

TUESDAY, MARCH 14, 2017

APPROVED MINUTES OF THE  
DODGE COUNTY REGIONAL RAILROAD AUTHORITY  
MEETING HELD

STATE OF MINNESOTA)  
COUNTY OF DODGE)

COUNTY ADMINISTRATION OFFICE  
MANTORVILLE, MN

2017-01 Meeting

The Dodge County Regional Railroad Authority met in regular session March 14, 2017, in the Commissioner's Room at the Government Services Building, Mantorville, MN, at 10:41 a.m. CDT. County Administrator Jim Elmquist opened the meeting at 10:41 a.m. CDT.

Meeting Convened

The County Administrator acknowledged those present and established that there was a quorum:

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

Commissioner Tjosaas took nominations for the position of Chair of the Dodge County Regional Railroad Authority. Commissioner Peterson nominated Commissioner Tjosaas as Chair, Commissioner Peterson and the Vice Chair and Commissioner Allen as the Secretary/Treasurer, Commissioner Allen seconded the nomination. Commissioner Tjosaas called three times for further nominations. Hearing none, the Mr. Tjosaas closed nominations. Motion by Peterson seconded by Allen to cast a unanimous ballot for Commissioner Tjosaas as Chair, Rodney Peterson as Vice Chair and John Allen as the Secretary/Treasurer of the Dodge County Regional Rail Authority for 2017. *Motion adopted unanimously.*

Chair, Vice Chair  
and Secretary/  
Treasurer Elected  
for 2017

Motion by Allen seconded by Toquam to appoint County Administrator Jim Elmquist as the Clerk of the Dodge County Regional Railroad Authority. *Motion adopted unanimously.*

Clerk Appointed

Motion by Peterson seconded by Allen to approve and adopt the agenda as presented. *Motion adopted unanimously.*

Agenda Approved

Brief discussion took place regarding where things are at with the proposed rail lines.

General Updates

County Administrator Jim Elmquist presented a resolution for the Board's consideration regarding the Zip Rail Scoping Study performed by MnDOT. The resolution is a restatement of the Dodge County Railroad Authority's opposition to the Zip Rail Corridor project and any inclusion within Dodge County.

Zip Rail Opposition  
Reaffirmed by  
Resolution  
RRA#2017-01

This study was never officially completed and was instead “shelved” in 2015 when there was little political support at the legislature for the project.

*Zip Rail Opposition  
Reaffirmed by  
Resolution  
RRA#2017-01 -  
Continued*

Commissioner Peterson offered the following resolution (RRA#2017-01), seconded by Commissioner Kenworthy:

### **Resolution on Zip Rail Scoping Study**

**WHEREAS**, the Minnesota Department of Transportation along with the Olmsted Regional Rail Authority prepared a final scoping document for a Zip Rail Study producing two primary routes as corridors between the Twin Cities and Rochester; and

**WHEREAS**, the westerly corridor route as described within the scoping study would parallel TH 56 to Dodge Center and then parallel TH 14 to Rochester; and

**WHEREAS**, the precise westerly alignment is not known therefore impacts to property and roads are yet to be defined, however the estimated impact to Dodge County is expected to be considerable; and

**WHEREAS**, this westerly alignment would cross more than 20 local roads and bisect properties within a corridor which was once a defined railroad route but has since been reclaimed and either farmed or developed; and

**WHEREAS**, the impact on township roads would be significant as the assumption is that township roads would be severed by the proposed rail line; and

**WHEREAS**, intersections with county highways are expected to have grade separation with either elevated roads or rail line. Grade separation would require bridges, imposing increased maintenance costs the county would not be amenable to inheriting; and

**WHEREAS**, Dodge County’s mission statement emphasizes maintaining a rural character, this proposed westerly alignment shows significant impact to local tracts of agricultural land and bisecting areas resulting in a negative influence on the agricultural community of Dodge County; and

**WHEREAS**, initial indications show the benefit to Dodge County of this rail corridor would only serve as an impairment to the county rather than an economic benefit; and

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, Dodge County understands the final draft of the Tiered Environmental Impact Statement has been postponed from further development but it is still the position that the westerly corridor will only negatively impact Dodge County.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Dodge County Regional Railroad Authority opposes the westerly alignment as proposed in the Tiered Environmental Impact Statement of this study.

*Resolution adopted unanimously.*

Motion by Peterson seconded by Kenworthy to adjourn the meeting at 10:45 a.m. CDT. *Motion adopted unanimously.*

*Meeting Adjourned*

**ATTEST:**

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TIM TJOSAAS  
CHAIR, REGIONAL RAIL AUTHORITY

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BECKY LUBAHN  
DEPUTY CLERK

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DATED: