

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2017**

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

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

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATION OFFICE  
MANTORVILLE, MN**

**2017-01 C.O.W.**

The Dodge County Commissioners met in Committee of the Whole January 10, 2017, in the Commissioner's Room at the Dodge County Government Services Building, Mantorville, MN, at 9:00 a.m. CST. Chair Tim Tjosaas opened the meeting at 9:00 a.m. CST.

Meeting Convened

The Chair acknowledged those present:

Those Present

Members present:     John Allen                     District #1  
                                   Tim Tjosaas                     District #2  
                                   Rodney Peterson               District #3  
                                   Rhonda Toquam                District #4  
                                   David Kenworthy               District #5

Members absent:       None

Also present:             Jim Elmquist                     County Administrator  
                                   Becky Lubahn                    Deputy Clerk

County Engineer Guy Kohlnhofer met with the Board to discuss the proposed Five Year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) and Bridge Priority List.

Five Year CIP and  
Bridge Priority List  
Reviewed

Mr. Kohlnhofer reported the CIP is a guide for planning the engineering and design of projects over the next five years. Generally the first year of the plan, as adopted, is set as it is part of the current budget process. The following four years are more fluid as funding and circumstances change however, the selected projects generally remain the same.

The Dodge County Highway Department generated a proposed Five Year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) following the 2016 road tour and public hearing. Many good comments were heard and suggestions made. These were all considered when drafting the current plan for approval.

Mr. Kohlnhofer noted the County Highway Department also manages the bridges located on county and township roads throughout Dodge County. The Bridge Priority List is a list of bridges currently rated as functionally or structurally deficient. These bridges are therefore eligible for funding through the Town Bridge account and/or State bonding. The list is required by the State in order to prioritize and plan for the county's need for funding. The scheduling is discussed with the townships to plan their need for future funding of their local share.

Commissioner Tjosaas wanted to know what other funding options the county had.

The County Engineer informed the Board other funding options included bonding; which has pluses and minuses, federal funds, state aid, tab fees; which has to be spent within the Highway Department, and a quarter percent of sales tax; which they would have to spend on a set plan.

Mr. Kohlnhofer informed the Board the county is short 1 ½ million each year just to maintain the roads we currently have.

Five Year CIP and  
Bridge Priority List  
Reviewed –  
Continued

Included in the Board packet was the proposed five year CIP and Bridge Priority List resolution for Board review. A copy of the Road Tour presentation was also included for the Board's review.

The Board will be asked to adopt the CIP and Bridge Priority List resolution at the regular County Board meeting.

County Attorney Paul Kiltinen arrived to the meeting at 9:05 a.m. CST.

County Attorney  
Arrived to Meeting

The County Engineer discussed with the Board the revocation of County Road Y and County Road W to Ripley and Westfield townships.

Revocation of CR Y  
& W Designation  
Discussed

Mr. Kohlnhofer reported the process to revoke the designation of County Roads Y and W as county roads and turn them back to the townships has progressed throughout 2016. Discussions were held with the respective townships and public hearings held.

During the public meeting and hearings it was generally agreed by everyone present that these two 3 mile sections of road were not justified to be county roads. The primary concerns of the township were the condition the roads would be in after the two year county maintenance interval. Assurances were given that failing culverts would be replaced and the road would be brought to the condition of surrounding township roads with a statement put into the resolution to that effect.

The proposed resolutions revoke the various sections of County Road Y and County Road W as county roads and places them under the jurisdiction of Ripley and Westfield townships. Mr. Kohlnhofer handed out a new resolution for the revocation of County Road Y to Westfield Township that had a minor change.

The Board will be asked to approve resolutions revoking County Road Y and County Road W as county roads at the regular County Board meeting.

Commissioner Tjosaas wanted to know if there were any other roads they were considering turning back.

Mr. Kohlnhofer reported other roads they are considering turning back included County Roads K, P and R.

Mr. Kohlnhofer discussed with the Board U.S. Highway 14 Partnership membership dues.

Highway 14  
Membership  
Renewal Discussion

The \$2,500 membership dues for the Highway 14 partnership are due. There has been discussion around the effectiveness of this advocacy group. This year the County Engineer thought the renewal of the annual membership should receive renewed discussion.

A lengthy discussion took place on how long Dodge County has been a member of the Highway 14 Partnership, what has been completed on the Highway 14 Project, what hasn't been completed and the likelihood that nothing will be done on Dodge County's portion of the Highway 14 Project anytime in the near future.

Highway 14  
Membership  
Renewal Discussion  
- Continued

Commissioner Allen stated he wasn't supportive of continuing the Highway 14 membership. Mr. Allen preferred that the county focus their efforts and funds on efforts to improve a bridge that is currently closed in Dodge County.

At the regular County Board meeting the Board will be asked to determine the county's interest in continued membership to the U.S. Highway 14 Partnership.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:29 a.m. CST.

Meeting Adjourned

**ATTEST:**

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**TIM TJOSAAS  
CHAIR, COUNTY BOARD**

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**BECKY LUBAHN  
DEPUTY CLERK**

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**DATED:**