

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2013

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

**STATE OF MINNESOTA)
DODGE COUNTY)**

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATION OFFICE
MANTORVILLE, MN**

2013-04 C.O.W.

The Dodge County Commissioners met in Committee of the Whole February 26, 2013, in the Commissioner's Room at the Dodge County Courthouse Annex, Mantorville, MN, at 9:00 a.m. CST. Chair Lyle Tjosaas opened the meeting at 9:02 a.m. CST.

Meeting Convened

The Chair acknowledged those present:

Those Present

Members present: John Allen District #1
Steven Gray District #2
Rodney Peterson District #3
David Erickson District #4
Lyle Tjosaas District #5

Members absent: None

Also present: Jim Elmquist County Administrator
Becky Lubahn Deputy County Clerk
Lisa Kramer Finance Director
Mike Brual Fair Board Treasurer
Tom Franke Fair Board Vice President

County Administrator Jim Elmquist informed the Board that members of the Fair Board Executive Board were present to discuss the Dodge County Agricultural & Mechanical Society financial outlook for 2013 and discuss where they have been experiencing financial shortfalls.

Fair Board
Discussion

Mr. Elmquist noted that included in the Board packet was a letter from Kasson State Bank in regards to a loan the Fair Board has that the county co-signed years ago. Part of the financial discussion today will be to determine how the loan should be handled for the previous year and for years to come.

The Fair Board representatives shared with the Board profit and loss totals for the Dodge County Agricultural & Mechanical Society for October 2011 through September 2012.

Brief discussion took place regarding the fact that the Hairball band didn't draw as many people as anticipated which contributed to some of the shortfall for 2012.

Commissioners questioned how Dodge County's fair compared to fairs in similar sized and surrounding counties.

Commissioners agreed that it's hard to get a sense of how things are going when trying to compare Dodge County's fair to others, especially since each county's Fair Board handles things differently.

Fair Board
Discussion -
Continued

Commissioner Peterson felt there were too many differences in how things are run; therefore it would be difficult to accurately compare one county to another.

Commissioner Gray asked for clarification of what they hoped to accomplish at the meeting today.

Finance Director Lisa Kramer reported that the Board will be asked to take some type of action on the Fair Board loan default issue during the full Board meeting later this morning.

Commissioner Peterson noted that the 2013 allocation for the Fair Board wasn't a substantial amount of money. Mr. Peterson commented that he would like to see the Fair Board receive at least as much money as they do per year serving as County Commissioners.

It was Commissioner Peterson's opinion that the following Fair Board related items need to be addressed:

- budget
- insurance
- snow plowing
- 4-Seasons Arena

Mr. Peterson informed the Board that the fairgrounds has not been plowed this winter.

It was reported that the City of Kasson had been cleaning the fairgrounds roads and walking/bike path. If the city isn't going to continue plowing, the Highway Department may be asked to assist with plowing the fairgrounds.

Commissioner Peterson commented that the Fair Board statutorily has the right to have use of the 4-Seasons Arena during the fair.

It was Commissioner Gray's opinion that the Board needs to rethink the Fair Board budget process.

Mr. Franke informed the Board that next year they plan to have a new promoter come in and run the weekly races at the Dodge County Speedway. This promoter/group is made up of volunteers who have previously run other weekly races successfully. Mr. Franke felt that if the Fair Board can successfully promote the races in 2014, they could resolve their budget deficit issues.

The Board thanked Mr. Franke and Mr. Brual for the report.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:31 a.m. CST.

Meeting Adjourned

ATTEST:

LYLE TJOSAAS
CHAIR, COUNTY BOARD

BECKY LUBAHN
DEPUTY CLERK

DATED: