

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 12, 2014**

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

**STATE OF MINNESOTA)  
DODGE COUNTY)**

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATION OFFICE  
MANTORVILLE, MN**

**2014-15 C.O.W.**

The Dodge County Commissioners met in Committee of the Whole August 12, 2014, in the Commissioner's Room at the Dodge County Courthouse Annex, Mantorville, MN, at 9:00 a.m. CDT. Vice Chair John Allen opened the meeting at 9:00 a.m. CDT.

Meeting Convened

The Vice Chair acknowledged those present:

Those Present

Members present:	John Allen	District #1
	Tim Tjosaas	District #2
	David Erickson	District #4
	Steven Gray	District #5
Members absent:	Rodney Peterson	District #3
Also present:	Jim Elmquist	County Administrator
	Becky Lubahn	Deputy Clerk
	Nancy Zaworski	City of Kasson Finance Director

City of Kasson Finance Director Nancy Zaworski met with the Board to discuss the new Community Safe Shelter and Kasson Library.

Dual Purpose  
Community Safe  
Shelter and Library  
Discussion

The following individuals were also available to comment on the proposed Community Safe Shelter and Library:

Earlene King	Kasson Public Library Building Committee Chair
Will Lambert	Friends of the Library Member
Pat Baldwin	Friends of the Library President
Lori Hopkins	Kasson Public Library Board Member
Mary Sue Sandeno	Capital Campaign Committee Member
Art Tiff	Kasson Public Library Director
Paul Leska	Capital Campaign Committee Member

Ms. Zaworski informed the Board that the City of Kasson is in the process of planning a dual-purpose, public community building. The public community building will serve the Kasson population and surrounding population as an emergency safe shelter and public library.

The City of Kasson Finance Director reported that the lack of appropriate emergency safe shelters in Dodge County was referred to over 30 times in the Dodge County All Hazard Emergency Mitigation Plan. Ms. Zaworski noted that a dual-purpose, public community building for Kasson was greatly influenced by the county's mitigation plan. As the largest city in Dodge County, the City of Kasson determined that Kasson had two very important needs, an emergency safe shelter and a public library. Combining the two needs was determined to be the best use of taxpayer dollars.

It was reported that over the past 25 years dedicated boards, committees, council, and volunteers have worked on numerous plans, studies, and assessments in an effort to move the library to a larger space to meet the ever-growing needs of the city residents and surrounding area patrons who use the facility. In March 2014, the Kasson City Council committed funds and resources to construct a new library building. The goal is to build a new energy-efficient, state of the art library to provide resources, services, and programming for the community for the next 25 years and beyond, by providing a space that is approximately 4.5 times larger than the current facility.

Dual Purpose  
Community Safe  
Shelter and Library  
Discussion -  
Continued

After diligent research by the Building Committee, a monolithic dome's design and technology was recommended to the City of Kasson and the Kasson Public Library Board of Trustees as the best approach for a combined emergency safe shelter and public library. Both the City of Kasson and Library Board approved the Building Committee's recommendation.

The rationale for building a new facility was listed as follows:

- To meet the growth needs of the service area for the next 25 years and beyond.
- To enhance all programming and services to their patrons and visitors.
- To serve a population that has nearly doubled in 25 years.
- To serve over 12,000 residents from across the county, averaging 708 visits per week.
- To increase and enhance all of their library programs and services.
- To incorporate design and layout options proactively to keep operating costs at a minimum.
- To utilize technology in making the building energy-efficient to reduce energy use.
- To provide up-to-date internet and technology access to patrons and visitors.
- To provide a community room for use by library, city, families, business, educational and non-profit organizations.
- To continue to effectively provide on-going educational support for the community which it serves.

With the new library the City of Kasson and Library Board feel they will have an opportunity to enhance programs for:

- Preschoolers
- Children
- Teens and tweens
- Adults and seniors
- Summer programs
- Outreach services to daycares and seniors

The new facility will also allow them to provide for:

- Increased functionality
- Increased accessibility for all
- 50% more energy efficient than a traditional structure
- Long-term functionality, sustainability and flexibility

Art Tiff shared with the Board statistics regarding what percent of the Kasson Public Library is used by individuals outside the City of Kasson. Also discussed were features in the new building.

Dual Purpose  
Community Safe  
Shelter and Library  
Discussion -  
Continued

The proposed library site layout was reviewed as well as storm shelter capacity figures.

It was reported that the new library structure would be a thin-shell, concrete dome library which would also serve as a community safe shelter to provide protection for occupants as well as nearby residents. The libraries architectural firm, Leland Gray Architect, has a deep background in library and community shelter construction. Ground-breaking is planned for October 2014.

Commissioner Erickson expressed concern with acoustic issues in dome shaped buildings and discussed problems that were experienced in a Grand Meadow dome shaped facility.

Earlene King informed the Board that the dome shaped structure was chosen because it is cost effective and energy efficient. Ms. King reported that they are aware of the acoustic issues and are addressing this issue with the architectural firm.

Ms. Zaworski discussed with the Board the benefits of a dome structure, the fact that the proposed facility meets special needs requirements and technological enhancements that will be available in the new building. Also noted was that the structure will be an energy efficient building; dome structures are easier to build, and the building will be something the library can grow into.

Commissioner Erickson pointed out that schools are another place that people can go for shelter in bad weather.

Ms. Zaworski informed the Board that they plan to build the Library/Community Safety Shelter to meet the FEMA 361 standards.

Commissioner Gray discussed the safety shelter capacity figures that were shared and indicated that he believes the numbers need to be adjusted to account for furnishings in the building.

Ms. Zaworski confirmed that the figures shared didn't take into account the furnishings in the building.

Mr. Gray reported that he would like the city to provide the Board with a more accurate capacity figure.

Ms. Zaworski stated that as a project serving so many needs for Dodge County, the Kasson Public Library is respectfully requesting the county's financial support for this valuable community building.

Commissioner Erickson expressed concern with setting precedence by contributing to the proposed Kasson Public Library. Mr. Erickson stated that they need to take the other communities into consideration when making a decision on this request as it may create a "me too" affect.

Commissioner Erickson commented that he appreciated the input.

Commissioner Tjosaas wanted to know what level of funding the city is looking for from the county.

Dual Purpose  
Community Safe  
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Discussion -  
Continued

Ms. Zaworski indicated that the City of Kasson Library Board and Library Building Committee are looking for a contribution of \$100,000. It was reported that the City of Kasson has committed \$1.53 million, the completed building will cost \$1.9 million and the furniture will cost \$500,000. Ms. Zaworski informed the Board that they are applying for grants for this project.

The Board thanked the group for the information.

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

Meeting Adjourned

**ATTEST:**

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JOHN ALLEN  
VICE CHAIR, COUNTY BOARD

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BECKY LUBAHN  
DEPUTY CLERK

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DATED: