

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2015**

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

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

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATION OFFICE  
MANTORVILLE, MN**

**2015-25**

The Dodge County Commissioners met in regular session December 22, 2015, in the County Board Room at the Dodge County Government Services Building, Mantorville, MN, at 5:00 p.m. CST. Chair John Allen called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. CST.

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 Tjosaas seconded by Peterson to approve and adopt the agenda as amended to remove item 11.1 (Voicelogger) which will be brought back at a later date. *Motion adopted unanimously.*

Agenda  
Approved

Motion by Peterson seconded by Erickson to approve the following Consent Agenda items:

Consent Agenda  
Items Approved

- 1.1 Chair to sign 2016 Comprehensive Water Plan Contract with the Dodge County Soil and Water Conservation District.
- 1.2 Chair and Deputy Clerk to sign Community and Economic Development Associates (CEDA) Contract for Professional Services for consulting EDA services to Dodge County.

*Motion adopted unanimously.*

Facilities and Fleet Manager Duke Harbaugh discussed with the Board the Claremont demolition project. David Kane of Kane and Johnson was available to comment on the project.

Claremont  
Demolition  
Project Payment  
Approved

Mr. Harbaugh reported the Claremont demolition project was completed in September, roughly nine months behind schedule. There were multiple issues in getting the contractor to perform in a timely manner and complete the task on schedule. Jason Fitzgerald set many deadlines in which he did not meet resulting in numerous site visits by both the Project Manager and the Facilities and Fleet Manager.

Fitzgerald Excavating's failure to perform in a timely manner, Mr. Fitzgerald's failure to produce photos of installation, failure to complete the punch list in its entirety and failure to meet schedules/deadlines were the cause for multiple site visits, numerous emails and phone calls as well as a lot of time following up with Mr. Fitzgerald to see that the project was progressing as well as completed the way it was specified.

Claremont  
Demolition  
Project Payment  
Approved -  
Continued

Kane and Johnson, the original architects, sold out to Windseth Smith Nolting & Associates, Inc. (WSN) back in March in which the county continued with its original Project Manager and Architect. The original price from Kane and Johnson included a sufficient number of site visits had the contractor performed and adhered to a schedule.

So far to date WSN has accrued \$7,836.13 in additional time and labor due to contractor delays. The additional charges started to accrue on March 18, 2015 and were listed as follows:

April 27, 2015	Invoice 102891	\$2,398.25
May 22, 2015	Invoice 103270	\$ 954.25
July 21, 2015	Invoice 104630	\$1,549.88
August 14, 2015	Invoice 105199	\$ 640.00
September 25, 2015	Invoice 105672	\$1,160.25
October, 23, 2015	Invoice 106509	\$ 736.00
November 23, 2015	Invoice 107003	\$ 397.50
Total		\$7,836.13

Mr. Harbaugh reported the additional charges were a change order in the final AIA pay app submitted to Fitzgerald and the contractor has refused to submit a signed pay app, leaving the county with no way to close this project. Upon discussion with our County Attorney, the county has an option to have a check made out to Fitzgerald Contracting for the remaining funds minus the extra charges by WSN and create a legal document that Jason Fitzgerald must sign in order to receive payment for the project. The amount is based on the original contract sum plus an additional change order and would subtract the additional charges by WSN.

Original Contract	\$87,000.00
Change Order I	\$ 2,000.00
Project Total	\$89,000.00
Additional Charges from WSN	-\$ 7,836.13
Total Payment to Fitzgerald Contracting	\$81,163.87

Commissioner Erickson and Mr. Harbaugh both noted that Fitzgerald did a good job with the project once it was completed; however there were a number of delays, communication problems and issues throughout the project.

County Attorney Paul Kiltinen recommended Mr. Fitzgerald be asked to sign a Lien Waiver and a Settlement Agreement before he receives a check for \$81,163.87 from the county. This amount was figured based on the project total of \$89,000.00, minus the additional charges of \$7,836.13 from WSN for the additional project management work they had to do on the project.

The County Attorney will draft a Lien Waiver and a Settlement Agreement for Mr. Fitzgerald to sign.

Claremont  
Demolition  
Project Payment  
Approved -  
Continued

Motion by Erickson seconded by Peterson to approve and authorize the payment of \$81,163.87 to Fitzgerald Contracting for the Claremont demolition project contingent upon receiving a signed copy of a Lien Waiver and Settlement Agreement with the county. *Motion adopted unanimously.*

Motion by Peterson seconded by Gray to approve and authorize payment of \$7,836.13 to Windseth Smith Nolting & Associates, Inc. for additional project management work that was performed on the Claremont demolition project. *Motion adopted unanimously.*

Payment to  
WSN Approved

Septic System Coordinator/Account Technician Sandra Schaefer met with the Board to discuss assessing a special assessment for a Transfer Station customer.

Special  
Assessment  
Approved for  
Unpaid Transfer  
Station Charges

Ms. Schaefer informed the Board Andrew Tufte charged demolition and solid waste at the Dodge County Transfer Station. Mr. Tufte was billed each month and was repeatedly contacted to pay his outstanding balance. On September 8, 2015 Mr. Tufte paid his past due balance with a check. On September 8, 2016 Mr. Tufte made another charge at the transfer station.

The check was returned for non-sufficient funds with a \$20.00 return fee charged to the county. Mr. Tufte was contacted by phone by Ms. Schaefer, the Account Technician for Environmental Services. Mr. Tufte indicated he would be in that week to take care of the check saying that he wrote the check on a bank account that he had intended to close. Mr. Tufte did not show up to take care of the check and several attempts to contact him by phone were made, messages were left on his voice mail and none of the calls were returned.

A registered letter was sent to Mr. Tufte on December 1, 2015. On December 8, 2015 Mr. Tufte signed that he had received the letter. No further response has been received from Mr. Tufte. Transfer Station charges were listed as follows:

June charge at Transfer Station	\$ 78.00
July charge at Transfer Station	\$ 26.02
August charge at Transfer Station	\$353.75
NSF Check Charge	\$ 20.00
September charge at Transfer Station	\$ 91.00
Interest at 5%	\$ 28.44
<b>TOTAL DUE</b>	<b>\$597.21</b>

Since Mr. Tufte has not attempted to contact the county with his intentions to make this check good, it is Environmental Services request to have a special assessment added to Mr. Tufte’s taxes to be paid in one year with 5% interest added. Finance Director Lisa Kramer has advised this to be a proper resolution for this Non-Sufficient Funds payment to the county.

Motion by Gray seconded by Tjosaas to approve and authorize a Special Assessment of \$597.21 to Andrew Tufte for unpaid charges and NSF fees associated with charges made at the Transfer Station. *Motion adopted unanimously.*

Taxpayer Services Director Rose Culbertson reviewed bills with the Board.

Bills Approved

Ms. Culbertson informed the Board a payment of \$6,814.73 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.

The Taxpayer Services Director noted a payment to Geo-Comm in the amount of \$760.00 on page 11 is being pulled; this is a duplicate payment, the original invoice will be paid out of the E911 fund. A payment of \$555.00 to Marco on page 11 is also being pulled; this too is a duplicate payment.

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

01	Revenue Fund	\$ 153,464.88
13	Road and Bridge Fund	\$ 52,404.00
16	Environmental Quality Fund	\$ 80,564.60
17	Eq Revolving Equip Fund	\$ 6,038.07
21	Tax Abatement Levy	\$ 14,357.00
32	County Capital Projects	<u>\$ 406,737.56</u>
	Total	\$ 713,566.11

*Motion adopted unanimously.*

Ms. Culbertson presented for the Board’s consideration a proposed Reserve Accounts resolution. The Taxpayer Services Director handed out a corrected memo and resolution for the Board’s consideration.

GASB 54  
Committed Fund  
Update  
Approved by  
Resolution  
#2015-38

As stated in the county’s GASB 54 Fund Balance Policy, formal action in the form of a resolution must be taken to approve or rescind fund balances by the end of each fiscal year. In 2014 a separate resolution was made for each fund. Since the county now has documentation for these we can incorporate them into one resolution. The presentation and approval of this resolution will provide the authority and documentation needed to correctly report these funds on the county’s financial statements.

The funds listed in the resolution are as follows:

- GASB 54 Committed Fund Update for:  
 Wetland ROW Fund  
 Wind Tower Decommissioning Fund  
 Sober Fest Revolving Fund  
 Public Recreation and Open Space Fund  
 Veteran Services Van Fund  
 LoJack Safety Net Fund  
 Impound Fee Fund  
 Change Funds  
 Environmental Service Capital Equipment Fund  
 Landfill Post Closure Fund  
 Comprehensive Land Use Plan Fund  
 Fairview Care Center Reserve Fund  
 DFO Corrections Reserve Fund

Commissioner Gray offered the following resolution (#2015-38), seconded by Commissioner Tjosaas:

GASB 54  
Committed Fund  
Update  
Approved by  
Resolution  
#2015-38 -  
Continued

**GASB 54 Committed Fund Update**

**WHEREAS**, Dodge County has established committed fund accounts at various times in the past; and

**WHEREAS**, the current listing of these accounts is as follows and their balances will be updated in January of 2016:

- Wetland ROW Fund
- Wind Tower Decommissioning Fund
- Sober Fest Revolving Fund
- Public Recreation and Open Space Fund
- Veteran Services Van Fund
- LoJack Safety Net Fund
- Impound Fee Fund
- Change Funds
- Environmental Service Capital Equipment Fund
- Landfill Post Closure Fund
- DFO Corrections Fund
- Fairview Care Center Appropriations Fund
- Comprehensive Land Use Plan Fund

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Dodge County Board of Commissioners hereby reapproves these revolving accounts to be used for future revenues and expenditures, and will allow appropriate staff to administer such funds on a continuous basis, indefinitely.

*Resolution adopted unanimously.*

Finance Director Lisa Kramer discussed with the Board a Project Management Sub Contract with MNPrairie.

Project  
Management  
Sub Contract  
with MNPrairie  
Approved

Dodge County, Steele County and MNPrairie intend to implement a new, integrated payroll and Human Resources Information System (HRIS) in 2016. MNPrairie, Dodge County and Steele County have also agreed that a Project Manager is necessary to oversee the project and MNPrairie has contracted with Gary Weiers from David Drown Associates to provide the Project Manager services for a total fee of \$29,800.

Included in the Board packet was a copy of MNPrairie's contract with David Drown Associates for the Board's information. Ms. Kramer also included the subcontract between MNPrairie and Dodge County for review and approval. Dodge County's share of the total cost will be one third (\$9,933.34).

Motion by Peterson seconded by Tjosaas to approve and authorize the Chair to sign the proposed MNPrairie/Dodge County sub-contract for project management services from David Drown Associates. *Motion adopted unanimously.*

Environmental Services Director Mark Gamm presented for the Board's consideration board/commission appointments.

Board/  
Commission  
Member  
Appointments  
and Terms  
Approved

On December 31, 2015, the terms of eight of their board/commission members will expire.

The following are individuals whose terms will expire and the board/commission on which they serve. All of the listed individuals have indicated that they would be willing to serve an additional term. Where necessary, the new terms end dates have been staggered to avoid having more than three members terms end in any calendar year.

<b><u>Board of Adjustment</u></b>	<b><u>New Term Ends</u></b>
Harlan Buck	12/31/2016
Dan Kutzler	12/31/2018
Darren Durst (Alt)	12/31/2017

<b><u>Planning Commission</u></b>	<b><u>New Term Ends</u></b>
Joshua Toquam	12/31/2018

<b><u>Feedlot Advisory Board</u></b>	<b><u>Term Ends</u></b>
Galen Johnson	12/31/2016
Mark Moenning	12/31/2016
Rick Alberts	12/31/2016
Glen Hahn	12/31/2016

Motion by Erickson seconded by Gray to approve and authorize the appointment of the Board of Adjustment, Planning Commission and Feedlot Advisory Board members and their terms as presented. *Motion adopted unanimously.*

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

Legal Update

Mr. Elmquist presented the legal newspaper bid information for the Board's review.

2016 Legal  
Newspaper Bid  
Awarded

Each year the County Board is required to name a legal newspaper for the county to advertise County Board proceedings, official minutes, etc. This process is awarded to one of the local county newspapers through a competitive bid process as stipulated within statute.

For 2016, the bid materials were sent to each of the local newspapers offering the opportunity to bid on the legal newspaper. The county received the following two bids:

Newspaper	\$ Bid Per Column Inch	\$ Full Page/Half/Quarter	Circulation
DCI	\$1.75	\$210/\$105/\$52	1,500
Star Herald	\$1.00	\$126/\$63/\$31.50	1,500

Mr. Elmquist reported the 2015 legal newspaper was the Star Herald at a cost of \$2.00 per square inch along with the advertisement costs being reduced to \$252/\$126/\$63 for full page/half/quarter page.

The two main factors to be considered are cost and circulation. Based on the information received, the recommendation is to award the Star Herald as the first legal newspaper for 2016 and selecting the DCI and the second legal paper.

2016 Legal  
Newspaper Bid  
Awarded -  
Continued

Motion by Erickson seconded by Tjosaas to award the 2016 legal newspaper bid for Dodge County to the Star Herald, the low bidder. *Motion adopted unanimously.*

Mr. Elmquist presented the 2016 elected officials salaries for the Board's consideration.

Elected Official's  
Salaries  
Discussed

Per Minnesota State Statute, the County Board is required to work with each of the elected officials to establish salaries for the upcoming year. At a previous meeting, the Board met with its elected department heads and decided a 3% increase for these officials was fair and equitable due to these individuals not being eligible for step increases unlike all exempt and nonexempt personnel for the county.

The rate for Commissioners was left undecided as it was understood it would be determined at this meeting. Commissioners received \$19,407 and the Board Chair received \$20,007 for 2015.

Motion by Gray seconded by Peterson to approve a 2016 salary of \$21,900.00 for the County Board.

County Board  
Salary Motion  
Failed

It was clarified this represents a 12.8% increase over 2015 County Board salaries.

Motion failed, Gray, Peterson aye, Allen, Tjosaas, Erickson nay.

Motion by Peterson seconded by Gray to approve a 2016 salary of \$20,571.42 for the County Board.

2016 County  
Board Salary Set

It was noted this represents a 6% increase over 2015 County Board salaries.

*Motion adopted, Allen, Gray, Erickson, Peterson aye, Tjosaas nay.*

Brief discussion took place on the County Board Chair salary for 2016. It was the consensus of the group the Chair's salary should be set at \$600 over the salary set for the County Board to compensate for the extra dues they perform as Chairman of the Board.

2016 County  
Board Chair  
Salary Set

Motion by Erickson seconded by Peterson to approve a 2016 salary of \$21,171.42 for the County Board Chair. *Motion adopted unanimously.*

Commissioner Peterson offered the following resolution (#2015-39), seconded by Commissioner Tjosaas:

2016 Elected  
Official's  
Salaries Set by  
Resolution  
#2015-39

**2016 Elected Official's Salaries**

**WHEREAS**, the Dodge County Board of Commissioners are responsible for setting the salaries of the elected officials in the county including the County Board, County Board Chair, County Sheriff, and the County Attorney; and

**WHEREAS**, the Dodge County Board has held meet and confer sessions with the elected officials and reviewed work responsibilities and salary information from other counties; and

2016 Elected  
Official's  
Salaries Set by  
Resolution  
#2015-39 -  
Continued

**WHEREAS**, the Dodge County Board of Commissioners appreciates the work performed by its elected department heads in Dodge County.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the salaries of elected officials in Dodge County for 2016 are set as follows:

County Board	\$20,571.42
County Board Chair	\$21,171.42
County Attorney	\$47,958.00
County Sheriff	\$93,971.00

*Resolution adopted unanimously.*

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

Personnel  
Actions  
Approved

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

**A. Public Health**

- A.1 Marjorie Hemann – Administrative Assistant  
Step increase from B22 step 4 \$18.45 to B22 step 3 \$19.06.  
Effective Date: 12/2/15

**B. Sheriff's Office**

- B.1 Joe Rau – 911 Dispatcher  
End of employment.  
Effective Date: 1/19/16
- B.2 911 Dispatcher – FT  
Authorization to post and fill vacancy created by end of employment.  
Effective Date: 12/22/15
- B.3 Mike Burton – Dispatch Supervisor  
Step increase from C41 step 7 \$24.08 to C41 step 6 \$24.80.  
Effective Date: 10/15/15
- B.4 Matt Stradtman - Deputy Sheriff  
Step increase from C41 12 month step \$21.85 to C41 24 month step \$23.39.  
Effective Date: 11/15/15

**C. Administration**

- C.1 Jeremy Griffin – Information Systems Specialist  
Step increase from B31 step 6 \$21.71 to B31 step 5 \$22.18.  
Effective Date: 12/24/15

**D. Environmental Services**

- D.1 Mike Skjeie – Solid Waste Facility Operator III  
Annual review.  
Effective Date: 12/1/15



**E. Highway**

- E.1 Robert Rosenau – Foreman  
Step increase from B24 36 month step \$23.76 to B24 48 month step \$24.54.  
Effective Date: 1/1/16
- E.2 Dan Burton – Equipment Operator III  
Step increase from B23 48 month step \$21.25 to B23 60 month step \$21.98.  
Effective Date: 1/1/16
- E.3 Charles Emanuel – Equipment Operator III  
Step increase from B23 36 month step \$20.95 to B23 48 month step \$21.68.  
Effective Date: 1/1/16

Personnel  
Actions  
Approved -  
Continued

*Motion adopted unanimously.*

Ms. Hager presented for the Board’s consideration a revised Short-Term Disability (STD) Policy. The only change of significance is the change in waiting period for coverage to be paid from three days (or 24 hours) to five days (or 40 hours). The Employee Relations Director is proposing this change for all employees effective immediately.

Revised Short-  
Term Disability  
Policy Approved

Motion by Erickson seconded by Peterson to approve the revised Short-Term Disability (STD) Policy as recommended. *Motion adopted unanimously.*

The Employee Relations Director reviewed with the Board the pay equity report for 2016.

2016 Pay Equity  
Report for  
Dodge County  
Approved

Included in the Board packet was the Minnesota Pay Equity Report the county is required to submit every three years.

Pay Equity is a method of eliminating discrimination against women who are paid less than men for jobs requiring comparable levels of expertise. This goes beyond the familiar ide of “equal pay for equal work” where men and women with the same jobs must be paid equally. A policy to establish pay equity usually means: 1) that all jobs will be evaluated and given points according to the level of knowledge and responsibility required to do the job; and 2) that salary adjustments will be made if it is discovered that women are consistently paid less than men for jobs with similar points.

According to the preliminary report attached the county is in compliance. This report needs to be approved by the County Board Chair and submitted to the Minnesota Management and Budget Office by January 31, 2016.

Motion by Tjosaas seconded by Gray to approve and authorize the Chair to sign the proposed 2016 pay equity report for Dodge County. *Motion adopted unanimously.*

Ms. Hager discussed with the Board the proposed LELS Local #240 Sheriff's Union Contract for 2016-2018.

LELS Local #240  
Sheriff's Union  
Contract for  
2016-2018  
Approved

Included in the Board packet was the tentative agreement with the Law Enforcement Labor Services – Sheriff's Department for 2016-2018 with the changes tracked. The Sheriff's Union has voted and approved this contract.

A summary of significant issues includes the following:

1. Article XV – Shift Differential – Increase Shift Differential from \$.75 per hour to \$.85 per hour effective 1/1/16 and from \$.85 per hour to \$.90 per hour effective 1/1/17 and from \$.90 per hour to \$1.00 per hour effective 1/1/18.
2. Article XVI – Field Training Officer pay: Increase Officer's assignment pay to provide certain trainings (Use of Force, CPR, etc...) and Field Training Officer duties from \$1.00 per hour while providing that training to \$1.10 per hour.
3. Article XXII – Paid Time Off – Short-Term Disability Leave coverage will be effective after 40 hours of PTO (not 24).
4. Article XXIII – Insert M.O.U. training attachment language into the contract with some slight modifications.
5. Appendix A Wages – Increase by 2% in 2016 and 2.25% in 2017 and 2.75% in 2018 with some step modifications.

Motion by Erickson seconded by Gray to approve and authorize the Chair, County Administrator and Employee Relations Director to sign the proposed LELS Local #240 Sheriff's Union Contract for 2016-2018. *Motion adopted unanimously.*

The Board acknowledged the work of Ms. Hager on the LELS contract.

The County Administrator discussed with the Board the 2016 budget certification process.

2016 Budget  
Discussion

Mr. Elmquist displayed for those present a property tax You Tube video that Anoka County has on their web page. The video does a good job of explaining how property taxes are calculated and what variables have an impact on taxes.

Appraiser Mike Stupka and Appraiser Matthew Naatz from the Land Records Department were available to answer questions and discuss valuation concerns with property owners.

Mr. Elmquist informed those present this meeting was not a discussion on the valuation of their home. The valuation process occurs in the spring and summer at local boards of review for the year's budget. The County Administrator noted the market values shown on the TNT notices are final and not the subject of the hearing tonight.

Included in the Board packet was a copy of the proposed certified budget along with a corresponding resolution for consideration.

Mr. Elmquist provided those present with the budget certification PowerPoint presentation.

The 2016 budget hearing was opened to the public at 6:10 p.m. CST.

2016 Budget  
Hearing Opened  
to the Public

Charlie Molitor who owns farm land in Dodge County and two other counties discussed with the Board his concerns regarding the increase in property taxes in Dodge County. Mr. Molitor questioned whether or not the county is getting all the state money they can to help keep taxes down. Mr. Moltior stated he is a large farmer in the area and he farms here because Dodge County has some of the best farm land there is in this area.

Commissioner Erickson noted he has received calls similar to Mr. Molitor's regarding land values in Dodge County. Mr. Erickson stated what drives this is the value of the property. Mr. Erickson pointed out there appears to be a delay in the adjustment of land value which further complicates the issue.

The County Administrator stated not only is Dodge County's budget affecting property taxes, other taxing authorities in Mr. Molitor's area also affect his overall taxes.

Commissioner Erickson pointed out Dodge County is a heavy ag community and therefore it would tax differently than a county with more businesses than ag property.

Commissioner Peterson reiterated Dodge County is heavy in agricultural property and does not have a lot of businesses in our county. Mr. Peterson noted other counties may also have a bigger population base and more commercial businesses than we do which has in impact on property taxes. Commissioner Peterson reported the property Mr. Molitor owns in Canisteo Township was also hit with the Kasson-Mantorville school referendum. It was Mr. Peterson's opinion that groups like the Farm Bureau and Farm Unions need to talk to the legislators to make them realize agriculture is big in our area and if they continue to tax them as they have they may driver farmers out of business.

Commissioner Tjosaas stated they need to try to find ways to work together to reduce the budget.

Mr. Molitor questioned what they as farmers could do help reduce taxes.

Mr. Peterson reiterated the Farm Bureau and Farm Unions need to get together and go talk to the legislature in February and discuss with them their concerns regarding ag communities and how they are taxed.

Dodge County property owner Dan Ebenhoh commented he feels there should be some type of income factor to consider when figuring taxes. Mr. Ebenhoh feels something needs to be done regarding property values in Dodge County.

Commissioner Allen stated they realize something needs to be done regarding ag taxes but it takes more than just the County Board to get things changed. Mr. Allen discussed with those present unfunded mandates that are handed down from the state and how they affect the budget.

Mr. Molitor discussed with the Board Commissioner Erickson's comment regarding the delay in the adjustment of land value. Mr. Molitor wanted to know if Commissioner Erickson sees a downhill trend coming.

Commissioner Erickson reiterated there is a delay in taxes going down when property value goes down.

2016 Budget  
Hearing Opened  
to the Public -  
Continued

Appraiser Mike Stupka reported the Land Records office is now working on valuations for 2017. Mr. Stupka noted there will be a 7-8% reduction on ag land however property owners won't see it until 2017. Mr. Stupka stated people are looking at values now but what they need to understand is the figures that are used for calculation purposes come from prior year's valuations not current property values.

Mr. Ebenhoh commented a lot of farm sales have what he feels is an artificial value, he attributed this to people paying more for a property than what it is valued for.

The Chair thanked Mr. Molitor and Mr. Ebenhoh for coming to the budget hearing.

The 2016 budget hearing was closed at 6:38 p.m. CST.

2016 Budget  
Hearing Closed

Commissioner Gray offered the following resolution (#2015-40), seconded by Commissioner Tjosaas:

2016 County  
Budget Adopted  
by Resolution  
#2015-40

**2016 Dodge County Budget**

**WHEREAS**, Minnesota Statute 275.07 requires the County Board to certify the certified final budget to the County Finance Director (Auditor) each year; and

**WHEREAS**, the Dodge County Board of Commissioners, department heads and staff have conducted a lengthy and detailed budget process; and

**WHEREAS**, the County Board considered all funding requests, correspondence and information submitted during the budget development process and said proposed budget represents the best efforts to provide sound financial management and planning for Dodge County.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Dodge County Board of Commissioners approves the following 2016 budget totaling \$23,812,623. The 2016 expenditures, revenues and levy requests by fund are detailed below:

Fund	2016 Expenditure	2016 Revenues/ Fund Balance	2016 Gross Tax Levy
Revenue	\$11,795,836	\$3,732,631	\$8,063,205
EDA/HRA	\$28,439	\$600	\$27,839
Environmental Quality	\$2,026,198	\$1,745,887	\$280,311
Highway	\$6,486,116	\$4,985,000	\$1,501,116
Human Services	\$2,290,173	\$0	\$2,290,173
GO Debt Fund	\$1,171,285	\$0	\$1,171,285
Tax Abatement	\$14,576	\$0	\$14,576
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$23,812,623</b>	<b>\$10,464,118</b>	<b>\$13,348,505</b>
		County Program Aid	\$654,346
		Final Net Tax Levy	\$12,694,159

*Resolution adopted unanimously.*

The County Attorney left the meeting at 6:40 p.m. CST.

County Attorney  
Left Meeting

Commissioner Erickson presented a summary of the Public Safety Committee report and action items.

Public Safety  
Committee  
Report

Commissioner Erickson briefly discussed Dodge County's 2015 Emergency Operations Plan which was approved by Homeland Security and Emergency Management.

Dodge County  
Emergency  
Operations Plan  
Approved

Motion by Erickson seconded by Peterson to approve the Dodge County Emergency Operations Plan as presented. *Motion 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 December 10, 2015 Committee of the Whole meeting minutes as presented. *Motion adopted unanimously.*

12/10/15  
Committee of the  
Whole Meeting  
Minutes  
Approved

Motion by Tjosaas seconded by Peterson to approve and authorize the December 10, 2015 meeting minutes as corrected on page 233. *Motion adopted unanimously.*

12/10/15  
Meeting Minutes  
Approved

Commissioners provided their agency reports. Commissioner Allen attended an EDA meeting and a Building Committee meeting. Commissioner Erickson attended a DFO Joint Powers Board meeting, a Community Corrections Task Force meeting, two Construction Committee meetings, a Fairview Care Center Board meeting, a conference call for SE EMS Emergency Management and a Building Committee meeting. Commissioner Gray attended a Dodge County Board meeting, a DFO meeting, an Ice Arena meeting, a Zumbro Watershed Project meeting, a Dodge County Corrections meeting, a Fairview Care Center meeting, a Dodge Refreshed meeting, a meeting regarding DNR trails and a MnDOT Commissioners Round Table meeting.

Agency Reports

The County Administrator commended Lisa Kramer for her hard work on putting the budget together, entering all of the data and calculating the figures.

Finance  
Director's Work  
Acknowledged

Commissioner Allen thanked the Board, the County Administrator Jim Elmquist and Deputy Clerk Becky Lubahn for their work over the last year.

Comments from  
Commissioner  
Allen

Motion by Peterson seconded by Tjosaas to adjourn the meeting sine die at 7:02 p.m. CST. *Motion adopted unanimously.*

Meeting  
Adjourned

The next regular meeting of the Dodge County Board of Commissioners will be held on January 12, 2016 at 9:30 a.m. CST.

Next Regular Meeting

**ATTEST:**

---

**JOHN ALLEN  
CHAIR, COUNTY BOARD**

---

**BECKY LUBAHN  
DEPUTY CLERK**

---

**DATED:**