

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2014

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

**STATE OF MINNESOTA)
DODGE COUNTY)**

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATION OFFICE
MANTORVILLE, MN**

2014-17 C.O.W.

The Dodge County Commissioners met in Committee of the Whole September 9, 2014, in the Commissioner's Room at the Dodge County Courthouse Annex, Mantorville, MN, at 9:00 a.m. CDT. Chair Rodney Peterson opened the meeting at 9:00 a.m. CDT.

Meeting Convened

The Chair acknowledged those present:

Those Present

| | | |
|------------------|-----------------|------------------------------------|
| Members present: | Tim Tjosaas | District #2 |
| | Rodney Peterson | District #3 |
| | David Erickson | District #4 |
| | Steven Gray | District #5 |
| Members absent: | John Allen | District #1 |
| Also present: | Jim Elmquist | County Administrator |
| | Becky Lubahn | Deputy Clerk |
| | Adam King | SWCD Manager |
| | Don Hesel | SWCD Supervisor |
| | Glenn Hahn | SWCD Supervisor |
| | Mark Gamm | Environmental Services Director |
| | Jennifer Nelson | SMIF Vice President |

Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) Manager Adam King met with the Board to discuss the proposed 2015 Budget for the Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District.

Dodge SWCD
Budget Discussion

The Board was informed that Mr. King was hired to seek out more grant opportunities for the SWCD.

Mr. King reported that funds from the Board of Soil and Water Resources Grants, Special Projects and Regional Partnerships to the Dodge SWCD have been reduced for 2015, which has resulted in a decrease in revenues in the 2015 Dodge SWCD budget over the 2014 budget. Also noted was that cuts have been made in the 2015 Dodge SWCD budget but those cuts do not make up the difference in how much revenues have been cut. It was pointed out that the 2014 county allotment of \$90,000 to the SWCD was less than what was needed, therefore the district budgeted \$27,527 from its overhead capacity to balance the budget. It was reported that unexpected funds from state programs were received in 2014 which helped balance the budget without using overhead capacity, these funds are not expected in 2015. The SWCD is asking the county for \$122,505 for 2015. This allotment from Dodge County, along with its revenues, should cover the operating expenses of the district without having to use its overhead capacity; traditionally used for employee sick time, annual leave, and major purchase (vehicles, no-till drills, and computers), to balance the 2015 budget.

Commissioner Erickson wanted to know what alternatives the SWCD has if the county doesn't provide additional funding.

Dodge SWCD
Budget Discussion
- Continued

SWCD Supervisor Don Hesel reported that if the county isn't able to provide additional funding; SWCD will try to make the funds that they do receive more diversified. Mr. Hesel indicated they would also seek out more grant money. Mr. Hesel briefly discussed legislative changes which may be made in the future affecting the SWCD.

Commissioner Erickson reminded the Board about Waseca County joining its SWCD office with the Steele County SWCD office.

Discussion took place regarding FSA and NRCS offices.

SWCD Supervisor Glann Hahn stated that FSA and NRCS offices dovetail services and the importance in keeping these offices together. Mr. Hahn briefly discussed the SWCD budget and informed the Board they run a lean operation, there is no fat figured into their budget.

Commissioner Peterson emphasized to the Board that their mission statement referenced supporting and enhancing the agricultural and rural character of the county.

Discussion took place regarding the amount of time Water Program Manager Dean Schrandt spends in the SWCD office.

Environmental Services Director Mark Gamm clarified that one quarter of Mr. Schrandt's time is being spent at the SWCD office.

Commissioner Peterson noted that in addition to the \$90,000 allotment that the SWCD receives from the county, they had received a monetary benefit associated with having Mr. Schrandt in their office too.

County Administrator Jim Elmquist wanted to know where the SWCD reserves are at.

Mr. King stated that the SWCD reserves are at \$160,000; some of which are dedicated funds.

Commissioner Peterson commented that he is optimistic that there will be funds out there for the SWCD specifically with potential grants from BWSR. It was Mr. Peterson's opinion that the potential for SWCD to obtain grants is better than it has been in previous years.

The Board thanked Mr. King for the information.

Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF) Vice President Jennifer Nelson provided the Board with a SMIF Annual Report and budget request.

SMIF Annual
Report and Budget
Request

Ms. Nelson reported that SMIF invests for economic growth in twenty southern Minnesota counties.

SMIF's mission is to promote regional economic opportunities and collaborations with a focus on entrepreneurs and early childhood development.

SMIF Annual
Report and Budget
Request -
Continued

SMIF's catalyst for economic growth was listed as follows:

- Invested of \$90 million in region since 1996
 - \$40 million – programming
 - \$25 million – loans
 - \$25 million - grants
- Leveraged \$14 for every \$1 in local contributions
- Regional endowment fund exceeds \$30 million
- Awards \$5 million annually through grants, loans, and program support
- Acts as a regional collaborator

Focus areas were listed as follows:

- **Entrepreneur Development**
 - Financial Support
 - Business Expertise
- **Early Childhood Development**
 - Social Emotional Initiatives
 - School Readiness Support

SMIF's investment in Dodge County was listed as follows:

| | |
|-----------|-------------|
| 31 Loans | \$1,390,309 |
| 54 Grants | \$ 249,770 |
| Total | \$1,640,079 |

Here in Dodge County, SMIF supports business growth by providing a variety of financial and management tools, including the following highlights:

Clean Plus, Inc., West Concord - 1994, 1997, 2002, 2004, 2007, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2013
 High Country Energy, LLC, Kasson - 2010
 Kasson-Mantorville Nursery Group - 2006
 Prairie Stone Coffee & Juice LLC, Kasson - 2006
 Foam Pro Insulation, Hayfield - 2004
 Woods Metal Works, Inc., Kasson - 1993, 1994
 Tri-Star Manufacturing, Inc., Kasson - 1992
 Hiawathaland Tool, Inc., Kasson - 1992
 RDM of MN, Dodge Center - 1989

The following is a sampling of the organizations and programs supported in Dodge County by the Foundation:

Picture-It-Painted Recipients (Partner – Valspar Corp.)

3 projects – 142 gallons, \$3,550

The Center Clinic, Dodge Center - 2013, 2014
 City of Dodge Center – 2014
 Dodge County Historical Society – 2014

The following is a list of organizations and programs that benefit from SMIF's Early Childhood Support in Dodge County:

SMIF Annual
Report and Budget
Request -
Continued

More children ready to learn

A Chance to Grow, "Southern MN Pre-K Alliance" - 2013
Kasson-Mantorville Early Childhood Initiative - 2012
Kasson-Mantorville Home Visiting - 2012

AmeriCorps LEAP Community Partner Sites:

3 members, \$52,500

BookStart Recipients (Partner – Capstone Publishing):

2,178 books, \$38,431

Triton Community Education, Dodge Center – 2014
Kasson-Mantorville Community Education – 2014
Kasson-Mantorville Schools – 2013, 2014
The Center Clinic, Dodge Center – 2013
Triton Public Schools, Dodge Center – 2013

Young Explorer Recipients (Partner – IBM Corp.):

11 computers, \$28,600

Triton Public Schools, Dodge Center – 2013
The Center Clinic, Dodge Center – 2012
Kasson-Mantorville School – 2012

Pearson Foundation Partner Recipients:

290 books, \$2,013

Kasson-Mantorville Schools – 2013
Triton Schools, Dodge Center - 2013

Reading Rocks Recipients:

210 books, \$3,990

The Center Clinic, Dodge Center

myON Recipients (Partner – Capstone Publishing):

Online programs, \$20,000

Hayfield Schools – 2012, 2013

SMIF is requesting that the County Board consider a 2015 budget request of \$2,000.

The Board thanked Ms. Nelson for the update.

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

Meeting Adjourned

ATTEST:

RODNEY PETERSON
CHAIR, COUNTY BOARD

BECKY LUBAHN
DEPUTY CLERK

DATED: