

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 11, 2009**

**APPROVED MINUTES OF THE  
COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS WORK SESSION HELD**

**STATE OF MINNESOTA)  
DODGE COUNTY)**

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATION OFFICE  
MANTORVILLE, MN**

**2009-08 Work Session**

The Dodge County Commissioners met in a Work Session August 11, 2009, in Conference Room B at the Dodge County Courthouse Annex, Mantorville, MN, at 1:05 p.m. CDT. David Hanson opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. CDT.

Meeting Convened

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

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

County Administrator David McKnight provided the Board with a 2010 budget update. Mr. McKnight informed the Board that they still have \$191,415 left to cut from the budget to get to the estimated 3% maximum levy limit increase. The County Administrator discussed options to get to the levy limit maximum including:

2010 Budget  
Update

1. Environmental Services Budgeting Approach
2. County Program Aid Adjustments
3. Drug Court Funding
4. Cafeteria Contribution Estimates
5. Retiree Health Insurance Costs

Mr. McKnight updated the Board on the meetings he held with the four unions who have contracts in place for 2010. The county has asked these unions to consider a 0% COLA for next year. The unions will give the county an answer by the end of August.

The Board discussed the Four Seasons Arena and the proposal for the City of Kasson to take over ownership of the facility starting in 2011. More information is to come on this issue after the four owners of the arena meet.

Four Seasons  
Arena Proposal  
Discussed

The Board discussed railroad safety issues with representatives from the DM&E Railroad.

Railroad Safety  
Issues Discussion

Commissioner Hanson reported that the first meeting of the new railroad authority will be held on Thursday. Mr. Hanson commented that the Board is being bombarded with railroad safety issues. Commissioner Hanson stated that he has seen improvement since DM&E took over and pointed out that notable improvements have been made, however, now that speeds have come up, safety becomes a concern.

Director of Government Affairs for DM&E Herb Jones discussed with the Board his background, the rail history, DM&E's profile, revenue and car load growth, capital improvement projects, safety, the Dodge County rail system, industries served in Dodge County, recent construction and infrastructure updates, Dodge County updates/upgrades, continuous weld rail (CWR) major improvements, other improvements, train speed, safety frame work, track maintenance, rail car specifications, inspections, hazardous materials, incidents reported, classifications, emergency response plan, community relationships, environmental protection, incident priorities, call-out process, community safety and communications, environmental considerations, investigation, debriefing and follow-up communication and shared contact information for DM&E officials.

Railroad Safety  
Issues Discussion -  
Continued

Commissioner Gray commented on his past history with DM&E representatives and elaborated on his frustrations with crossings in his area.

The DM&E representatives addressed several of Mr. Gray's concerns and indicated that they would get back to him with additional information once they had a chance to confer with their colleagues to find answers to the issues they were not knowledgeable about.

Commissioner Gray stated that he appreciated their efforts.

Additional railroad safety concerns were discussed.

The DM&E representatives were thanked for the information.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 3:35 p.m. CDT.

Meeting Adjourned

**ATTEST:**

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DAVID HANSON  
CHAIR, COUNTY BOARD

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DAVID MCKNIGHT  
CLERK

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DATED: