

TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 2013

**APPROVED MINUTES OF THE
COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING HELD**

**STATE OF MINNESOTA)
COUNTY OF DODGE)**

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATION OFFICE
MANTORVILLE, MN**

2013-06

The Dodge County Board of Commissioners met in regular session March 12, 2013, in the Commissioner's Room at the Courthouse Annex, Mantorville, MN, at 9:30 a.m. CDT. Lyle Tjosaas, Chair called the County Board of Commissioners meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. CDT.

Meeting Convened

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Pledge of Allegiance

The County Administrator acknowledged those present and established that there was a quorum:

Those Present

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

Members absent: None

Also present:	Jim Elmquist	County Administrator
	Becky Lubahn	Deputy County Clerk
	Paul Kiltinen	County Attorney

Motion by Erickson seconded by Peterson to approve the agenda as presented.
Motion adopted unanimously.

Agenda Approved

Motion by Allen seconded by Gray to approve the following items on the Consent Agenda:

Consent Agenda
Items Approved

- 1.1 Chair and County Administrator to sign a Community Corrections Act Subsidy Agreement with Olmsted County and Fillmore County, effective January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013.
- 1.2 Human Services resolution #95-10.
- 1.3 Human Services Director and County Attorney to execute an updated contract with the Minnesota Department of Human Services to participate in the local collaborative time study.
- 1.4 Chair and Deputy Clerk to sign resolution #2013-10 to accept a donation of \$500.00 from the Erdman Charitable Board for the Dodge County Adult Drug Court for future program graduates and Sober Fest events.
- 1.5 Chair and Deputy Clerk to sign resolution #2013-11 to accept a donation of \$2,500.00 from the Dodge County United Way for the D.A.R.E. Program.
- 1.6 The Chair to sign a letter in support of House File 865/Senate File 639; Product Stewardship Programs.

Motion adopted unanimously.

Emergency Management Director Matt Maas provided the Board with a radon update.

Radon Mitigation
Plan Update

John McNamara from Wold Architects and Engineers was not able to attend the meeting.

It was reported that on February 26, 2013, the Safety Committee discussed the mitigation options Wold Architects and Engineers presented on radon level issues in the old courthouse area. What was determined was the overall plan should be forwarded to the County Board to attain feedback relative to further steps. The methods proposed in the report were (1) an Active Soil Depressurization (SAD) system and (2) a Building Pressurization plan. The varying costs were highlighted with pros and cons and the report was forwarded to the Board. An updated report will likely be discussed on March 26, 2013 but further considerations likely need to be taken before a determination of a course of action.

As reported, several tests have been completed showing elevated radon levels in the old county courthouse. It was questioned whether or not individuals should be immediately moved and the initial reaction was that it may be something to consider. Potential space options have been considered but at this point, doing so would be getting ahead of the process.

Mr. Maas has been in contact with the Minnesota State Department of Public Health and their recommendation for the county is to conduct what is called continuous testing. The previous tests the county has conducted were tests over a 72 to 96-hour span but only tested the highest levels of radon (spikes) within a timeframe. Continuous testing is different in that it's a process where an area is monitored by a machine by the hour and readings documented. The test determines if the time of day and the HVAC system settings affect the overall radon levels and, are the elevated results at times of occupancy? At this point in time, the State Department of Public Health is offering to lend the machine to the county at no cost.

The Emergency Management Director noted that he believes the machine arrived this morning and they will begin testing the lower level of the old courthouse today. The testing will last a week and then they will take a look at the results and go from there.

Discussion took place on whether or not HVAC system adjustments will be made during the testing.

Mr. Maas stated that adjustments to the HVAC system will be experimented with to see if the adjustments alter the test results.

Commissioner Gray commented that the County Board is concerned with the safety and health of staff and wants to make sure they are moving forward with determining what the problem is and then take steps to correct the problem.

Weber & Leth Attorney Brian Weber met with the Board to discuss the county's requirement for a survey in probate situations for land.

Requirement for a
Survey in Probate
Situations for Land
Discussion

Mr. Weber is requesting that the Commissioners either clarify or modify the Dodge County Zoning Ordinance so that it does not apply to probate distributions (except any distributions involving a new metes and bounds description i.e. cutting out a building site). Mr. Weber reported that a survey will cost an estate approximately \$1,500.00 each. It was his opinion that this is an unnecessary expense to an estate where no sale is taking place and the land is merely being distributed amongst the children or heirs.

Commissioner Tjosaas informed the Board that the county's current Zoning Ordinance was thoroughly reviewed before it was approved. Mr. Tjosaas noted that he was not in favor of changing the ordinance.

Included in the board packet was a memo from County Attorney Paul Kiltinen which had the following comments in response to Brian Weber's letter and request:

The county has the ability to create ordinances and govern the lands, taxes, and provide for the general welfare of its residents. On occasion there are issues that arise that may require the Board to act that may appear contrary to what is stated in the ordinance but may be determined to be in the best interest of the county, or residents.

Mr. Kiltinen reported that many years ago a developer wanted to create a subdivision that would have a street serving the lots which would align between 7th and 8th Streets Northwest in Kasson. The County Engineer who has authority to determine roads did not like that alignment and would not sign off on the plat, the developer approached the Board, and after debate the Commissioners directed that the plat be recorded as proposed and now there is a 7 1/2 Street Northwest.

Within the last two years there have been instances where properties have been misclassified for tax purposes. Generally there is a procedure for identifying this and making changes. In both circumstances the owners had missed the cut off dates. After discussion it was determined that although not within the rules, they would change the classifications in the interest of resolving this hardship.

The point in both of these scenarios reflects the Commissioners taking an action to remedy a situation that needed to be addressed in a more timely fashion than if the rules would have been followed, eventually the tax classifications would have been changed to reflect real use, but the tax payer would have paid more for those two years. And a subdivision would have eventually been built, but the roads would have changed the layout of the subdivision such that it would not have been the neighborhood that it is.

The county currently has an ordinance drafted to address septic systems, and requires compliance with the requirements, but specifically provides exceptions as identified. Two that come to mind are in situations where the property is transferred through an estate or dissolution of marriage.

Those two circumstances would result in an unexpected hardship potentially for those receiving the property, as they might have if this were a sale or purchase. The county passed an ordinance with regard to surveys, requiring surveys in circumstances where a tax parcel is split. Brian Weber is representing an estate where three contiguous 40 acre parcels are being divided in two. Without addressing the underlying issue of whether they should have to survey whole quarter sections, it presents a situation where the estate is faced with the potential for a hardship and expense that they could not have anticipated.

Requirement for a
Survey in Probate
Situations for Land
Discussion -
Continued

Mr. Kiltinen indicated that the Commissioners will have two choices. The first is to state that the ordinance is clear and no deed creating a split can be filed without an approved survey ending the debate immediately, or they can determine that the ordinance has within it a serious oversight that needs to be addressed now. If the Board chooses the second option then they would direct that the Assessor's Office and Recorder's Office to accept the two deeds and allow them to be recorded without the survey, and then further direct that staff explore a modification to the ordinance to fix this oversight.

The County Attorney pointed out that although option #2 is contrary to the words on the paper, it might more timely address the problem, which also needs to be resolved in time, that being they could request an amendment to the zoning ordinance addressing this issue while everyone waits. It does not appear that there is any aggrieved party who would have standing to bring an action questioning or challenging a discretionary decision made after debate and discussion.

Also included in the Board packet was a memo from Zoning Administrator Melissa DeVetter in response to a request for clarification and/or modification on the issue with the division and distribution of property in association with the Woolison estate.

The memo stated that from the Zoning Department's perspective, this proposal would require a survey under Chapter 3 of the Dodge County Zoning Ordinance. In addition, the Dodge County Surveyor has also provided her opinion that, after reviewing the documents, surveys and ordinance, the division would be subject to the survey requirement per her e-mail dated March 4, 2013.

The Zoning Administrator noted that when speaking with Mr. Weber about this issue, it was unclear as to what the issue was and what, from Zoning's perspective, the Dodge County Zoning Ordinance defines (under Chapter 18) is the proper process to follow in this case. Ms. DeVetter understands that Mr. Weber has every right to go before the Board; however, it is Zoning's opinion that clarification has already been provided, as there are no hidden meanings in the language. If additional clarification is sought, it should be a formal appeal through the variance process of Section 18.11 of the Dodge County Zoning Ordinance, although the Zoning Administrator believes it would be an interesting argument to clarify what the intent of the language is when the four departments that contributed to writing the requirements (Zoning, Surveyor, Assessor and Recorder) have already provided clarification in the intent of this issue, which has been dismissed simply because Mr. Weber disagrees with the requirement.

The memo also noted that from the Zoning perspective, it should be well known that not everyone agrees with all ordinance provisions, but the process to develop the ordinance is a public one and once approved, there is a process to handle disagreements, either through the amendment process or enforcement if the disagreement involves a violation. As is written, the Woolison request is subject to the survey requirements.

Requirement for a
Survey in Probate
Situations for Land
Discussion -
Continued

All involved in the year and a half process of creating the ordinance, know what the intent of the language is, as countless hours were spent writing it and then again revising it when it was not acceptable to the public for approval. The intent should be clear for anyone that went through the public hearing process that Dodge County went through to adopt the survey requirement. The survey requirement is rather simple language, which is one of the reasons it was supported by the public that actually took the time to read it and express their opinions at the public hearing. It does not address the reason for the division, but the fact that it is a division of property. There are no specific "types" of divisions of property that are exempted under the current survey requirement that has been approved, although there was language for exemptions in the previous version that was denied.

However, in going before the Board, Mr. Weber could also be requesting an amendment to the recently adopted survey requirement language. Section 18.9.2 (A) of the Dodge County Zoning Ordinance indicates that an amendment to the text may be initiated by the County Board, the Planning Commission or by application of the property owner.

Ms. DeVetter is assuming that Mr. Weber is trying to persuade the Board to initiate this amendment to the ordinance on his behalf, as he is not the property owner, although this is the first challenge to the survey requirement since the public supported it, the Planning Commission recommended approval on May 1, 2012 and the County Board adopted it on May 8, 2012. This challenge is not based upon whether a survey is or is not required under the ordinance language, but whether divisions of property going through the probate/estate process should be exempted. The Zoning Administrator noted that this exemption and others previously existed within the first version of the survey requirements which had issues at the public hearing, was recommended for denial by the Planning Commission on December 7, 2011 and formally denied by the County Board on December 13, 2011.

The Zoning Administrator asked that the County Board, should they not wish to initiate an amendment (that was previously denied), inform Mr. Weber of the proper process for proposed ordinance amendments. In this case, the affected property owner should submit an application for an amendment to the Dodge County Zoning Ordinance with the \$600 application fee and go through the public hearing process. At the public hearing held for Mr. Weber's client's amendment request, he can present his reasons why this particular division of property involving the probate of estates, which results in separate parcels with separate deeds and separate owners should be exempt, when compared to other divisions of property which also results in separate parcels with separate deeds and separate owners.

The Zoning department understands that if the estate was simply conveying a single parcel or allocating percentages of the parcels to the heirs and not actually distributing (dividing) the property, it, would not be subject to the requirements.

Requirement for a Survey in Probate Situations for Land Discussion - Continued

Ms. DeVetter felt this would seem like the fair way to proceed considering that, as the Board may recall, the county had another landowner, Mr. Snaza, who was required to go through the amendment request and public hearing process a couple of years ago when he was proposing a text amendment to the language of the Agricultural Zoning District, which was later denied through the public hearing process. This request is no different as it affects all of Dodge County.

The survey requirement that has been adopted, went through the public hearing process (twice) and was supported by the public who read the language and attended the public hearing, the Dodge County Planning Commission, the Dodge County Zoning, Recorder's and Assessor's and Finance Offices, the Dodge County Surveyor, the County Attorney and the County Board. The Zoning Administrator respectfully asked that the County Board seriously considers all of the above before making any decisions to "clarify" and/or " modify" the ordinance and advise Mr. Weber on the proper process for any property owner's requesting an amendment to the Dodge County Zoning Ordinance.

It was Commissioner Gray's opinion that Mr. Weber needs to work with Ms. DeVetter.

The options available to Mr. Weber were briefly revisited.

Deputy County Assessor Mike Stupka was available to comment on the request. Mr. Stupka stated that in an effort to be fair and uniform, he supports requiring surveys for all divisions of land.

Commissioner Peterson expressed concerns with some of the rationale presented in opposition to Mr. Weber's request.

Motion by Commissioner Peterson to direct that the Assessor's Office and Recorder's Office to accept the two deeds for the Woolison property split and allow them to be recorded without the survey.

Request to Allow Split Without Survey Failed

The motion failed due to the lack of a second.

No further action was taken on the request.

Deputy County Assessor Mike Stupka presented for the Board's consideration a 2013 Assessment Agreement summary log for the 18 jurisdictions in Dodge County. Each of the townships and cities has returned their signed agreements and payments. The total amount collected for the 2013 assessment fees is \$114,081.

2013 Assessment Agreements Approved

Motion by Allen seconded by Gray to approve and authorize the Chair and County Administrator to sign the 2013 Assessment Agreements and fees for assessment services rendered as follows:

CTV	TOWNSHIP/CITY	RETURNED AGREEMENT	TOTAL ASSESSMENT FEE	RECEIVED PAYMENT
7	Ashland Township	1/16/13	\$ 3,516.00	1/16/13
8	Canisteo Township	1/16/13	\$ 4,735.00	1/16/13
9	Claremont Township	1/10/13	\$ 3,984.00	1/10/13
10	Concord Township	1/23/13	\$ 4,928.00	1/23/13
11	Ellington Township	2/25/13	\$ 3,353.00	2/25/13
12	Hayfield Township	1/18/13	\$ 3,740.00	1/18/13
13	Mantorville Township	1/9/13	\$ 9,368.00	1/9/13
14	Milton Township	2/14/13	\$ 5,844.00	2/14/13
15	Ripley Township	1/22/13	\$ 2,876.00	1/22/13
16	Vernon Township	1/31/13	\$ 4,851.00	1/31/13
17	Wasioja Township	2/14/13	\$ 6,310.00	2/14/13
18	Westfield Township	1/9/13	\$ 4,230.00	1/9/13
21	Claremont City	1/10/13	\$ 2,793.00	1/25/13
22	Dodge Center	2/27/13	\$ 11,900.00	2/27/13
23	Hayfield City	1/3/13	\$ 6,312.00	2/28/13
24	Kasson City	1/11/13	\$ 25,859.00	1/25/13
25	Mantorville City	1/31/13	\$ 5,256.00	1/31/13
26	West Concord	1/23/13	\$ 4,226.00	1/23/13
Grand Totals			\$114,081.00	

2013 Assessment Agreements Approved - Continued

Motion adopted unanimously.

Zoning Administrator Melissa DeVetter presented for the Board's consideration the March 6, 2013 Planning Commission recommendations.

CUP #13-01 Approved

Motion by Allen seconded by Peterson to approve of the following action of the Planning and Zoning Commission as reviewed on March 6, 2013 with the reasons, recommendations and conditions as found in the individual permit:

Hodgman Drainage Co., - CUP #13-01

The public hearing is to consider an application for a Conditional Use Permit to allow an Ag Related Business in the Agricultural District. The property is 9.1 acres located in the SE 1/4 of the SW 1/4 of Section 19, Wasioja Township. Hodgman Drainage Co., Inc. is the applicant and Daniel and Taylor Hodgman are the property owners.

The Planning Commission recommends approval with the following conditions:

1. Operation will comply with all local, state, and federal regulation regarding the use and activities performed on site.

2. Any sign shall meet the performance standards of Section 17.24 of the Dodge County Zoning Ordinance. A sign advertising the business shall not exceed one hundred sixty (160) square feet and shall be set back a minimum of ten (10) feet from the right-of-way.
3. Any change involving the addition of new business related structures or employees beyond that specified in the agreement/application on file with the CUP, enlargement, intensification of the use or similar changes not specifically permitted by the CUP shall require an amended CUP to be issued by the County Board.
4. The business shall comply with the conditions of this permit and the Business Plan, which shall be recorded with the CUP.
5. A Zoning Permit shall be obtained prior to any construction.
6. Any sewage treatment system serving the office or shop area shall comply with the Dodge County Subsurface Sewage Treatment System Ordinance, No. 4, or successor. The applicant shall work with the Dodge County SSTS Coordinator to obtain any necessary permits, inspections and/or other approvals.
7. Discharges from the floor drain shall be appropriately collected, treated and discharged as determined by the EPA or MPCA.
8. The applicant shall work with and obtain any necessary permit from MNDOT for removal and relocation of the existing access to the property off of 620th Street/County Road 34.
9. Parking shall comply with the design requirements of Section 1602.2 and any County Board requirements.
10. Stormwater runoff quality and quantity due to the impervious surface from the building and parking area shall be adequately addressed on site. Complaints involving stormwater shall result in review of the CUP by the Planning Commission.
11. The applicant shall provide the county with copies of the MPCA's stormwater permits, when applicable.
12. The business shall comply with Section 17.19 (Nuisance Standards). Nuisance complaints shall result in review of the CUP by the Planning Commission.
13. Hours of operation shall be as indicated by the applicant in the Findings of Fact.
14. If any on site structures are removed to accommodate the business, they shall be properly evaluated and disposed of. The applicant shall coordinate with Environmental Services staff to ensure all requirements are followed prior to removal of any structures.

CUP #13-01
Approved -
Continued

Motion adopted unanimously.

Employee Relations Director Lisa Hager presented for the Board's consideration a Family Medical Leave Act Policy amendment.

FMLA Policy
Amendment
Approved

Included in the Board packet was a revised Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) Policy. On February 6, 2013, a final rule was issued by the U.S. Department of Labor Wage and hour Division that takes effect March 8, 2013.

The Final Ruling on FMLA amendments includes statutory amendments to the FMLA that expanded the FMLA's military caregiver leave and qualifying exigency leave provisions. The amendments extended military caregiver leave to eligible employees whose family members are recent veterans with serious injuries or illnesses, and expand the definition of a serious injury or illness to include injuries or illnesses that result from preexisting conditions. The amendments also expanded qualifying exigency leave to eligible employees with family members serving in the Regular Armed Forces, and added a requirement that for all qualifying exigency leave the military member must be deployed to a foreign country. Definitions of certain terms were also part of this final ruling.

*FMLA Policy
Amendment
Approved -
Continued*

Ms. Hager has updated the FMLA policy to reflect the changes required by this final ruling.

Motion by Erickson seconded by Gray to approve and authorize the revised Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) Policy as presented. *Motion adopted unanimously.*

Ms. Hager presented the Personnel Agenda for the Board's consideration.

*Personnel Actions
Approved*

Motion by Erickson seconded by Gray to approve the following personnel actions:

A. Human Services

- A.1 Jessica Baker – Social Worker
Authorization to employ at C42 step 9 \$20.28 to fill approved vacancy.
Effective Date: 3/18/13
- A.2 Krista Foley – Social Worker
Authorization to change status from Support Enforcement Aide B22 .9 FTE step 6 \$16.16 to Social Worker C41 1.0 FTE step 9 \$20.28 to fill approved vacancy.
Effective Date: 3/11/13
- A.3 Support Enforcement Aide - .9 FTE
Authorization to post and fill vacancy created by status change.
Effective Date: 3/12/13

B. Public Health

- B.1 Deborah Harlow – Public Health Nurse I
Annual review.
Effective Date: 3/23/13

C. Recorder's Office

- C.1 Pamela Holzer – Deputy Recorder
Step increase from B22 step 4 \$17.21 to B22 step 3 \$17.78.
Effective Date: 2/26/13

D. Sheriff's Office

- D.1 Richard Allee – Sergeant
Step increase from C43 hire step \$27.44 to C43 24 month step \$28.34.
Effective Date: 2/23/11
- D.2 Jim Lee – 911 Dispatcher - .8 FTE
Authorization to change status from .8 FTE to On-Call.
Effective Date: 3/4/13

- D.3 Gary Scofield – Deputy Sheriff - .65 FTE
No longer employed.
Effective Date: 3/22/13

Personnel Actions
Approved -
Continued

E. Administration

- E.1 Tobey Hicks – Information System Specialist
Step increase from B31 step 3 \$20.95 to B31 step 2 \$21.37.
Effective Date: 3/17/13

Motion adopted unanimously.

Taxpayer Services Director Rose Culbertson reviewed bills with the Board.

Bills Approved

Motion by Erickson seconded by Peterson to approve the bills as discussed in the following amounts from the appropriate funds as determined by Finance:

01	Revenue Fund	\$	54,530.31
11	Human Services Fund	\$	34.25
13	Road and Bridge Fund	\$	22,676.11
16	Environmental Quality Fund	\$	5,361.00
37	Debt Fund-County Go	\$	100.00
	Total	\$	82,701.67

Motion adopted unanimously.

Finance Director Lisa Kramer presented for the Board's review the 2012 Audit Engagement letter.

2012 Audit
Engagement Letter
Approved

Each year the State Auditors require a signed engagement letter describing the services the Auditors will provide and the responsibility of the county.

Motion by Gray seconded by Peterson to approve and authorize the Chair, County Administrator and Finance Director to sign the 2012 audit engagement letter with the State Auditor's as presented. *Motion adopted unanimously.*

Ms. Kramer discussed with the Board the proposed 2013 savings rate for governmental agencies.

2013 Savings Rate
for Governmental
Agencies Approved
by Resolution
#2013-12

In January of every year, the county establishes a savings rate by resolution for governmental agencies that qualify for accrued interest. Family Services Collaborative is currently the governmental agency that qualified for this rate. Finance considers Wells Fargo savings account rate as the benchmark rate and set the interest rate at .10% for 2013.

Motion by Allen seconded by Peterson to approve and authorize the Chair and Deputy Clerk to sign resolution #2013-12 setting the 2013 savings rate for governmental agencies:

WHEREAS, Dodge County needs to establish an annual interest rate payable to governmental agencies that qualify for accrued interest, and

WHEREAS, the interest rate used by Wells Fargo Bank savings account will be considered the benchmark rate, and

2013 Savings Rate
for Governmental
Agencies Approved
by Resolution
#2013-12 - Continued

WHEREAS, the general funds were invested in the year 2012 in a money market savings account earning 0.10% at year end 2012,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the year 2013 annual interest rate payable to qualified agencies shall be 0.10%.

Resolution adopted unanimously.

The Finance Director discussed with the Board her request to approve the designation of depositories for 2013.

2013 Depositories
Authorized

Motion by Erickson seconded by Peterson to approve and authorize the following banks as depositories for Dodge County for 2013:

Citizens State Bank, Hayfield
Eastwood Bank, Kasson
Equity Bank, Dodge Center/Claremont
Farmers State Bank, West Concord
Kasson State Bank, Kasson
Pine Island Bank, Pine Island
Wells Fargo Bank, Dodge Center

All banks have pledged collateral and completed the certification which is on file.

Motion adopted unanimously.

County Attorney Paul Kiltinen provided the Board with a legal update.

Legal Update

Mr. Kiltinen briefly discussed an issue between the Fair Board and City of Kasson regarding use of the Four Seasons Arena during the fair and interpretation of the state statute regarding the Fair Board's right to access the building during the fair.

Commissioner Peterson commented that he would like to have a meeting with the Fair Board, county and City of Kasson to discuss the ice arena issue.

It was noted that since the City of Kasson has taken over the operation of the Four Seasons Arena that they are not in favor of taking the ice out during the fair because they feel the loss of revenue during that time exceeds the benefits of having this space available for vendor space.

Commissioner Gray suggested that the county talk to Steele County to see what type of agreements they have in place with their Four Seasons Arena since their two indoor arenas are used during the Steele County fair.

The County Attorney was thanked for the update.

Sheriff Jim Jensen discussed with the Board his request for out-of-state training.

Out-of-State Training
for Sheriff Jensen
Approved

The Sheriff has been accepted to go to the National Sheriff's Institute Leadership Training in Aurora, Colorado April 7-13, 2013 of this year. This is free training offered to first term Sheriff's throughout the United States. The training starts on April 7 and ends on April 13. Sheriff Jensen will need to allow time for travel to and from Colorado also. Mr. Jensen plans on traveling with the Freeborn County Sheriff who has also been accepted to the Sheriff's Institute.

Mr. Jensen has been told by other Sheriff's that have attended this training that it is very valuable leadership training.

Motion by Erickson seconded by Gray to approve and authorize the Sheriff to attend the National Sheriff's Institute Leadership Training in Aurora, Colorado April 7-13, 2013 as requested. *Motion adopted unanimously.*

Mr. Jensen reviewed with the Board his request to allow out-of-county take home squads.

Take-Home Squads
Authorized for Two
Deputies Who Reside
in Byron

The Dodge County Sheriff's Office implemented a Take-Home Squad Program several years ago. At that time the only Deputies that took squads home were the Deputies that lived in Dodge County. Dodge County Sheriff's Deputies were assigned take-home squad cars which allowed for rapid response to emergency calls and to allow for better personal care of their assigned squad cars.

At the time and up until now, Deputies that lived out of the county could not take their squads home unless they had permission from the Sheriff. The Sheriff's Office currently has two Deputies that live in Byron. They live slightly over a mile from the county line and live closer to the courthouse than the Sheriff does.

Mr. Jensen is asking for the Board's approval to allow these two Deputies to take their assigned squads home on a regular basis. Allowing them to take their squads home would free up two more parking spots either at the shop or at the courthouse. It would also allow them to leave most of their equipment in their squad which is easier on the squad and on the equipment (not to mention a time savings). It would also make the squads more visible to the public, which promotes driver safety and deters crime. Because the two Deputies live so close to the courthouse, there would not be much of an added expense to the Sheriff's Office and the benefit to the county will certainly out way the expense.

Motion by Erickson seconded by Peterson to approve and authorize the two Dodge County Deputies that live in Byron to take their squads home as requested. *Motion adopted, Gray, Peterson, Erickson, Tjosaas aye, Allen nay.*

It was the consensus of the Board that each additional request for take-home squads for Deputies that live out of the county will be handled on a case by case basis.

Tom Radio, attorney from Best and Flanagan LLP met with the Board to discuss an HRA issue.

HRA Discussion

Mr. Radio discussed with the Board the overall HRA concerns involving the Southeast Minnesota Multi-County Housing and Redevelopment Authority (SEMMCHRA).

Mr. Radio briefly updated the Board on what has occurred so far with the county's desire to remove themselves from the authority and to discuss the county's options moving forward. Mr. Radio noted that with the proposed SEMMCHRA levy legislation that SEMMCHRA could still levy Dodge County dollars even if the county was allowed to leave SEMMCHRA.

Mr. Radio informed the Board that Best and Flanagan does have a lobbyist on staff that could lobby on behalf of the county if that was their desire.

The Board reiterated their opposition to legislation that would allow SEMMCHRA to levy Dodge County funds without Dodge County's approval.

Mr. Radio stated that he needs direction from the Board if they would like Best and Flanagan to represent Dodge County in opposition to the proposed levy legislation.

A comment was made that taxation without representation was not good for the county.

Section 8 vouchers were briefly discussed and the fact that the county feels the Dodge County vouchers are being held hostage by SEMMCHRA.

Motion by Erickson seconded by Gray to direct Best and Flanagan to appoint their employee that is versed on lobbying to speak to the legislature on behalf of Dodge County regarding the county's opposition to the proposed SEMMCHRA levy legislation. The cost of hiring the lobbyist is not to exceed \$5,000. *Motion adopted unanimously.*

Best & Flanagan
Directed to Lobby on
Behalf of Dodge
County Regarding
Opposition to
Proposed Levy
Legislation

It was determined that Mr. Radio should also pursue mediation with SEMMCHRA.

The County Administrator presented for the Board's consideration a proclamation for the Kasson-Mantorville Wrestling Team.

2013 Winter Sports
State Championship
Recognition
Approved by
Resolution #2013-13

Included in the Board packet was a proclamation that recognizes the Kasson-Mantorville Wrestling Team's achievements at the Minnesota State Wrestling Tournament. Accolades include a Team State Championship (AA), individual winners in several weight classes, and an academic award. This is the first team championship for the Kasson-Mantorville Wrestling Team.

Motion by Allen seconded by Peterson to approve and authorize the Chair and Deputy Clerk to sign resolution #2013-13 in recognition of the Kasson-Mantorville Wrestling Team's achievements at the Minnesota State Wrestling Tournament:

WHEREAS; the Dodge County Board of Commissioners recognizes the hard work and dedication that it takes to be a successful team member of high school athletic teams; and

2013 Winter Sports
State Championship
Recognition
Approved by
Resolution #2013-13
- Continued

WHEREAS; the high schools located within Dodge County have a long history of producing high quality individuals in the area of athletics and academics; and

WHEREAS; the students in the Kasson/Mantorville, Triton and Hayfield school districts have traditionally represented the citizens of Dodge County with the highest of values and dedication.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED; that the Dodge County Board of Commissioners congratulate and recognize the achievements made by the following Dodge County athletes and teams:

Kasson/Mantorville High School Wrestling Team
2013 State Tournament Class AA Team Champions
Academic Silver Award for a Team GPA of 3.42

Nate Thomas (Kasson/Mantorville High School) Wrestling Class AA 126 Pound State Champion

Coltan Laganiere (Kasson/Mantorville High School) Wrestling Class AA 138 Pound State Champion

Sam Stoll (Kasson/Mantorville High School) Wrestling Class AA Heavyweight State Champion

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED; that Dodge County will forward this resolution to the Kasson/Mantorville School Board in hopes of public recognition of these great accomplishments.

Resolution adopted unanimously.

Mr. Elmquist discussed with the Board his request to approve/deny the proposed mission and vision statements.

Vision and Mission
Statement Approved

The County Administrator reported that on March 5, 2013, the County Board and department heads met to discuss the strategic plan and one element from the discussion was a vision and mission statement proposal. Included in the Board packet was a copy of the mission/vision that was suggested by the group and is being presented for the Board's review and consideration.

The proposed vision and mission statement reads as follows:

Vision:

Dodge County provides services the community and staff take pride in.

Mission:

To efficiently operate within a budget while providing excellent service, maintaining a rural character, and preparing the county to operate effectively for years to come.

Vision and Mission Statement Approved - Continued

Motion by Allen seconded by Peterson to approve and vision and mission statement as presented. *Motion adopted unanimously.*

The County Attorney left the meeting at 11:23 a.m. CDT.

County Attorney Left Meeting

Commissioner Gray presented a summary of the Human Services Committee report and action items.

Human Services Committee Report

Commissioner Tjosaas presented a summary of the Administration Committee report and action items.

Administration Committee Report

Motion by Peterson seconded by Allen to approve and authorize the February 26, 2013 Committee of the Whole meeting minutes as presented. *Motion adopted unanimously.*

02/26/13 Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes Approved

Motion by Erickson seconded by Gray to approve and authorize the February 26, 2013 meeting minutes as corrected on page 50, 51, 61 and 62. *Motion adopted unanimously.*

02/26/13 Meeting Minutes Approved

Commissioners provided their agency reports. Commissioner Allen did not have any meetings to report. Commissioner Erickson attended work session-facility report, a meeting with the cities of: Claremont, Dodge Center, West Concord, Triton School District and Dodge County, a public hearing on Mower/Dodge Joint Drainage Ditch #1, a Strategic Planning/Space Study work session, a Dodge County Planning & Zoning meeting and a Dispatchers evaluation report. Commissioner Gray attended a County Board meeting, a meeting with the schools, a Zip Rail meeting, a 2nd Annual Dodge County Health Summit, a Transportation Highway 14 meeting, a Rail Study PAC meeting, a Strategic Planning meeting and a Dodge County Board meeting. Commissioner Peterson attended a Fair Board meeting, a Dodge County Building meeting, a Safety Committee meeting, a meeting with Legislators and a Mower County Ditch meeting. Commissioner Tjosaas attended a Building Committee meeting, a Mayo Public Health meeting, a SDA meeting, a Highway 14 meeting, a Planning & Zoning meeting, a Rochester to Farm meeting and a Capital meeting.

Agency Reports

Motion by Peterson seconded by Gray to adjourn the meeting at 11:50 a.m. CDT. *Motion adopted unanimously.*

Meeting Adjourned

The next meeting of the Dodge County Board of Commissioners will be held on March 26, 2013 at 9:30 a.m. CDT.

Next Regular Meeting

ATTEST:

LYLE TJOSAAS
CHAIR, COUNTY BOARD

BECKY LUBAHN
DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK

DATED: