

TUESDAY, AUGUST 26, 2008

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

**STATE OF MINNESOTA)
DODGE COUNTY)**

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATION OFFICE
MANTORVILLE, MN**

2008-14 C.O.W.

The Dodge County Commissioners met in Committee of the Whole August 26, 2008, in the Commissioner's Room at the Dodge County Courthouse Annex, Mantorville, MN, at 9:00 a.m. CDT. Klaus Alberts 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

Commissioner Hanson informed the Board that he asked SEMCAC Executive Director Terry Erickson to attend the meeting today to discuss the Small Cities Development Program.

Small Cities
Development
Program Discussion

Commissioner Erickson recapped SEMMCHRA's proposal from the last County Board meeting requesting approval of the Small Cities Development Program. Mr. Erickson wanted to know if SEMCAC could also offer this program.

Terry Erickson informed the Board that there is a history of several organizations writing grants for these programs over the past several years. Mr. Erickson noted that Bluff Country HRA Representative Wayne Stenberg has been working to develop this option through SEMCAC over the past few years. The Executive Director commented that SEMCAC is not here to compete with these other organizations but noted that it is a small part of another small cities development project that they can assist with.

Commissioner Erickson wanted to know if the Board works with SEMCAC rather than SEMMCHRA if they would jeopardize any other programs.

Mr. Stenberg stated that it would not jeopardize the other programs, it would just mean that the cities would be served but the citizens in the rural areas would not. The Bluff Country HRA Representative explained how the Small Cities Development Program works with the cities, who receives the grant and how the money is disbursed.

Planning Director Duane Johnson asked that the SEMCAC representatives explain what the administrative fees are to the cities.

Mr. Stenberg informed the Board that there are not administrative fees. Most of the work is done in-house at SEMCAC so there is less burden and administrative cost to the cities.

Mr. Johnson clarified that SEMCAC does a majority of the front end work for these program requests.

Commissioner Alberts wanted to know if it is considered a grant or a loan.

Mr. Stenberg reported that it is considered a deferred loan but it also depends on how it is written.

Commissioner Alberts stated that he is trying to determine what the counties liability is with proposed program.

Mr. Stenberg informed the Board that there is no liability for the county. The money comes from DEED not from the county, therefore it was his opinion that there is not a lot of risk for the county.

Commissioner Erickson wanted to know how it works if you have two different organizations that are applying for the same grant.

Terry Erickson reported that you are competing with the rest of Minnesota for this grant money, two applications for the same area could be an issue.

Mr. Johnson stated that what DEED is looking for is collaboration between organizations. SEMMCHRA has done the paperwork with the cities and not signing their proposed resolution could jeopardize the rural areas ability to get grant money.

The Planning Director informed the Board that they will also need to work with SEMDC in the next few years to determine what they want to do with housing in Dodge County.

Commissioner Hanson wanted to know if SEMCAC works with Section Eight.

Mr. Stenberg reported that they have looked into Section Eight, however, SEMMCHRA has a deal with HUD and they work exclusively with them on Section Eight.

The Bluff Country HRA Representative suggested that they come back at a later date to further discuss with the Board the programs that SEMCAC has to offer.

The Board thanked Mr. Erickson and Mr. Stenberg for the information.

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

Meeting Adjourned

ATTEST:

KLAUS ALBERTS
CHAIR, COUNTY BOARD

BECKY LUBAHN
DEPUTY CLERK

DATED: