

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2016

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

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

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATION OFFICE
MANTORVILLE, MN**

2016-19 C.O.W.

The Dodge County Commissioners met in Committee of the Whole October 25, 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
 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

Environmental Services Director Mark Gamm discussed with the Board the future of the Feedlot Program.

Proposed Change in
Feedlot Program
Discussion

Zoning Administrator Melissa DeVetter and Dodge Soil & Water Conservation District Manager Adam King were both available to comment on the proposal.

Mr. Gamm shared the following information with the Board:

Goals:

Improve efficiency and outcomes.

Plans:

- a. Improve efficiency by returning responsibility of enforcing MN Animal Feedlot Rule 7020 to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. Delegation requirements and reporting have become duplicative, onerous, and ineffective.
- b. Improve outcomes by focusing on feedlot operator assistance (technical and financial), complaint investigations, and education.

Budget:

County allocates an additional \$28,000 to SWCD to complete Feedlot Technician duties (via letter of agreement) and reduces Environmental Services Budget proportionately. Additional benefit: SWCD likely receives an additional \$20,000 allocation from the state.

The Environmental Services Director discussed with the Board what the 2017 Environmental Services Budget would look like with the recommended change.

Commissioner Gray wanted to know how the new duties would impact the Soil & Water Conservation District.

Adam King informed the Board they would probably need to add another employee to accommodate the additional duties.

Proposed Change in
Feedlot Program
Discussion -
Continued

It was clarified the additional duties could be handled by a half time employee.

Commissioner Gray questioned whether or not the county loses control by moving these duties to the Soil & Water Conservation District.

It was Ms. DeVetter's opinion the county would not lose any control; we would just be returning enforcement duties back to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

The Board thanked Mr. Gamm, Ms. DeVetter and Mr. King for the information.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 5:01 p.m. CDT.

Meeting Adjourned

ATTEST:

**STEVEN GRAY
CHAIR, COUNTY BOARD**

**BECKY LUBAHN
DEPUTY CLERK**

DATED: