

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2013

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

**STATE OF MINNESOTA)
DODGE COUNTY)**

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATION OFFICE
MANTORVILLE, MN**

2013-23 C.O.W.

The Dodge County Commissioners met in Committee of the Whole December 12, 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
	David Erickson	District #4
	Steven Gray	District #5
Members absent:	Rodney Peterson	District #3
Also present:	Jim Elmquist	County Administrator
	Becky Lubahn	Deputy Clerk

Medical Examiner Richard Reichard provided the Board with a Medical Examiner Annual Report for 2012 and 2013. Also discussed was the proposed Medical Examiner/Autopsy Services Agreement for 2014-2015.

2012 & 2013
Medical Examiner
Report

Death Investigator Monica Kendall was available to answer questions.

The Dodge County Medical Examiner's Office investigates sudden, violent, unexpected, and suspicious deaths that occur in Dodge County. The office of the Medical Examiner certifies death after investigation and postmortem examination and issues the death certificate as required by law. Complete findings of the death investigation are distributed to families and law enforcement agencies as appropriate.

The main duties of the Office of Medical Examiner are to determine the cause and manner of death, and certify deaths that are reported to the medical examiner. The cause of death is the disease process or injury that resulted in death. There are thousands of diseases and injuries that may result in death. The manner of death is a classification in which a determination is made regarding whether the death resulted from natural causes, homicide, suicide, or an accident. On occasion, the manner of death is classified as indeterminate.

Information collected during the investigation helps clarify the circumstances, such as the sequence of events prior to death. Evidence collected during an investigation and/or postmortem examination may help lead to the arrest or successful conviction of a suspect in a homicide case. Because deaths occur around the clock, the medical examiner staff members are available 24 hours a day, 365 days per year.

With the skill and experience of the Medical Examiners, Death Investigators and board-certified Forensic Pathologists, they believe the quality of death investigations in Dodge County are among the best in the state. The death scene investigation reports filed by the Investigators are very thorough and supply comprehensive information to the medical examiners.

2012 & 2013
Medical Examiner
Report - Continued

Mayo Clinic Medical Examiners and Death Investigators also extend their duties to the living by answering questions and addressing concerns regarding deaths within the county. Medical Examiners and Death Investigators frequently make personal contact with family members of a deceased and assist them by providing appropriate answers regarding the circumstance of the death. Medical Examiners and Death Investigators are supplied with a pamphlet for distribution to families. The information provides answers to common questions and facts about autopsies and also provides resource information pertaining to grief counseling.

In 2013, Olmsted and Dodge County Medical Examiner's Offices will combine with Goodhue, Fillmore, and Houston counties to form Southern Minnesota Regional Medical Examiner's Office (SRMMEO). At that time, the use of the Medicolegal Death Investigation Log, or MDI Log, will be implemented. MDI Log is a comprehensive investigative report/database system that enables the Medical Examiners and Death Investigators to submit and review death scene investigation reports, as well as communicate, in an efficient manner. SMRMEO autopsies are performed by Mayo Clinic Division of Anatomic Pathology staff. It was noted that Dr. Peter T. Lin joined SMRMEO as an Assistant Chief Medical Examiner effective July 1, 2013.

Dr. Reichard shared the following 2011 Dodge County statistics with the Board:

Population (2011)	20, 243
Cases Reported to the Medical Examiner	51
A. Number of deaths certified after postmortem examination	22
1. Number of Medical Examiner Cases with Complete Autopsy	22
2. Number of Medical Examiner Cases with External Examination	---
3. Number of Medical Examiner Cases with Limited Examination	---
B. Number of deaths certified without postmortem examination	15
C. Number of deaths not certified by Medical Examiner's Office after investigation	14

Dr. Reichard extended Mayo Clinic's sincere gratitude to the Dodge County Board of Commissioners for their support of the Medical Examiner Program and the services they provide to the citizens of Dodge County.

Dr. Reichard shared the following 2012 Dodge County statistics with the Board:

Population (2012)	20, 231
Cases Reported to the Medical Examiner	32
A. Number of deaths certified after postmortem examination	8
1. Number of Medical Examiner Cases with Complete Autopsy	8
2. Number of Medical Examiner Cases with External Examination	0
3. Number of Medical Examiner Cases with Limited Examination	0
B. Number of deaths certified without postmortem examination	12
C. Number of deaths not certified by Medical Examiner's Office after investigation	12

Dr. Reichard stated that he would like to present an annual report to the County Board each year in February or March, whichever worked better with their schedules.

2012 & 2013
Medical Examiner
Report - Continued

The Board thanked Dr. Reichard for the update.

A memo from County Administrator Jim Elmquist indicated that the Medical Examiner/Autopsy Services Agreement calls for a price that is in line with what was described in Dr. Reichard's presentation to the Board back in February. At that meeting, Dr. Reichard described a new formula for consideration that would be per capita based rather than established on a case by case basis which is what they are proposing with all of their clients.

It was pointed out that the Board will be asked to approve the Medical Examiner/Autopsy Services Agreement with Mayo Clinic at the full Board meeting.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:25 a.m. CST.

Meeting Adjourned

ATTEST:

DAVID ERICKSON
CHAIR, COUNTY BOARD

BECKY LUBAHN
DEPUTY CLERK

DATED: