

**TUESDAY, JULY 8, 2014**

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

**STATE OF MINNESOTA)  
DODGE COUNTY)**

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATION OFFICE  
MANTORVILLE, MN**

**2014-13 C.O.W.**

The Dodge County Commissioners met in Committee of the Whole July 8, 2014, in the Commissioner's Room at the Dodge County Courthouse Annex, Mantorville, MN, at 8:30 a.m. CDT. Chair Rodney Peterson opened the meeting at 8:30 a.m. CDT.

Meeting Convened

The Clerk acknowledged those present:

Those Present

Members present: John Allen District #1  
Tim 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  
Peggy Espey Public Health Director  
Sagar Chowdhury Health Educator

Public Health Director Peggy Espey and Health Educator Sagar Chowdhury met with the Board to discuss proposed updates to the Dodge County Tobacco Ordinance.

Proposed Tobacco  
Ordinance Updates  
Discussion

It was reported that although there has been significant progress made in the last 50 years in combating tobacco and its harmful effects on the population, it still is the number one preventable cause of death in the country. In the state of Minnesota alone, tobacco has led to \$3 billion dollars in excess healthcare costs and 5,100 lives lost each year. This issue is not one that only affects adult community, but the youth as well. Statistics show that 90% of smokers start before the age of 18, with 18.1% of high school students in Minnesota smoking. Similar statistics can be observed in Dodge County with adult smoking rates at approximately 20% and youth rates at 25%.

Dodge County Public Health has been fortunate to be the recipient of both the Clearway Minnesota and Tobacco Free Communities grants to help combat the harmful effects of tobacco within the county. In addition Public Health has partnered with Rice, Steele, and Goodhue County to create the 4 Corners Partnership. Through the Tobacco Free Communities grant they work with local landlords and managers who wish to adopt smoke free policies for their multi-unit housing properties. With the Clearway Minnesota grant, an emphasis has been placed on strengthening state and local policies.

It was reported that the Dodge County Tobacco Ordinance was last updated in 2001, when there was a total of 30 tobacco licenses within the county. A lot has changed since then, including the number of tobacco licenses dropping to 12, demonstrating that smoking is no longer a norm. Even so, new and emerging products continue to be created and a shift in focus to the youth population has occurred. It is important that Public Health stay ahead of these changes and strengthen their county's ordinance.

Proposed Tobacco  
Ordinance Updates  
Discussion -  
Continued

Examples of e-cigarettes were passed around so members of the Board could see the types of products that are available to the public. The Health Educator informed the Board that people are altering these devices so they can smoke illegal drugs. Also noted was that because of the candy flavored cartridges that are being offered with these devices, it's hard to detect the smell of illegal drugs when used with this product. Another concern expressed was that the producers of this product are catering to kids by offering candy flavored cartridges.

Discussion took place regarding the proposed minimum Clerk age. The proposed Tobacco Ordinance reads as follows:

An individual must be at least seventeen (17) years of age to sell tobacco, tobacco-related devices, electronic delivery devices, or nicotine or lobelia delivery products on behalf of a person licensed under this ordinance.

Commissioner Allen and Commissioner Erickson expressed concern with the possibility of putting a number of 15-17 years olds out of a job if the minimum Clerk age recommendation was approved.

Ms. Espey asked the Board for direction on the proposed Tobacco Ordinance.

Commissioner Erickson stated that he doesn't have a problem with adding e-cigarette language to the ordinance. Mr. Erickson noted that he does have questions regarding kids selling tobacco products at the counter and their ability to find jobs if there are age restriction imposed for the Clerks selling tobacco products.

The Public Health Director suggested that she come back to a full Board meeting to discuss the proposed changes further.

It was Commissioner Erickson's opinion that they should treat cigarettes and e-cigarettes the same.

Commissioner Gray indicated that he supports the recommended changes.

Mr. Chowdhury and Ms. Espey were thanked for the information.

County Administrator Jim Elmquist reported that some time ago, the Board asked him to schedule a meeting with Goodhue County to discuss possible Regional PSAP Operations. The decision to hear the PSAP presentation was in light of a discussion regarding future capital expenditures in that division of the Sheriff's Office. Included in the Board packet was a document that was presented to Dodge County when the RFI was received last year.

Regional PSAP Operations with Goodhue County Discussed

Goodhue County Sheriff Scott McNurlin, Chief Deputy Lyle Lorensen, and Sergeant Wane Betcher met with the Board to discuss the possibility of a joint Dispatch Center.

Mr. Lorensen stated that a joint venture would be viewed as a partnership, not a way to generate income. The Chief Deputy briefly discussed the proposal which included the following:

- Executive Summary
- Dispatch Facility
- Technology
- Governance
- Operations
- Staff/Workload
- Budget/Cost
- Backup
- Value Added Offerings
- Assumptions

Estimated annual costs to Dodge County were projected as follows:

1)	<b>Annual Estimated Cost of Personnel</b> <i>(Plus adjusted annual steps/health insurance &amp; COLA) Add four additional dispatchers, plus full-time supervision.</i>	\$375,246
2)	<b>Annual Estimated Cost of Equipment:</b> <i>Adding one full workstation (MCC7500). Equipment amortized over five (5) years.</i>	\$25,752
3)	<b>Additional Costs to Dodge County – CIS Software, etc.</b>	???
	<b>TOTAL ANNUAL ESTIMATED COSTS</b> <i>Based on five (5) year commitment.</i>	<b>\$400,998</b>

Other savings/expenses/considerations were listed as follows:

- 1) Levied budgeted expenditure could be reduced using allotted MN 911 fees to offset costs.
- 2) By joining Goodhue County's CIS software subscription, vs. a stand-alone system, Dodge County could see significant CIS suite costs savings (\$80,609 vs. \$217,000). Both counties would see maintenance savings of about 33% each.
- 3) Sharing of CIS trainer and 800 MHz radio manager.
- 4) Code Red – savings of \$500 annually plus added minutes.
- 5) Both counties are part of the Southeast Radio Regional Logging Group.
- 6) A voice for users. PSAP User Groups consists of members from Dodge & Goodhue County Public Safety Community.

- 7) PSAP backup located at Goodhue Fire Hall is operational for radio and paging of EMS services.

Regional PSAP  
Operations with  
Goodhue County  
Discussed -  
Continued

Sheriff McNurlin recommended that a stakeholders meeting be held and include other EMS services in Dodge County. It was Mr. McNurlin’s opinion that Dodge County will want all Dodge County EMS services input regarding the proposed regional PSAP operations plan.

Commissioner Erickson wanted to know if the county decides not to join at this time, are there other areas that the two counties can share technology?

Mr. Lorensen reported that yes, there are other areas that they can share technology, such as the Regional Logger System.

Commissioner Erickson stated that we haven’t discussed this with any of the stakeholders and this would need to occur before further consideration.

Sheriff McNurlin informed the Board that he and Sheriff Jensen have discussed joint technology. Mr. McNurlin state that sharing systems is a great thing. Sheriff McNurlin reported that they will continue to work towards finding opportunities for joint technology.

Commissioner Peterson wanted to know if Goodhue County is open to joint technology opportunities.

Mr. McNurlin indicated that Goodhue County is still open to discussing joint technology options.

The Chair thanked the Goodhue staff for the Regional PSAP Operations information.

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

Meeting Adjourned

**ATTEST:**

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RODNEY PETERSON  
CHAIR, COUNTY BOARD

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BECKY LUBAHN  
DEPUTY CLERK

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DATED: