businesses in response to the September 2010 flood.

The following is a sampling of the organizations and programs supported in Dodge County by the Foundation:

- Claremont EDA, Industrial Development Initiative
- Dodge County, Regional Economic Development Planning
- RDM of MN, Dodge Center, “20 in 20” Recipient

Picture-It-Painted Recipients:

- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Dodge County
- Dodge County Historical Society/Wasioja School
- City of Kasson Historical Water Tower
- City of West Concord
- West Concord Historical Society Building

The following is a list of organizations and programs that benefit from SMIF’s Early Childhood Support in Dodge County:

More children ready to learn

- Dodge Center EDA, Child Care Needs Assessment
- Triton School, Dodge Center

AmeriCorps LEAP Community Partner Sites:

- The Center Clinic, Dodge Center, 2012
- SEMCAC Head Start, Hayfield, 2009

BookStart Recipients:

- Friends of the Kasson Library, 2010
- Kasson-Mantorville ECFE
- SEMCAC Head Start of Dodge County
- Triton ECFE/School Readiness, Dodge Center

Young Explorer Learning Center Recipients:

- Kasson-Mantorville Public Schools, 2011
- Triton ECFE, Dodge Center, 2011
- West Concord Public Library, 2010, 2011
- Kasson-Mantorville Community Education
- Kasson-Mantorville ECSE
- Kasson-Mantorville Nursery Group

Reading Rocks Recipients:

- Dodgeville Center Clinic, Dodge Center, 2011

It was reported that Dodge County’s return on investment is as follows:

| Return on Investment | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|------------|
| | Total Investment | Donor Support | ROI |
| Dodge | \$1,475,571 | \$88,220 | 1,673% |
| 20-County Total | \$47,416,212 | \$5,899,307 | 804% |

Commissioner Erickson inquired as to how people find out about SMIF.

Ms. Nelson reported that some of the ways they inform people about programs SMIF offers is through County Boards, banks, word of mouth, local chambers of commerce, newsletters and CEDA.

The Development Director thanked the Board for their time.

The Board thanked Ms. Nelson and Ms. Blaha for the update.

County Administrator Jim Elmquist provided the Board with a budget update.

Budget Update

Mr. Elmquist pointed out that the budget has been updated since the last budget conversation and a few items have been deleted to assist with levy expectations. Changes included Central Services and Emergency Management vehicles, a decrease to aggregate, and a set aside for Veteran Services capital.

The County Administrator noted that he has not changed the Fairview item within the Commissioner's budget. Once Mr. Elmquist has had a chance to discuss Fairview's budget with the Nursing Home Administrator, he will either amend the budget or explain the necessity for leaving the outside agency funding in the budget at the next meeting.

Commissioners briefly discussed where they'd like to set the preliminary budget in September and where they'd like to see the final budget set in December.

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

Meeting Adjourned

ATTEST:

DON GRAY
CHAIR, COUNTY BOARD

BECKY LUBAHN
DEPUTY CLERK

DATED: