

TUESDAY, MAY 11, 2010

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

**STATE OF MINNESOTA)
DODGE COUNTY)**

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATION OFFICE
MANTORVILLE, MN**

2010-09 C.O.W.

The Dodge County Commissioners met in Committee of the Whole May 11, 2010, in the Commissioner's Room at the Dodge County Courthouse Annex, Mantorville, MN, at 9:00 a.m. CST. Lyle Tjosaas opened the meeting at 9:03 a.m. CST.

Meeting Convened

The Chair acknowledged those present:

Those Present

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| 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

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|---------------|--------------|----------------------|
| Also present: | Jim Elmquist | County Administrator |
| | Becky Lubahn | Deputy County Clerk |

Finance Director Lisa Kramer met with the Board to discuss ditch recording benefits.

Ditch Recording
Benefits Discussion

Ms. Kramer informed the Board that recently she and Ditch Inspector & SWCD District Technician Jim Hruska went to Freeborn County to learn about the process to record ditch system benefits from Steve Penkava, Jones, Haugh, & Smith Inc. and Kurt Deter, Rinke Noonan. At that meeting Kurt Deter offered to come speak to the County Board about recording the Dodge County ditches.

Ms. Kramer informed the Board that the main advantage to formally recording the ditch on the benefitted parcels is that it becomes a record that passes along with the deed each time a parcel changes hands. This is particularly beneficial to landowner's since ditches are not assessed every year and sometimes the ditch information is unintentionally omitted from the sale information.

The Finance Director noted that the costs associated with recording the ditches are limited engineering, attorney fees, necessary advertising, and the recording fees. Much of the necessary engineering work was completed as part of our redetermination process so there should be some savings for Dodge County versus what it would cost for an older system.

Ms. Kramer turned the discussion over to Kurt Deter.

Mr. Deter shared with the Board drainage laws in Minnesota and Drainage Work Group information.

The process for recording county ditch systems was reviewed.

Mr. Deter suggested that the Dodge County Board of Commissioners consider combining the redetermination of ditches public hearing along with the public hearing to discuss the county’s intent to record county ditch systems.

Ditch Recording
Benefits Discussion
- Continued

Commissioner Erickson wanted to know who would be responsible for paying the cost associated with putting the ditch information on the abstract.

Kurt Deter indicated that the cost for recording the county ditch systems on the abstracts would probably be less than \$5,000 and that the cost associated with recording this information would be assessed back to the property owners.

County Engineer Guy Kohlnhofer pointed out that part of the parcel mapping project that he is involved in includes determining the location of county ditch systems.

Steve Penkava was also available to comment on the process of recording county ditch systems.

Ms. Kramer informed the Board that the county has two ditches that need to be redetermined, Ditch #4 and Ditch #7, and that this could be done in conjunction with the public hearing to discuss the county’s desire to record county ditch systems.

Mr. Deter noted that the cost of the project will also depend on what GIS information is already available, the size of the ditch and whether or not the County Recorder will charge another county entity for recording these documents.

Jim Hruska stated that Dodge County needs to have their ditches recorded and they also need a ditch policy.

The group was thanked for the information.

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

Meeting Adjourned

ATTEST:

LYLE TJOSAAS
CHAIR, COUNTY BOARD

BECKY LUBAHN
DEPUTY CLERK

DATED: