

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2009

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

**STATE OF MINNESOTA)
DODGE COUNTY)**

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATION OFFICE
MANTORVILLE, MN**

2009-03 C.O.W.

The Dodge County Commissioners met in Committee of the Whole February 10, 2009, in the Commissioner's Room at the Dodge County Courthouse Annex, Mantorville, MN, at 9:00 a.m. CDT. David Hanson 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: David McKnight County Administrator
Becky Lubahn Deputy County Clerk

Maintenance Superintendent Dallas Ness met with the Board to discuss the Highway Department's request to purchase a 2009 plow truck.

Highway Department
2009 Plow Truck
Purchase Discussion

This year's Highway budget includes \$195,000 for the replacement of unit 204, one of the fleet of seven plow trucks now operated by the Highway Department. Each truck is used for gravel hauling and earthwork activities during the summer. During winter months the trucks are utilized for plowing and salting with each unit covering an average of 71 lane miles. This is the second highest number of lane miles covered by a single truck when compared to similar counties in southern Minnesota.

The truck targeted for replacement is a 1995 Ford originally scheduled for replacement in 2008 but delayed due to budget cuts. The current condition of unit 204 is questionable and it likely may not finish the year without major costly repairs. If the Highway Department's seventh truck is not replaced but rather left to fall out of the fleet, snowplowing capabilities will be decreased by 14%. If delayed another year the Highway Department will be seeking to replace two plow trucks in 2010.

The following information was shared with the Board regarding the unit scheduled to be replaced:

Unit #204
1995 Ford LT9000
279,417 miles (as of 1/1/09)

Since the year 2000 there has been:

- 160,585 miles put on the truck
- \$71,212.09 spent on repair parts and labor

This equals an average annual cost of \$0.44/mile.

For the year 2008:

- 7,258 miles put on the truck
- \$5,254.03 spent on repair parts and labor

Annual cost was \$0.72/mile.

The truck has been parked for most of 2008 in order to preserve its use for snow plowing.

Some of the concerns the Highway Department has with the truck are:

- Metal Fatigue - Repairs have been made on frame box and motor mounts.
- Imminent replacement of the fuel tank due to rust.
- The county can soon expect major engine and transmission repair or replacement.
 - Repairing or replacing the engine or transmission would cost approximately \$20,000 each.

Equipment parts and labor expenses by year for unit #204:

Year	Expenses	Miles for Year	Cost/Mile
2000	\$ 7,477	21,827	\$ 0.34
2001	\$10,419	23,945	\$ 0.44
2002	\$ 9,314	23,167	\$ 0.40
2003	\$ 7,118	22,256	\$ 0.32
2004	\$ 6,043	16,757	\$ 0.36
2005	\$ 6,333	17,465	\$ 0.36
2006	\$10,208	18,313	\$ 0.56
2007	\$ 9,046	7,871	\$ 1.15
2008	\$ 5,254	7,258	\$ 0.72

A graph showing the annual miles used and the cost per mile for use was provided with the Board packet for the commissioner's review.

The Highway Department's two newest trucks are each 2007 CV713 Macks. Operating costs over the last two years has been as follows:

Unit #208

Equipment parts and labor \$16,832 (two years)

50,000 miles .34/mile
1,930 hours \$8.72/hr

Unit #207

Equipment parts and labor \$12,768 (two years)

58,000 miles .22/mile
2,173 hours \$5.88/hr

Commissioner Erickson indicated that he appreciated the information but questioned if there is a possibility of staff cuts, if a new truck would be needed.

The Maintenance Superintendent informed the Board that they could keep the 1995 Ford and make it work but noted that no work has been done on the motor or transmission and that it would likely cost \$20,000 to fix each of these items if either of them goes out on the truck.

Highway Department
2009 Plow Truck
Purchase Discussion
– Continued

Mr. Ness reiterated that the truck was parked last year.

The Maintenance Superintendent stated that he feels the Highway Department has been very efficient with their equipment.

Commissioner Gray wanted to know what would happen to the other vehicles if one of the trucks died.

Mr. Ness informed the Board that the work of the truck that dies would have to be redistributed to the remaining nine trucks.

Commissioner Erickson reported that he hears comments from Mower County that they feel Dodge County does a very good job with their trucks and cleaning county roads.

Mr. Erickson expressed concern with the possibility of cuts and ending up with nine operators instead of ten and having an extra truck sitting around not being used.

County Administrator David McKnight reminded the Board that this truck was already pushed back a year and recommended that the Board not cut this request again this year.

Commissioner Alberts agreed that the Board cannot keep putting this request off.

The Board discussed with the Maintenance Superintendent the equipment that will be included in the cost of the new truck. The Highway Department would like to receive price quotes for a fully equipped plow truck. The quoted prices must include taxes.

Commissioner Hanson wanted to know why the Highway Department wasn't using graders instead of plow trucks?

Mr. Ness stated that the reason they don't use graders is that they do not have sanding equipment on them.

Commissioners thanked the Maintenance Superintendent for the information.

It was the consensus of the Board that the Highway Department be allowed to obtain price quotes on a 2009 plow truck as requested.

County Administrator David McKnight provided the Board with a 2009 budget/state budget shortfall update.

2009 Budget/State
Budget Shortfall
Update

The County Administrator briefly discussed the Boards allocation of \$25,000 to the Dodge County Soil and Water Conservation District.

Mr. McKnight reviewed with the Board the Fair Board's request for their 2009 allocation so they could make their insurance payment on the buildings located on the fairgrounds. Considerable discussion took place regarding whether or not the county should continue to allocate money to the Fair Board and possible liability issues if the county didn't give the Fair Board the money to insure the buildings.

2009 Budget/State
Budget Shortfall
Update - Continued

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:28 a.m. CST.

Meeting Adjourned

ATTEST:

DAVID HANSON
CHAIR, COUNTY BOARD

BECKY LUBAHN
DEPUTY CLERK

DATED: