

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2015

**APPROVED MINUTES OF THE
COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING HELD**

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

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATION OFFICE
MANTORVILLE, MN**

2015-23

The Dodge County Commissioners met in regular session November 24, 2015, in the County Board Room at the Dodge County Government Services Building, Mantorville, MN, at 5:00 p.m. CDT. Chair John Allen called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. CDT.

Meeting
Convened

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Pledge of
Allegiance

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

Motion by Erickson seconded by Peterson to approve and adopt the agenda as presented. *Motion adopted unanimously.*

Agenda
Approved

There were no Consent Agenda items to approve.

Consent Agenda
Items

Clint Patterson from Habitat for Humanity met with the Board to discuss the county owned property to the north of the courthouse. Mr. Patterson informed the Board that Kevin Worden was not available for tonight's meeting.

Habitat for
Humanity
Request

Mr. Patterson reported the Rochester Area Habitat for Humanity respectfully requests the Board's consideration of a donation of the residential lot located at the corner of Blanch Street and 7th Street East in Mantorville. This lot would serve as the location of an upcoming Habitat for Humanity home to be built in the Kasson-Mantorville area.

Upon completion of the home, both the home and lot would be purchased by a working family unable to afford their own home, and would come on to the tax rolls as a fully-taxed residential homestead property.

It was clarified that Habitat for Humanity provides a "hand up," not a "hand out." Future homeowners must spend at least 200 hours building their future home, working alongside community volunteers. Homeowners also complete an educational program regarding topics related to homeownership including budgeting and credit, indoor and outdoor maintenance, crime prevention, and fire safety.

The combination of volunteer general construction labor and a no-profit mortgage ensure that the home is affordable for a family who would not otherwise be able to own a home. Once a family no longer has to struggle with substandard housing, they often start to thrive at school, in their jobs, and in their neighborhood. Habitat for Humanity finds that stable homes truly build stable lives.

Habitat for
Humanity
Request -
Continued

Mr. Patterson noted their organization can pay for the lot; however they are a charitable organization so they would like to get a good deal on the lot if possible.

Habitat for Humanity Representatives Jeremy Hunze, Dennis Foster, Duane Baldwin and Jerry Harris were available to answer questions regarding the proposed project.

Commissioner Erickson suggested the group first check with the City of Mantorville to make sure they can build a house on the county owned lot.

Mr. Hunze, the Habitat for Humanity Steering Committee Chair reported the City of Mantorville is aware of their interest in the lot. Mr. Hunze informed the Board this would be the fifth Habitat for Humanity home built in Dodge County. Mr. Hunze reiterated this is a hands up, not a hand out.

Commissioner Allen stated he would entertain the idea of working out an agreement with Habitat for Humanity for the purchase of the lot.

Mr. Allen read a letter of support for the project from Jerry and Rose Harris.

Mr. Patterson informed the Board they have everything in place except the land.

Commissioner Allen suggested the group work with the county's Building Committee regarding the purchase of the lot. Mr. Allen also suggested the group talk to the City of Mantorville regarding building a house on the lot.

Commissioner Gray wanted to know if they have an anticipated start date.

Mr. Hunze stated they would begin building in the spring of 2016; the house would be built during the summer and turned over by Christmas of 2016. Mr. Hunze noted they need to be done with the project in one calendar year.

The Board thanked the Habitat for Humanity group for the information.

Commissioner Tjosaas stated he would advocate selling the lot for the lowest price possible to the Habitat for Humanity group.

The County Administrator informed the Board the lot was put up for bid last year and the county didn't receive a bid for the lot. Mr. Elmquist noted there has recently been interest in the lot, however he doesn't feel it will bring much interest if it was put up for bid again.

It was the consensus of the group to have Habitat for Humanity representatives work with the county's Building Committee to come to an agreement on the purchase of the county owned lot across from the courthouse.

Facilities and Fleet Manager Duke Harbaugh provided the Board with a Building Committee update.

Building
Committee
Update

Mr. Harbaugh discussed with the Board insulation work that will take place on the interior limestone walls and the attic in the courthouse.

Door frames and fire rated doors for the courthouse were discussed. The Facilities and Fleet Manager clarified that according to CMS the doors into the courtroom need to be fire rated because they are off a main corridor. Mr. Harbaugh noted Wold Architects is looking at putting in wood doors in this area if it's cost effective, they felt the wood doors would look better and tie in nicely with the woodwork that is being completed in the courtroom.

Mr. Harbaugh discussed with the Board roof issues at the Government Services Building and the option of upgrading the roof warranty. The Facilities and Fleet Manager suggested not doing anything with the roof at the Government Services Building at this time but fixing the wall and flashing issue that is causing the leak between the main building and the south wing.

Mr. Harbaugh reported the future of the west side of the courthouse is unknown at this time with the work that is planned on the retaining wall next year.

The Facilities and Fleet Manger informed the Board that 38 out of 43 window sills in the courthouse are in bad shape, they are talking about wrapping the window sills in their current state and painting the frames.

Commissioner Peterson suggested Mr. Harbaugh have CMS check building code 1203.7 in relation to the fire rating that was suggested for the courtroom door.

The Facilities and Fleet Manager discussed with the Board 2015-2016 snow removal services.

2015-2016 Snow
Removal
Services
Approved

Mr. Harbaugh reported snow removal services agreements are up for renewal. The county's current snow removal contractors are interested in continuing their services with the county for the 2015-2016 season. Last season Swenke Ims Contracting LLC, from Kasson, provided snow removal at the Courthouse, Maintenance Garage, and Historical Society locations. Wirth Septic Systems, from Dodge Center, provided snow removal at the Service Center in Dodge Center.

Swenke Ims Contracting LLC will provide snow removal services with little increase in equipment and sand salt pricing.

This year Wirth Septic Systems proposed a slight increase in sand and salt and the equipment prices are the same as last year.

Motion by Erickson seconded by Tjosaas to approve and authorize the Facilities and Fleet Manager to renew snow removal service agreements with Swenke Ims Contracting LLC of Kasson, MN and Wirth Septic Systems of Dodge Center, MN for providing the 2015-2016 snow removal services for the county as requested.
Motion adopted unanimously.

Mr. Harbaugh presented for the Board’s consideration court room technology quotes.

Court Room &
Court Room
Technology
Quote Approved

With the remodel of the court room in progress the need for a contractor to complete the technology needs for the court room and hearing room is evident. Mr. Harbaugh has met with Courts and the State IT staff to produce a scope in which would suit their wants. Once a scope was defined they met once more with the John Mooney (electrical engineer with Paulson & Clark) to define the needs versus the wants in order for the Courts to complete their day to day business. After this the final scope was sent out to two approved contractors for pricing.

Proposals received were listed as follows:

Tierney Brothers	\$81,943.97
MSpace	\$87,848.25

Information Systems Specialist Eric Schwartz was available to answer questions on the proposals.

Motion by Erickson seconded by Tjosaas to approve and authorize the Chair to sign the proposal from Tierney Brothers to complete the defined scope of work for the technologies in both the court room and hearing room at a cost of \$81,943.97.
Motion adopted unanimously.

Employee Relations Director Lisa Hager presented the Personnel Agenda for the Board’s consideration.

Personnel
Actions
Approved

Motion by Tjosaas seconded by Gray to approve the following personnel actions:

A. Land Records

A.1 Kim Walstad – Senior Clerk
Annual review.
Effective Date: 11/8/15

B. Environmental Services

B.1 Ken Paulson – Solid Waste Facility Manager
Authorization to employ at B32 step 4 \$23.63 to fill approved vacancy.
Effective Date: 12/14/15

C. Extension

C.1 Paula Rud – Administrative Assistant
Step increase from A13 step 6 \$14.55 to A13 step 5 \$14.97.
Effective Date: 11/7/15

D. Sheriff

D.1 Jeff Brion – Deputy Sheriff
Step increase from C41 72 month step \$27.41 to C41 84 month step \$28.09.
Effective Date: 10/31/15

E. Administration

E.1 Greg Thoe – Custodian/Maintenance
Step increase from A13 step 2 \$16.38 to A13 step 1 \$16.87.
Effective Date: 7/13/15

Motion adopted unanimously.

Taxpayer Services Director Rose Culbertson reviewed bills with the Board.

Bills Approved

Ms. Culbertson informed the Board a payment of \$6,856.29 to Wells Fargo Bank is being added to the bills in order to avoid late charges for items purchased by various departments using county credit cards.

Motion by Gray seconded by Peterson to approve the bills as discussed in the following amounts from the appropriate funds as determined by Finance:

01	Revenue Fund	\$ 91,283.70
13	Road and Bridge Fund	\$ 107,953.40
16	Environmental Quality Fund	\$ 84,988.00
32	County Capital Projects	<u>\$ 164,968.09</u>
	Total	\$ 449,193.19

Motion adopted unanimously.

Fair Board President Marilyn Leron provided the Board with a Fair Board update.

Fair Board Update

The Fair Board President thanked the Board for their support over the last several years.

Ms. Leron shared information with the Board regarding the following items:

- 2015 Profit & Loss
- Review of Bank Loans
- Poultry/Rabbit/FFA Petting Zoo Building
- Changes in the Equal Share Grants for 2016 & 2017
- 2016 Fair & Race Track

The Fair Board President informed the Board the Dodge County Agricultural & Mechanical Society made a profit this year. Part of the profit can be attributed to the fact that they had two ribbon auctions listed in the books this year, in a typical year they would only have one auction listed.

Commissioner Erickson wanted to know what the situation was with the race promoter.

Ms. Leron stated she believes the promoter benefitted from the initial race being postponed because the makeup race did really well. The Fair Board President reported the promoter is planning to bring 5-6 races to the Dodge County Speedway next summer and has gone out and gotten lots of sponsorships for the races. Ms. Leron noted the promoter is easy to work with and works with the crowd really well. It was Ms. Leron’s opinion the promoter does need more help at the races. Also noted was the promoter is planning to have a few more races this coming year than what was done in 2015.

Commissioner Gray wanted to know if there was any pushback from Kasson residents due to the races.

Commissioner Tjosaas informed the Board that he only received one call in his time at the City of Kasson and the complaint was several years ago.

The Fair Board President stated they didn't have any calls or complaints this year due to the races.

Fair Board
Update -
Continued

Commissioner Peterson commented the midway, if it's a good year, takes care of itself. Mr. Peterson noted McNeilus backed out this year; they usually contribute \$13,000 to the fair. Commissioner Peterson noted the grandstand shows even themselves out, the beer gardens did very well and the food stands did ok. Mr. Peterson heard lots of positive comments regarding the fireworks at the fair this year.

Ms. Lermon agreed the fireworks show was a good addition to the fair.

Commissioner Peterson reported livestock numbers increased this year although there wasn't any poultry at the fair.

The Fair Board President shared with the Board the plans for the new rabbit/poultry building. The rabbit/poultry kids wanted a 40x60 building; the Fair Board requested they build a 40x80 building because they need additional winter storage and extra storage space. Ms. Lermon informed the Board the building materials for the new shed are at the fairgrounds. The building is being constructed by Amish workers and should go up sometime within the next week or two. The electrical work for the new building will be completed next spring. Ms. Lermon reported they will be applying for an Ag Star grant to cover the electrical costs.

The Fair Board President discussed other grant opportunities which were available and could be used for fans in the judging barn and electrical updates needed at the fairgrounds.

Ms. Lermon informed the Board money for the new building came from fundraising that was done by the poultry kids. The additional expense of building a larger building than what was requested will be paid for by the Fair Board. The total cost of the new building will be approximately \$32,000.

Commissioner Gray commented that it will be nice to have a new building at the fairgrounds.

The Fair Board President stated poultry, rabbits and a small petting zoo will be in the new building. They will not be doing a big petting zoo next year since there were issues in the past.

Truck parking at the fairgrounds was briefly discussed. Ms. Lermon informed the Board truck parking will be allowed at the fairgrounds this winter.

Building loans were reviewed.

The Fair Board President briefly discussed the bank loan at Home Federal for the fair office.

Ms. Lermon discussed the Bremer Bank loan, this loan was accumulated when the ice arena was built. The horse arena had to be moved in order to make room for the new ice arena. The county's insurance company would not cover the horse arena until a new retaining wall was installed at the racetrack.

Commissioner Gray commented the cost of one of these loans is associated with the ice arena. Mr. Gray suggested the Board revisit this discussion item at a later date and consider paying off this loan for the Fair Board. Commissioner Gray felt it was unfair to the Fair Board to make them pay for an expense which is related to the construction of the ice arena.

Fair Board
Update -
Continued

Commissioner Peterson agreed with Commissioner Gray's comments. Mr. Peterson stated it's the county's land.

The Fair Board President stated with the grants they have applied for they are interested in doing additional updates to the buildings at the fairgrounds.

Commissioner Gray commended the work of the Fair Board and the services they provide the citizens of Dodge County.

Ms. Leron informed Commissioners she has a good Board behind her and it takes all of them working together to make the fair a success.

The Board thanked Ms. Leron for the update.

County Attorney Paul Kiltinen provided the Board with a legal update.

Legal Update

Sheriff Scott Rose discussed with the Board court and building security/screening.

Court and
Building
Security/
Screening
Update

Lori Gildea, Chief Justice of the Minnesota Supreme Court, has made courthouse security her number one priority. Over the years there have been numerous incidents of courthouse violence, some resulting in death. Everyone knows that it can happen anywhere, in any court or government facility with tragic consequences, even here in Minnesota: A fatal shooting in the Hennepin County Courthouse in 2003 prompted tighter security in the downtown Minneapolis Government Center. In December of 2011, a defendant critically wounded three people in the Cook County Courthouse in Grand Marais, which did not have a metal detector or Deputy working security. In January of 2015 in New Hope a gunman opened fire on two officers after a swearing in ceremony at the city hall. Fortunately in this case the two officers who were injured exchanged gunfire with the suspect killing him before anyone else was hurt. In addition to the numerous law enforcement officer shootings throughout the country this year, the most recent public employee shooting gaining national attention was a social worker in Vermont who was shot and killed at work by a client upset about losing custody of her 9 year old child.

Chief Justice Gildea has requested that all 87 counties have a Courthouse Security Workgroup to review their security assessments, review current conditions and recommendations.

With the assistance of the Court, Dodge County organized a Court Security Committee and had some of the members attend their initial state-wide meeting on June 15, 2105. This training was facilitated by the Minnesota Supreme Court. In addition, the Sheriff's Office sent two (Chief Deputy Mike Leonhardt and Sergeant Rich Allee) to ALERT Court Security Training at Camp Dodge Iowa this summer.

This training was taught by retired federal agents covering courthouse security, site surveys, screening check points, courtroom security, judicial protection, high threat trials, and more. The training covered security concepts and procedures and how to establish court security plans. The Court Security Committee is now meeting monthly and will also be breaking into sub-groups to look at different areas of concern regarding building safety and security.

Court and
Building
Security/
Screening
Update -
Continued

The security needs required by the state within the Courthouse/Government Services Building are as follows:

- The Sheriff's Office is statutorily responsible for the day to day safety of the Judge presiding in their district.
- The Chief Justice is requiring a written security plan be developed for all district courts.
- Also required will be a Courtroom Security Deputy in all hearings. This will include criminal hearings in the main courtroom as well as civil hearings in the new room on the main floor of the courthouse. (At times there will be a need for two Deputies when court is being held in both locations at the same time.)
- Finally, the development of a weapons screening for courthouses across the state will be required.

During the remodeling phase of the courthouse, the Judge's safety and the security of her staff became the committee's first concern with the temporary use of the county board room for court hearings. It was determined, after reviewing the facility and the Judges security needs, that the Sheriff's Office could not adequately protect the Judge with her unsecured temporary chambers in the Government Services Building conference room without having a Deputy posted in that building at all times the Judge is on the bench or in chambers. This staffing change was made the first week court was held in the Government Services Building.

The next step regarding courthouse security was an order issued by the Judge prohibiting the possession of firearms within the Courthouse Government Services Complex. All persons, including public employees (except for licensed Peace Officers with badge displayed) are prohibited from having firearms on their person or in their possession, including those who have a permit to carry. This order includes the new Government Services Building, Courthouse, Annex, MNPrairie, and Sheriff's Office areas of the complex. This order was posted at all three main entrances and put in effect October 7, 2015. This order does not prohibit valid permit holders from securing their firearm in the parking lot, only from entering the building.

Dodge County is ahead of many of the other courthouses in the state in that we already have Deputies in place during all court hearings, so we are already in compliance with this portion of the new state security requirements.

The next issue the committee will address after the remodel is implementing the building screening area that is currently being built and equipped in the east annex of the courthouse.

The Sheriff's Office purchased a walk thru metal detector from the Steele County Sheriff's Office this summer for the courthouse screening station. They have also worked with the architect and building contractors during the buildout process to ensure the screening area meets the needs of the courthouse. The screening area will be equipped with a computer workstation connected to the courthouse and Sheriff's Office network. There will also be a surveillance and card access workstation to monitor activities within both the Courthouse and Government Services Building.

Court and
Building
Security/
Screening
Update -
Continued

The Sheriff will be assigning a Sergeant to manage the security and safety of the courthouse and Government Services Building after the New Year. This Sergeant will be responsible for the following duties:

- Court Security Committee member.
- Perimeter and interior building check prior to opening the courthouse at 7:30 a.m. This will be done to insure that the building is safe both inside and out for employees and visitors.
- Opening the building at 7:30 p.m. and closing it at 4:30 p.m.
- Screening of all public safety employees (Court, Probation, County Attorney's Office, Public Defender's Office) going in and out of the building. Screening will be required for all employees other than sworn law enforcement. Screening will include the walk thru metal detector and screening of all purses, brief cases, etc. The Sergeant will also have a manual hand wand for secondary screening. During busy screening times, the Court Security Deputy will be utilized to assist at the screening area.
- Ensure county employee identification is properly displayed on all staff entering the building.
- Provide security for Sheriff, Probation and County Attorneys' public window.
- Assist with monitoring camera surveillance and security systems for both buildings.
- Manage and schedule all court security and transports to ensure coverage. This also includes monitoring court hearings and data entry of transport data information on calendar for scheduling.
- Facilitate ongoing training for court security and screening staff.
- Assist with making sure proper paper work is prepared and served on individuals prior to going to and from court.
- Verify booking and fingerprinting has been completed.
- Assist with walk up complaints to help keep patrol Deputies on the road.
- Issue Burning Permits to the public.
- Provide various legal paperwork and assistance to public.
- Assist with emergency first responder needs within the courthouse.
- Assist with the development and implementation of courthouse staff training programs related to building safety, security, and critical incidents.
- Review and assess court security incidents to improve responsiveness to changing security needs.
- Ensure incidents are reported to the appropriate state departments, including dangerous weapon confiscation.
- Control building access "clearance" and screening for all deliveries (office supplies, etc.)

- Will be responsible for facilitating the daily close of the building and checking each area to determine how many employees are still within the building after hours.

Court and
Building
Security/
Screening
Update -
Continued

The screening of all public safety employees will be a big learning curve for the Sheriffs' Office staff and others within the courthouse. The Court Security Committee is planning to implement the screening station in January. This will give them an opportunity to develop and fine-tune the area and screening process prior to Court Administration and the Judge moving back to the courthouse after the remodel. This should also give them adequate time to work out any bugs in the process and procedures prior to court being held again in the courthouse.

Chief Deputy Leonhardt will be the direct supervisor of this department as he has the most expertise in this area. Chief Deputy Leonhardt and Sergeant Rich Allee were the two individuals from the Sheriff's Office that were sent to training in Iowa. Sergeant Allee will be the person assigned to this position. The Sergeant will report directly to Chief Deputy Leonhardt who will also assist him when needed during the day, especially during heavy court days. Chief Deputy Leonhardt will still serve as the direct liaison with the Judge while the Sergeant will be their day to day office liaison with Court Administration.

Deputy Galen Heinle, their most senior part-time Deputy, is currently assigned strictly to courtroom security, he will move up to a .55 status to help assist Sergeant Allee during the week. The Sheriff's Office will also cross train other part-time Deputies to assist with courtroom security, as they've done in the past. During days where the courthouse is closed due to weather related issues (snow emergencies) or holidays, they may utilize this person to assist patrol with road hazard and/or emergency calls.

This will be a C43 union Sergeant position. The appointment of Sergeant Allee to this position will open up his patrol Sergeant position for posting. The filling of this position will open up a full-time patrol position for which they have a current eligibility list and intend to promote Deputy Gerald Runnells from part-time to full-time. This will also save them just over \$12,000 in ACA benefits for 2016 as Runnells was one of two part-time Deputies this year who is benefits eligible due to his hours worked.

When the remodel is completed, Court Administration and the Judge will have both the remodeled courtroom upstairs, as well as a new hearing room on the first floor scheduled for proceedings. The court anticipates that the main floor hearing room will be used approximately once or twice per week. It will be used for the child support magistrate hearings, conciliation court settlement conferences and trials and as needed for miscellaneous administrative hearings. The hearing room will also be used for overflow public seating during high profile cases because the remodeled courtroom will only accommodate 23-25 in the public gallery.

The implementation of the courthouse screening and other new security procedures will help ensure that the county and the Sheriff's Office are doing everything they can to provide a safe environment for the county staff and visitors to the courthouse.

The new security measures will also send a strong message to anyone considering causing problems within any of the public safety offices.

Court and Building Security/ Screening Update - Continued

The responsibilities of this new position will continue to be a work in progress as the Sheriff's Office and the Court Security Committee continuously evaluate the evolving needs of safety and security in our buildings and ensure that the county maintains compliance with the requirements set forth by the state of Minnesota.

Commissioner Erickson stated they need rationale to support the request; they don't want to say no. Mr. Erickson wanted to know who is on the Court Security Committee.

Sheriff Rose reported the following individuals serve on the Court Security Committee with him:

- Chief Deputy Mike Leonhardt
- Judge Jodi Williamson
- Law Clerk Carli Stark
- Senior Court Clerk Amy Hayward
- Public Defender Rachael Drenkpohl
- Facilities and Fleet Manager Duke Harbaugh
- Paralegal Stephanie Morris
- County Administrator Jim Elmquist
- Commissioner Steve Gray
- Sergeant Rich Allee
- Emergency Management Director Matt Maas

Commissioner Erickson wanted to know if there is a deadline to get into compliance.

Sheriff Rose informed the Board it's only a directive from the Chief Justice at this time; however the Judge can do a ruling at any time to require the update. Mr. Rose stated while it's not required yet, he believes it is coming.

Commissioner Allen noted the Judge could decide not to hold court in Dodge County if court security concerns aren't addressed and she doesn't feel it's safe to work over here. Likewise, if Dodge County does the recommended security updates another county could move their court over here until their court security issues are addressed.

The Sheriff provided the Board with jail bed statistics and jail costs.

County Administrator Jim Elmquist discussed with the Board the proposed 2016 budget.

2016 Budget Discussion

Included in the Board packet was information for the Board's next budget discussion along with summary data. Mr. Elmquist wanted to be certain they have no outstanding issues before their final certification on December 22nd.

The Finance Director Lisa Kramer was available to answer questions.

Mr. Elmquist noted Sheriff Rose present to the Board his security plan prior to this discussion item which has some financial implications.

It was noted the security plan has been previously discussed within the Sheriff's original budget proposal.

2016 Budget Discussion - Continued

The Board was informed of two budget changes that occurred today. DFO is requesting an additional \$2,298 to their 2016 budget and MNPrairie is reducing their 2016 budget request by \$28,721.

Discussion took place regarding the possibility of moving the \$28,721 out of the MNPrairie fund to the Commissioners Contingency fund.

The County Administrator added that DFO will be short in 2016 and it could be added there as Commissioner Contingency was increased after the preliminary certification.

It was noted that right now the proposed 2016 budget represents a 5.1% increase over the 2015 budget.

Commissioner Gray recommended returning the MNPrairie reduction amount to the general fund.

Commissioners Peterson and Tjosaas agreed with Mr. Gray's recommendation.

The County Administrator reminded the Board that action on the 2016 budget will come at the December 22nd County Board meeting.

The Finance Director was thanked for her work on the budget.

The County Administrator presented for the Board's consideration a CPA resolution.

County's Endorsement of Revised County Program Aid Formula Approved by Resolution #2015-35

AMC is asking for Dodge County's support in their call for changes in the next legislative session as to how CPA is financed for counties in the state.

In years past, due to the Tax Base Equalization Aid (TBEA) formula, some counties do not receive aid and these counties tend to be some of the more financially strapped in the state.

It is believed the number will grow over time as values increase which will cause a have/have not scenario within the formula until there are only a few receiving TBEA aid. The new formula calculation will be responsive to that concern while also providing new money within the formula.

There were probably 35-40 counties who took part in the discussions dating back to early 2014 and the group agreed this proposal would be the best one to bring forth to the legislature. Both parties have indicated some willingness to take on legislation of this type in this next session but ostensibly, any time new financial impacts are introduced, there will be detractors.

Commissioner Gray offered the following resolution (#2015-35) affirming Dodge County's endorsement of the revised County Program Aid formula developed by the Association of Minnesota Counties' County Program Aid Work Group., seconded by Commissioner Tjosaas:

WHEREAS, Minnesota’s counties are mandated by the state to provide essential services in many program areas including human services, public safety, and transportation; and

County’s
Endorsement of
Revised County
Program Aid
Formula
Approved by
Resolution
#2015-35 -
Continued

WHEREAS, counties depend on County Program Aid (“CPA”) for the financial sustainability of these state-mandated, county-administered services; and

WHEREAS, the current structure of the CPA formula, pursuant MS Chapter 447A.0124, creates considerably volatility in the fund’s distribution, interfering with counties’ abilities to accurately budget for essential services; and

WHEREAS, the current formula’s inadequacies have also resulted in the dramatic reduction of funding for one-third of counties, that have lost at least 50 percent of their funding since 2005; and

WHEREAS, despite fluctuations over the past ten years, the state appropriation to the 2015 CPA is equal to the 2005 appropriation making it greatly depressed in terms of inflation; and

WHEREAS, a revised CPA formula in conjunction with additional funding will enable counties to continue to provide quality services that may also translate into reductions in county levies, decreasing the tax burden of Minnesota residents; and

WHEREAS, in October 2014, the Association of Minnesota Counties assembled the CPA Work Group including leadership from twenty counties and representatives from the Metropolitan Inter-County Association and the Minnesota Rural Counties Caucus to analyze and develop a CPA formula that reflects the pressing needs of Minnesota’s counties; and

WHEREAS, the CPA Work Group unanimously approved a revised CPA formula that benefits all Minnesota counties by reducing volatility and ensuring a fair distribution of CPA; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the Association of Minnesota Counties that represents the diverse interests of Minnesota’s 87 counties, voted to support the proposed CPA formula revisions; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, Dodge County endorses the following revisions to the Minnesota County Program Aid formula:

- A funding increase of \$40 million;
- The creation of a funding floor that guarantees each county \$350,000 in tax base equalization aid (“TBEA”);
- Adjustments to the TBEA formula factors to slow down counties’ loss of TBEA funding, including: an increase of the per capita factor to \$190 and a decrease of the county adjusted net tax capacity (ANTC) factor to 9 percent;
- The elimination of special funds and transition aid; and
- The creation of a 5% cap on annual CPA losses; ensuring no county will lose more than 5% of its funding each year.

Resolution adopted unanimously.

Commissioner Allen presented a summary of the Administration Committee report and action items.

Administration
Committee
Report

Motion by Erickson seconded by Peterson to approve and authorize the November 10, 2015 Committee of the Whole meeting minutes as presented. *Motion adopted unanimously.*

11/10/15
Committee of
the Whole
Meeting Minutes
Approved

Motion by Erickson seconded by Peterson to approve and authorize the November 10, 2015 meeting minutes as presented. *Motion adopted unanimously.*

11/10/15
Meeting Minutes
Approved

Motion by Peterson seconded by Tjosaas to adjourn the meeting at 6:52 p.m. CDT. *Motion adopted unanimously.*

Meeting
Adjourned

The next meeting of the Dodge County Board of Commissioners will be held on December 10, 2015 at 9:30 a.m. CDT.

Next Regular
Meeting

ATTEST:

**JOHN ALLEN
CHAIR, COUNTY BOARD**

**BECKY LUBAHN
DEPUTY CLERK**

DATED: