

**TUESDAY, JULY 26, 2016**

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

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

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATION OFFICE  
MANTORVILLE, MN**

**2016-14 C.O.W.**

The Dodge County Commissioners met in Committee of the Whole July 26, 2016, in the Commissioner's Room at the Dodge County Government Services Building, Mantorville, MN, at 4:30 p.m. CDT. Chair Steven Gray opened the meeting at 4:30 p.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:	Paul Kiltinen	County Attorney
	Lisa Kramer	Finance Director
	Becky Lubahn	Deputy Clerk

Zoning Administrator Melissa DeVetter met with the Board to discuss new statutory language that pertains to granny pods/drop homes, specifically requirements of S.F. 2555.

Granny Pods/Drop  
Homes Discussion

Ms. DeVetter informed the Board that during the 2016 legislative session, the above law, amending Minnesota Statutes 394 establishes new class of permit, statutory timeframe and review process for a single use ("temporary health care dwellings".) This law was pushed by the Next Door Housing group and mandates that their product be a permitted use on every property with a residence in every city, county and township in the State of Minnesota.

The Minnesota Association of County Planning and Zoning Administrators as well as building officials had many issues with this unique legislation which Ms. DeVetter shared with the Board.

The law does have a provision for counties and cities to opt out of the statutory requirements by resolution. In discussion with other counties, most indicate that they already address this issue through a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) or Interim Use Permit (IUP), similar to Dodge County, and will opt out of the requirements.

Under the new law, the opt out must be done by September 1, 2016.

Included in the Board packet was S.F. 2555, information on granny pods/drop homes and a draft resolution for the Board's consideration.

Discussion took place on the possibility of allowing RV's or something that is temporary and removable to be located on properties.

Ms. DeVetter informed the Board the current ordinance allows flexibility through an IUP for a temporary second dwelling, such as a mobile home or modular home, to be brought in to help care for a relative. Another option would be to add onto an existing home to create more space for the same purpose. The Zoning Administrator informed the Board the requests they receive for a temporary second dwelling are usually intended to be in effect for five years with the option to renew the IUP an additional five years if needed.

Granny Pods/Drop  
Homes Discussion -  
Continued

The Board further discussed what they felt the benefits would be of allowing an RV as a temporary second dwelling.

Ms. DeVetter shared with the Board her concerns with allowing an RV as a form of temporary housing on properties and potential issues with enforcement of the mandate and sewage treatment and disposal. The Zoning Administrator informed the Board that septic systems are designed for the capacity of each home and are not typically designed to accommodate an additional residence on the property. Ms. DeVetter stated if an RV is allowed on a property and they discharge their waste into the home’s septic system it may overload the septic system.

The Board requested that staff investigate whether or not temporary RV use should be added to the county’s ordinance in the future.

Commissioner Gray clarified the County Board would need to adopt the resolution to opt out of the statutory requirements and then amend the ordinance to allow a temporary second dwelling.

The Board thanked Ms. DeVetter for the information.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 4:59 p.m. CDT.

Meeting Adjourned

**ATTEST:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**STEVEN GRAY  
CHAIR, COUNTY BOARD**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**BECKY LUBAHN  
DEPUTY CLERK**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**DATED:**