

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2015

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

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

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATION OFFICE
MANTORVILLE, MN**

2015-22 C.O.W.

The Dodge County Commissioners met in Committee of the Whole November 24, 2015, in the County Board Room at the Dodge County Government Services Building, Mantorville, MN, at 4:30 p.m. CDT. Chair John Allen opened the meeting at 4:30 p.m. CDT.

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
	Paul Kiltinen	County Attorney
	Scott Rose	Sheriff

County Administrator Jim Elmquist presented for the Board's consideration the 2016 elected officials salary requests.

2016 Elected
Officials Salaries
Discussion

Per Minnesota State Statute 375, 387, and 388, the County Board is required to work with each of the elected officials to establish salaries by resolution for the upcoming year. During this session, the Board reviews each elected official's request for an increase prior to setting the budget in December.

Listed below are the 2015 elected officials salaries:

Sheriff:	\$91,234
Attorney (1/2 Time):	\$46,562
County Board:	\$19,407
County Board Chair:	\$20,007

Included in the Board packet were the Sheriff and County Attorney's salary requests for 2016. Mr. Elmquist noted no action is required at this meeting however, salaries for a future resolution for Board approval should be determined.

Sheriff Scott Rose met with the Board to discuss his salary request for 2016.

2016 Sheriff Salary
Discussion

Mr. Rose is requesting a salary of \$93,058.68 for 2016 which represents a 2% increase.

Commissioner Allen stated he feels a 2% increase is fair.

County Attorney Paul Kiltinen informed the Board his 2016 salary request is \$47,958.00 which represents a 3% increase.

2016 County
Attorney Salary
Discussion

It was Commissioner Allen's opinion a 3% increase was fair.

The County Administrator pointed out that elected officials are not eligible for step increases like employees so 3% is probably a better comparable. Mr. Elmquist noted Sheriff Rose's request should probably reflect that.

County Board salaries for 2016 were discussed.

2016 County Board
Salaries Discussion

Commissioner Peterson stated he feels the Board's wage should be raised \$5,000 a year due to the size and growth of the county. Mr. Peterson reported it takes a lot of time and energy to do this job.

Commissioner Erickson commented he expected to see their wage more out of whack in comparison to other counties.

It was noted that in years past the County Board has gone without an annual increases and because of that you fall behind and have to catch up at some point.

Commissioner Peterson stated they could increase their wages by \$4,000 which represents a 20% increase over last year's salary.

Commissioner Erickson commented he won't vote for a \$4,000 raise, he felt it was a slap in the face to the rest of the employees in the county who have gone without raises at times in order to help reduce the budget.

Commissioner Tjosaas suggested a 3% increase and that they continue to raise their salaries by 3% each year in order to get their salaries more in line with other comparable counties. Mr. Tjosaas noted it will take time to get their salaries in line. Commissioner Tjosaas reported that as the Mayor of the City of Kasson he was paid less than he receives as a Dodge Commissioner, but he doesn't do this job to get paid.

Commissioner Gray indicated he was in favor of setting the Board's salary at \$22,500 because they need to catch up.

Commissioner Peterson stated the amount of work that is required as a Commissioner has increased significantly from his first term to present. Mr. Peterson reminded the Board the employee's pay changes when their job descriptions change, therefore he felt the Board's pay should also change as their jobs change.

Commissioner Tjosaas commented as a County Commissioner you take the good with the bad.

Commissioner Erickson stated he would prefer a 3% increase and that he would begrudgingly go along with a 6% increase.

Commissioners provided their agency reports. Commissioner Allen attended a Building Committee meeting and a meeting with the County Engineer. Commissioner Erickson attended a Work Force Development SE-EMS meeting, a Work Force Development meeting, a health insurance enrollment meeting, a Fairview Care Center Board meeting, two Construction Committee meetings and a Building Committee meeting. Commissioner Gray attended a County Board meeting, a Fair Board Annual meeting, two Dodge Refreshed meetings, a SMART meeting, a ZWP meeting, a Fairview meeting, a Dodge County Water Plan Annual meeting, a Dodge County Historical Society meeting, a Rail forum teleconference, a Building Committee meeting and a SCHRC meeting. Commissioner Peterson attended a MNPrairie meeting, a Dodge County Soil & Water meeting, a Fairview meeting and an annual Fair Board meeting. Commissioner Tjosaas attended a Fairview Board meeting, an EDA meeting, a SCHRC meeting and a MNPrairie meeting.

Agency Reports

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 4:58 p.m. CDT.

Meeting Adjourned

ATTEST:

JOHN ALLEN
CHAIR, COUNTY BOARD

BECKY LUBAHN
DEPUTY CLERK

DATED: