

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2013**

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

**STATE OF MINNESOTA)  
DODGE COUNTY)**

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATION OFFICE  
MANTORVILLE, MN**

**2013-22 C.O.W.**

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

Meeting Convened

The Chair acknowledged those present:

Those Present

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

Members absent: None

Also present: Jim Elmquist County Administrator  
Becky Lubahn Deputy Clerk

County Administrator Jim Elmquist discussed with the Board the proposed 2014 budget.

2014 Budget  
Discussion

Mr. Elmquist reminded the Board that at their next meeting in December they will be asked to approve a final levy for the 2014 annual budget. The preliminary budget was set at 5.54% with the understanding that the levy would be reduced further at certification in early December.

Included in the Board packet was the current overall capital list for 2014 and the budget which has one amendment affecting overall levy. The current version has an actual depiction of CPA which drops the levy to 4.57%. Also changed, but with no levy effect, is that within the Highway Department budget; they would like to include the purchase of a sheepsfoot roller and a revision was made to the construction budget. The Highway Engineer's plan is to make up any difference in cost differential with fund balance dollars which Mr. Kohlnhofer stated will not be of concern affecting the overall financial impact of the Highway Department.

Lastly, on this agenda the Sheriff has capital items requested to be paid for in 2013 that are shown in his 2014 budget. The Sheriff will have excess funding at the end of 2013 and would like to purchase several items that the Board will consider later on the agenda. A concern the County Administrator had which was stated to the Sheriff, is that if the county is electing to keep its Dispatch Center in Dodge County, there will be several capital items that will need to be purchased or financed in 2014 and into 2015 and excess dollars could be used to buy down the cost for that equipment rather than levy a significant amount at one time. Mr. Elmquist noted that this is obviously for the Board and the Sheriff's overall determination, however he felt it should be stated going forward.

The County Administrator shared the following information with the Board:

To reduce the levy to:

2014 Budget  
Discussion -  
Continued

Percent	Reduce By \$
4%	\$61,407
2.5%	\$222,892
2%	\$276,720
1%	\$384,376

The proposed appropriation amount to the Dodge County Fair Board was discussed.

Commissioner Allen asked for clarification on the exact amount the Fair Board was receiving from the county.

In 2012 and 2013 \$1,000 was appropriated to the Fair Board. In 2014 \$15,000 has been budgeted for the Fair Board, this is in addition to the extra money that the County Board has already agreed to spend from bond funds to build a new restroom/first aid building at the fairgrounds. Also pointed out was that the county made a loan payment for the Fair Board last year because they defaulted on a loan payment. The county also paid to have the road around the fairgrounds paved.

Commissioner Allen pointed out that because of these additional county contributions the county is actually contributing more to the Fair Board than is listed in the budget.

Commissioner Peterson reported that the county is statutorily responsible for the buildings at the fairgrounds; however the Fair Board has use of the buildings during the week of the fair.

The Board further discussed the proposed budget.

County Engineer Guy Kohlnhofer was available to comment on the proposed budget.

Commissioner Gray stated that he would like to see an additional \$1,000 allocated to the Dodge County Historical Society and the contribution amount to the Soil and Water Conservation District to remain the same.

The Board discussed where they would like to set the 2014 budget.

Commissioner Gray commented that he would like to see the budget set at 2.5%.

Commissioner Peterson stated that he would like to see the budget set at 2.5%.

Commissioner Erickson would like to see the budget set at 3%.

Commissioner Peterson commented that he would tolerate a 3% budget.

Commissioner Allen stated that he could live with a 2.5% or 3% budget.

2014 Budget  
Discussion -  
Continued

Mr. Allen indicated that he doesn't know what the SWCD does anymore or what the county receives for the money that is spent on this agency. It was Commissioner Allen's opinion that it appears that the county is trying to find work for them to keep them busy; which makes it hard to justify the amount allocated to them.

Commissioner Gray elaborated on the role that the Dodge County SWCD plays in Dodge County.

Commissioner Erickson reported that the services offered by the SWCD are offered for agricultural people of the county and that as an ag county, he felt there was a benefit to having the SWCD in Dodge County.

Commissioner Gray commented that a majority of the budget is for staff and he feels that the staff needs tools in order to do their work.

It was the consensus of the Board to set the budget either at 2.5% or 3%.

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

Meeting Adjourned

**ATTEST:**

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DAVID ERICKSON  
CHAIR, COUNTY BOARD

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BECKY LUBAHN  
DEPUTY CLERK

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DATED: