

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2016

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

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

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATION OFFICE
MANTORVILLE, MN**

2016-18 C.O.W.

The Dodge County Commissioners met in Committee of the Whole September 27, 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:	Tim Tjosaas	District #2
	Rodney Peterson	District #3
	David Erickson	District #4
	Steven Gray	District #5
Members absent:	John Allen	District #1
Also present:	Jim Elmquist	County Administrator
	Becky Lubahn	Deputy Clerk
	Paul Kiltinen	County Attorney

Commissioner Erickson commended Judge Jodi L. Williamson and her Court Administration staff for the extra work they did in preparation for the rededication ceremony on September 16, 2016. Mr. Erickson felt the program was befitting of the occasion and gave the citizens of Dodge County a reason to be proud not only of the building but also the reason why the courtroom was so important to the residents of Dodge County.

Judge Williamson
and Staff
Acknowledged

The County Administrator was asked to send a formal letter of acknowledgement to Judge Williamson.

Finance Director Lisa Kramer met with the Board to discuss the 2017 preliminary budget certification

2017 Preliminary
Budget Certification
Discussion

Included in the Board packet was the final draft of the 2017 preliminary budget. Ms. Kramer noted this budget incorporates the changes discussed at the budget work session September 20, 2016. The preliminary budget represents a 1.9% increase in budget from 2016, \$23,812,623 in 2016 to \$24,257,347 proposed for 2017. The levy increase represented in the preliminary budget is a 4% increase over 2016 from \$12,694,159 to \$13,203,614, and a reduction in fund balance use from \$446,000 to \$304,581.

The Finance Director reported the preliminary budget and levy will be used to calculate Truth in Taxation notices to be mailed later in November. Between the preliminary certification date, September 27, 2016 and the final budget hearing a final certification date the Board may continue to refine the budget and levy, however the preliminary levy represents the maximum levy allowed for 2017. A final certified levy can only exceed the preliminary levy, if new debt has been issued and the first debt payments are due in the next year.

Per the proposed resolution the final budget public hearing is scheduled for December 27, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. as this date is the Board's naturally occurring evening Board meeting that falls within the date guidelines established by the Minnesota Department of Revenue.

2017 Preliminary
Budget Certification
Discussion -
Continued

Commissioner Allen arrived to the meeting at 4:37 p.m. CDT.

Commissioner Allen
Arrived

The Board further discussed the proposed budget with Ms. Kramer.

2017 Preliminary
Budget Certification
Discussion -
Continued

Discussion took place on the Highway Department budget. The Board had previously indicated they were not supportive of new vehicle purchases in the Highway Department therefore the Finance Director took the vehicle purchases out of their budget.

Commissioner Allen stated he was not in favor of new vehicle purchases for the Highway Department however he didn't want their budget reduced by the amount allocated for vehicles because he felt they could use that money elsewhere in their budget on things such as county roads.

Commissioner Allen discussed the Sheriff's Office budget and noted they also want new vehicles in 2017. Mr. Allen was not supportive of the Sheriff's Office purchasing a new Investigator vehicle. It was Commissioner Allen's opinion there is more work to be done in reducing the Sheriff's budget.

Further discussion took place on the possibility of transferring vehicles from one department to another and whether or not there is a need for new vehicles at the Highway Department and Sheriff's Office. The Board had questions as to why the Highway Department felt they needed two new vehicles.

County Administrator Jim Elmquist asked the County Engineer if there was a presentation earlier in the budget process explaining the necessity for new vehicles.

County Engineer Guy Kohlnhofer informed the Board they have two old vehicles which need to be replaced.

The Board discussed where they were comfortable setting the 2017 levy.

Commissioner Tjosaas stated he was ok with setting a 4.5 – 5% preliminary levy today with the intent to fine tuning the budget before final certification in December.

Commissioner Peterson discussed the allocation for the Soil and Water Conservation District and noted he was in favor of increasing their allocation for 2017.

Mr. Peterson also discussed the fairgrounds and the need to fix the pavement in front of the grandstand; someone fell during the Big Iron Classic due to pavement issues by the grandstands. Commissioner Peterson also discussed the damage done by the trucks at the fairgrounds due to heavy rains and the need for tile at the fairgrounds.

Commissioner Erickson suggested dedicating the revenue from the wind generators specifically to roads.

2017 Preliminary
Budget Certification
Discussion -
Continued

Ms. Kramer reported she has figured \$70,000 of revenue into the budget for the wind generators. The Finance Director estimated the revenue the county will received for solar energy will be \$20,000.

The County Engineer suggested the Board consider adding the wind and solar revenue to the wheelage budget so he can do county state aid roads every two years.

It was the consensus of the Board to add \$80,000 back into the budget and proposed preliminary levy in order to allow them some flexibility with the budget until they set the final levy in December.

Commissioner Allen suggested setting the preliminary levy at 4.8%.

It was the consensus of the Board that they supported a preliminary levy increase of 4.8% for 2017.

Commissioner Gray thanked his fellow Commissioners for their work on the 2017 budget; he felt the budget process has gone very well this year.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 4:56 p.m. CDT.

Meeting Adjourned

ATTEST:

**STEVEN GRAY
CHAIR, COUNTY BOARD**

**BECKY LUBAHN
DEPUTY CLERK**

DATED: