

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2014

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

**STATE OF MINNESOTA)
COUNTY OF DODGE)**

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATION OFFICE
MANTORVILLE, MN**

2014-19 C.O.W.

The Dodge County Commissioners met in Committee of the Whole October 14, 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:	John Allen	District #1
	Rodney Peterson	District #3
	David Erickson	District #4
	Steven Gray	District #5
Members absent:	Tim Tjosaas	District #2
Also present:	Jim Elmquist	County Administrator
	Becky Lubahn	Deputy Clerk
	Larry Dobson	Historical Society Rep.
	Mary Ann Bucher	Historical Society Rep.

Dodge County Historical Society Representatives Larry Dobson and Mary Ann Bucher met with the Board to discuss the Historical Society's budget request for 2015.

Dodge County
Historical Society
2015 Budget
Request

Mr. Dobson informed the Board that with the county's help the Historical Society is able to keep up with repairs and utilities along with focusing on research and educational programs.

Larry Dobson reported the Dodge County Historical Society is requesting a 2015 allocation of \$10,000.

Staffing levels at the Historical Society were discussed.

Mary Ann Bucher shared with the Board information on assistance the Historical Society received from college students to catalog items at the museum.

Mr. Dobson stated the Historical Society recognizes the county faces a difficult economic situation, however; in times like these building community, by learning about our shared past, is more important than ever.

Larry Dobson informed the Board the Historical Society appreciates all of the support Dodge County is willing to provide them to help with their mission to preserve and share Dodge County History.

Commissioner Erickson reported that in the past he used the Historical Society facilities to teach students about Dodge County history.

Commissioner Erickson briefly discussed the fact that a Historical Society Board member recently resigned due to issues within the organization.

It was clarified that the conflicts within the organization were primarily personality conflicts.

Commissioner Erickson reminded Mr. Dobson and Ms. Bucher that in addition to the annual allocation to the Dodge County Historical Society, they receive monetary assistance with lawn mowing and snow removal services. Mr. Erickson stated the county would like to be able to give more assistance to the Historical Society but can't due to budget constraints. Commissioner Erickson commented the Board also wants to make sure allocated funds are being utilized to their best ability.

Commissioner Gray stated the Dodge County Historical Society Board has dealt with buildings and facility issues in the past but they haven't had to deal with personnel issues. Mr. Gray pointed out this was the first year that the Historical Society Board has had to deal with a personnel issue.

It was Commissioner Gray's opinion that the Historical Society needs a full-time person in the museum. Mr. Gray stated the county and Historical Society need to find money to facilitate the hiring of a full-time person at the museum.

Commissioner Peterson wanted to know how many structures the Historical Society is managing.

Mr. Dobson reported that the Historical Society is managing five structures. The structures were listed as follows: the Red House in Mantorville, Wasioja School, Baptist Church and Civil War Recruiting Station all in Wasioja, and the log cabin at the fairgrounds in Kasson.

Commissioner Peterson wanted to know if Mr. Dobson or Ms. Bucher knew the value of the structures.

Ms. Bucher reported that the value information for the buildings is in the insurance binder which is back at the museum; Ms. Bucher indicated she would share that information with the Board this afternoon at their luncheon.

Commissioner Allen wanted to know what the significance of the Red House is.

Ms. Bucher informed the Board that the red building was built in 1856 and is the oldest building in Mantorville. Ms. Bucher also noted that a large number of Dodge County residents have lived in the house since it was built.

Commissioner Peterson thanked Mr. Dobson and Ms. Bucher for attending the meeting and informed them that this will be a tight budget year. Mr. Peterson noted the County Board will likely be cutting allocation requests for 2015, not adding to them.

County Engineer Guy Kohlnhofer provided the Board with a Kasson Car Wash vacuum station update.

Dean Blowers, owner of the Kasson Car Wash, contacted the Highway Department about going ahead with the licensing of the vacuum station in the CSAH 34 right-of-way (r/w).

Dodge County
Historical Society
2015 Budget
Request - Continued

Kasson Car Wash
Vacuum Station
Update

Mr. Blowers expressed a concern for the cost of the license and proposed licensing a smaller area.

Kasson Car Wash
Vacuum Station
Update - Continued

Mr. Blowers' proposal is to not use any of the r/w north of the vacuum that is now aggregate surfaced, this would limit the licensed area to the 3' by 14' area of the vacuum itself. Mr. Blowers has assured the County Engineer that he will not permit use of the north side of the vacuum.

As the County Engineer, Mr. Kohlhofer still recommends against this use of the r/w, citing State Statute 160.2715. In the event the decision is made to go ahead with the licensing of the vacuum station in the r/w, Mr. Kohlhofer recommended licensing the area of the vacuum and the width of vacuum to the west to where it meets the entrance. The County Engineer indicated that without the installation of a fence in the vacuum area he felt the right-of-way area would be utilized by the car wash. This results in a licensed area of 4'x30' and a five year license of \$1,080.

It was Commissioner Peterson's opinion that the vacuum station should be removed.

Commissioner Allen commented that if the owner removes the gravel on the north side of the vacuum station and customers aren't allowed to park in the grass on the north side, he is ok with the vacuum station staying where it is.

Commissioner Peterson noted that the car wash is important to the city and that he has driven by it numerous times and noted that it does get used.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:29 a.m. CDT.

Meeting Adjourned

ATTEST:

**RODNEY PETERSON
CHAIR, COUNTY BOARD**

**BECKY LUBAHN
DEPUTY CLERK**

DATED: