

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 12, 2010**

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

**STATE OF MINNESOTA)  
DODGE COUNTY)**

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATION OFFICE  
MANTORVILLE, MN**

**2010-01 C.O.W.**

The Dodge County Commissioners met in Committee of the Whole January 12, 2010, in the Commissioner's Room at the Dodge County Courthouse Annex, Mantorville, MN, at 9:00 a.m. CDT. Lyle Tjosaas opened the meeting at 9:00 a.m. CDT.

Meeting Convened

The Chair acknowledged those present:

Those Present

Members present: Klaus Alberts District #1  
Lyle Tjosaas District #2  
David Erickson District #3  
Don Gray District #4  
David Hanson District #5  
Members absent: None  
Also present: Becky Lubahn Deputy County Clerk  
Jim Trihey Sheriff

Sheriff Jim Trihey shared with the Board his recommendation for a reduction in the number of contracted jail beds in Steele County.

Jail Bed Contract  
Reduction  
Discussion

The county is currently contracting for 23 beds per day from Steele County to house Dodge County's inmate population. The cost per day per bed is \$60.00.

Mr. Trihey reported that in 2009 the county's inmate population significantly decreased and that the daily average of Dodge County inmates was 19 inmates per day.

The Sheriff recommended decreasing the bed count from the current contracted number of 23 down to 20 beds daily. The reduction of three beds would amount to an annual savings of \$65,700.

Mr. Trihey noted that at this time there is no incentive to keep the additional three beds due to the fact that the county would pay the same rate per bed for any bed over the 20 contracted beds as there is a flat rate per bed rather than a premium penalty if we were to exceed our 20 beds.

The Sheriff shared the following yearly jail bed information with the Board:

| Year | Daily Inmate Average |
|------|----------------------|
| 2005 | 21                   |
| 2006 | 27                   |
| 2007 | 22                   |
| 2008 | 21                   |
| 2009 | 19                   |

Jail Bed Contract  
Reduction  
Discussion

Commissioner Alberts noted that Wabasha County charges \$55 per day to house inmates and was interested in finding out if Steele County would match Wabasha's rate.

Mr. Trihey informed the Board that Steele County already adjusted their rate and that the rate was lowered to the current contract rate of \$60 per day.

Commissioner Erickson voiced his opinion that due to the additional cost of traveling to Wabasha that the county would not be saving any money by housing our inmates in Wabasha instead of Steele County.

The Sheriff stated that the Board also needs to consider the fact that prisoners will have court dates and noted that it is important to have them in close proximity to Dodge County for court related appointments.

Mr. Trihey informed the Board that the original jail bed contract with Steele County was for 20 beds. Due to increased needs a verbal agreement was reached between the two counties to contract for 23 beds. Now that there isn't a need to contract for the additional beds the Sheriff is recommending that the county go back to the original number of contracted beds. Mr. Trihey stated that Steele County Coordinator Dave Severson and the Jail Administrator do not have a problem with reducing the number of contracted beds. The Sheriff commented that Steele County has been very accommodating and recommended that the county continue to contract for jail beds with Steele County.

Mr. Trihey informed the Board that he will be meeting with other law enforcement agencies and will have an opportunity to talk to them about jail bed rates and the different facilities available to house inmates to get a feel for what other counties are doing.

It was the consensus of the Board that the Sheriff should send a letter to Steele County reaffirming Dodge County's interest in reverting back to the original number of 20 contracted jail beds effective February 1, 2010.

Mr. Trihey briefly discussed with commissioners the fact that the number of crimes being committed in Dodge County and all over is going down therefore the need for additional contracted jail beds has also gone down.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:25 a.m. CST.

Meeting Adjourned

**ATTEST:**

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LYLE TJOSAAS  
CHAIR, COUNTY BOARD

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BECKY LUBAHN  
DEPUTY CLERK

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DATED: