

TUESDAY, APRIL 25, 2017

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

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

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATION OFFICE
MANTORVILLE, MN**

2017-06 C.O.W.

The Dodge County Commissioners met in Committee of the Whole April 25, 2017, in the County Board Room at the Dodge County Government Services Building, Mantorville, MN, at 4:30 p.m. CDT. Chair Tim Tjosaas opened the meeting at 4:33 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
 Rhonda Toquam District #4
 David Kenworthy District #5

Members absent: None

Also present: Lisa Kramer Finance Director
 Becky Lubahn Deputy Clerk
 Paul Kiltinen County Attorney

Judge Jodi Williamson and Court Administrator Lea Hall provided the Board with a Court Administration overview of the Minnesota Judicial Branch and filings related to Dodge County. Also present was Law Clerk Drew Lehman.

Court Administration
Overview

Ms. Hall shared the following Minnesota Courts information:

- **Supreme Court:** The state's highest court has seven justices who hear appeals as a group from cases decided by the Court of Appeals, the Workers' Compensation Court of Appeals, and the Tax Court. The Supreme Court also automatically reviews all first-degree murder convictions and legislative election disputes.
- **Court of Appeals:** The Court of Appeals reviews District Court decisions if one of the parties feels the case was decided improperly and files an appeal. The 19 Court of Appeals judges sit in three-judge panels to hear oral arguments in St. Paul and in cities across the state.

The following Minnesota Trial District Courts information was reviewed:

- **District Court:** The more than one million cases that are processed by the state court system begin at the District Court. The District Courts are located in courthouses in each of the state's 87 counties, where 301 judges serve. The district courts are organized into 10 judicial districts.
- **2015 Total Filings in the 3rd Judicial District:** 66,628
- **2015 Total filings Statewide:** 1,285,581
- Civil Actions, Criminal Cases, Family, Juvenile, Probate
- Violations of city ordinances
- **Appeals from:**
- Conciliation Court
- Conciliation Division: Civil disputes up to \$15,000

Judge Williamson shared the following information regarding Minnesota Judicial Districts:

[Court Administration Overview - Continued](#)

- Minnesota has 10 Judicial Districts
- Dodge County is in the 3rd Judicial District
- There are 11 Counties in the 3rd Judicial District
- 24 Judges Serve our District
- 1 Referee Serves our District

The Minnesota Judicial Branch Vision Statement was listed as follows:

To provide justice through a system that assures equal access for the fair and timely resolution of cases and controversies.

The Court Administrator discussed the following Access to Justice information:

- MN Public Access
- MN Government Access
- Self Help Center
- Electronic File and Serve

Judge Williamson reviewed the following information:

- Administering Justice for Effective Results
- Public Trust, Accountability and Impartiality
- Performance Measures Reports
- Timing Objectives
- Overall Cases Filed and Disposed 2014-2016
- Filings by Case Type
- Major Criminal Breakdown
- Child in Need of Protection or Services (Chips) & Termination
- Funding – State Expense
- Funding – County Expense
- Minnesota Judicial Branch website

The Board thanked Judge Williamson and Ms. Hall for the report.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 5:03 p.m. CDT.

[Meeting Adjourned](#)

ATTEST:

**TIM TJOSAAS
CHAIR, COUNTY BOARD**

**BECKY LUBAHN
DEPUTY CLERK**

DATED: