

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2009

**APPROVED MINUTES OF THE
COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS/DEPARTMENT HEAD/SUPERVISOR
WORK SESSION HELD**

**STATE OF MINNESOTA)
DODGE COUNTY)**

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATION OFFICE
MANTORVILLE, MN**

2009-09 Work Session

The Dodge County Commissioners/Department Head/Supervisor's met in a work session on September 1, 2009, in Conference Room B 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 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
Becky Lubahn Deputy County Clerk

County Administrator David McKnight met with the County Board, department heads and supervisors to discuss the 2010 county budget. The current draft of the budget (#4) includes a tax levy of \$9,904,965 which is 3.0% higher than 2009. This amount is still higher than the maximum levy that Dodge County will be allowed under the levy limits and special exemptions that we will apply for under statutes put in place by the state legislature.

2010 Budget
Update

Mr. McKnight reported that in order to help with the budget issues for 2010 the County Board asked that all non-union employees and those union employees with a contract already in place for 2010 take a 0% COLA. The non-union employees agreed to take a 0% COLA for 2010. The three Teamsters unions and the one 49ers union with contracts in place for next year have declined to adjust their COLA's to 0% for 2010. The two other unions in the county do not have contracts in place for 2010 and negotiations have not started with these unions as of yet.

The current draft of the budget already includes the estimated reductions for the needed 0% COLA to help get the levy to its allowable increase. With the results of the decisions on the 0% COLA increase the county will now need to find the following amount of human resources cuts within these union groups to meet our 2010 budget:

Courthouse Union -	\$47,000
Dispatcher Union -	\$10,000
Transfer Station Union -	\$ 4,500
Human Services Union -	\$33,000

The County Administrator reported they do not have a plan in place yet but will begin work on these reductions tomorrow. The county will look at both layoffs and FTE reductions at this point, whichever works best for the departments and follows the existing union contracts and county policies. The non-union group reductions have already been made in the budget.

2010 Budget Update - Continued

Commissioner Tjosaas questioned whether it was better to cut hours or lay employees off?

Mr. McKnight noted that any cuts made would be permanent and that the county will be doing less with less next year.

Sheriff Jim Trihey wanted to know if they reduce FTE's what other effect it has on other things?

The County Administrator and Employee Relations Director reported that reductions in FTE will also affect PERA contributions, PTO balances and holiday pay.

Mr. McKnight commented that he realizes this is a difficult issue and all of the answers to the department heads questions are not known at this point. The County Administrator hopes to have these reductions in front of the board within the next month.

The County Administrator noted that he will be in touch with each of the department heads to work out each of their specific budget issues.

Human Services Director Jane Hardwick expressed concern with departments accurately relaying to their employees the budget information shared today and the possibility of staff reductions/cutback and asked that the County Administrator send out a memo to all employees updating them on the current budget situation.

Mr. McKnight reported that he will send a message to all employees later this afternoon explaining the 2010 budget situation and summarize what was talked about at the meeting today.

Commissioner Hanson thanked the department heads and supervisors for coming to the meeting and stated that their input was important.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:35 a.m. CDT.

Meeting Adjourned

ATTEST:

DAVID HANSON
CHAIR, COUNTY BOARD

BECKY LUBAHN
DEPUTY CLERK

DATED: