

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2015

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

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

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATION OFFICE
MANTORVILLE, MN**

2015-03 C.O.W.

The Dodge County Commissioners met in Committee of the Whole February 10, 2015, in the Commissioner's Room at the Dodge County Courthouse Annex, Mantorville, MN, at 9:00 a.m. CST. Chair John Allen opened the meeting at 9:02 a.m. CST.

Meeting Convened

The Chair 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 Clerk
 Scott Rose Sheriff

Sheriff Scott Rose met with the Board to discuss Kasson taxes and how they pertain to the School Resource Officer (SRO) that works in the Kasson-Mantorville School District.

Kasson Tax/SRO
Discussion

Prior to the new year questions had been brought up by Kasson resident Jerry Berg regarding Kasson city tax dollars and the SRO Program.

A copy of Jerry Berg's letter to the County Board from their December 11, 2014 Board meeting regarding School Resource Officer program funding was redistributed.

Sheriff Rose further discussed Mr. Berg's questions and compared the City of Kasson and Dodge County SRO Programs.

The Sheriff shared the following information with the Board regarding cost comparisons:

Kasson Police Department SRO	Dodge County SRO
\$45,000/paid by Kasson-Mantorville School District.	\$23,484/paid by Hayfield & Triton School Districts.
Works Kasson-Mantorville School District only.	Works Hayfield and Triton School Districts.
Works Kasson patrol in the summer.	Works summer patrol including Kasson-Mantorville School District.
Backs County on priority calls.	Works general County patrol filling schedule vacancies in summer. Backs Kasson Police on priority calls.
	Works Investigations in summer/May including assisting Kasson Police Department.

Sheriff Rose reported the City of Kasson provides law enforcement services with their Police Department (PD). The Kasson-Mantorville School system is within the city limits of Kasson which falls under the jurisdiction of the Kasson PD who provides an SRO for the Kasson-Mantorville District.

Kasson Tax/SRO Discussion - Continued

The Dodge County Sheriff’s Office provides contracted law enforcement services to the school districts of Hayfield and Triton. These districts are considerably smaller than the Kasson-Mantorville School District and share SRO services with the County.

Sheriff Rose shared the following information regarding what city/county taxes pay for:

City taxes pay for:	County taxes pay for:
Police Patrol Services	Deputy Patrol Services
General Investigations	General Investigations
1 SRO (that patrols Kasson-Mantorville Schools only)	1 SRO (that patrols Hayfield & Triton School Districts)
	Dispatch Services
	Radio Services
	Records Services
	IT Services (Computer Technology)
	Civil Process
	Court Services

In addition Mr. Rose noted a portion of County taxes are paying for all the other law enforcement related services provided by the County – County Attorney’s Office, Adult Probation, Juvenile Probation, Drug Court, and Court Administration just to name a few.

Also pointed out was there are four other school districts within Dodge county who also pay county taxes but don’t use our SRO services – Pine Island (Goodhue County SRO), Byron (Olmsted County SRO), Blooming Prairie (no SRO Program), Kenyon-Wanamingo (Goodhue County SRO).

Sheriff Rose reported Dodge County has three “communities” of young people in the County that the SRO’s patrol. Within these three communities of young people they see problems that cross district lines so the potential of there being problems within districts increases greatly without law enforcement in each district. Mr. Rose felt patrolling of all three districts and having the two SRO’s network together benefits everyone in the county.

The Sheriff stated that when comparing the services provided by the Kasson Police Department to the Sheriff’s Office it’s very difficult to fairly compare how tax dollars are being spent due to the disproportionate list of law enforcement services provided.

Commissioner Erickson commented he has never heard any comments from the City of Kasson regarding any inequity with the SRO Program. Mr. Erickson stated if the City of Kasson decides they want to discuss concerns of inequity regarding the SRO Program, they will have to come to the County Board.

Commissioner Erickson also noted the Kasson-Mantorville School District is a bigger school district and they decided on their own that they wanted a full-time SRO Officer.

Kasson Tax/SRO
Discussion -
Continued

Sheriff Rose informed the Board the Triton School District is getting big enough that they may consider getting a full-time SRO Officer too.

Commissioner Gray asked Jerry Berg if he felt the County Board had addressed his question.

Jerry Berg commented he heard the discussion regarding the SRO Program and how it's funded but he doesn't agree with it. Mr. Berg discussed with the Board and the Sheriff the size of Kasson and the county's lack of contributions towards the SRO Program for the Kasson-Mantorville School District. Mr. Berg commented he would like to see the county contribute to the Kasson-Mantorville School District SRO Officer position.

Commissioner Erickson pointed out that although the county doesn't contribute to the Kasson or West Concord Police Departments; they do receive an indirect benefit and services which are provided by the county.

It was Mr. Berg's opinion the county and city should stay out of funding the SRO Program all together. Mr. Berg indicated he would like the school districts to budget and pay for their own SRO services.

Commissioner Peterson stated having the school districts pay for SRO services won't work; someone needs to have jurisdictional control.

It was Commissioner Erickson's opinion the schools can't afford to pay for an SRO on their own.

Jerry Berg stated the schools benefit from having an SRO in the district and suggested that one way to address the fairness issue would be for the county to consider adjusting taxes for those districts that want to have an SRO Program.

The fairness issue regarding Economic Development Authority's (EDA's) in Dodge County was briefly discussed.

Commissioner Erickson stated the same argument regarding fairness has been heard from the county's EDA's.

The Board thanked Sheriff Rose for the information.

Commissioner Gray wanted to know if the county provided funds to the Kasson-Mantorville School District for the SRO.

Commissioner Peterson reported the county did provide funds for the Kasson-Mantorville School District SRO Program when it first began and that the SRO program was grant funded for the first five years. After the first five years the Kasson-Mantorville School District decided to continue the program at their own expense.

Commissioner Gray reiterated the Kasson-Mantorville School District did have these services at one time and chose to go out on their own to obtain a full-time SRO.

Kasson Tax/SRO
Discussion -
Continued

Commissioner Tjosaas commented that equity is always going to be an issue, the County Board will just have to do the best they can and if they are missing something it will be left up to the cities to come to the County Board to discuss concerns of inequity.

Mr. Berg restated he believes the school districts should be funding the SRO Program.

Commissioner Gray stated he believes the SRO discussion has been a worthwhile topic and it was his opinion that the County Board has adequately discussed this issue.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:28 a.m. CST.

Meeting Adjourned

ATTEST:

**JOHN ALLEN
CHAIR, COUNTY BOARD**

**BECKY LUBAHN
DEPUTY CLERK**

DATED: