

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2010**

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

**STATE OF MINNESOTA)  
DODGE COUNTY)**

**FAIRVIEW CARE CENTER  
DODGE CENTER, MN**

**2010-08 Work Session**

The Dodge County Commissioners met in a Work Session November 16, 2010, in the Fairview Care Center conference room, Dodge Center, MN, at 9:45 a.m. CDT. Lyle Tjosaas opened the meeting at 10:27 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: Jim Elmquist County Administrator

The Board met to discuss the 2011 budget before potential certification on December 14, 2010. County Administrator Jim Elmquist stated the preliminary final budget showed a levy increase of 4.11% from 2010 and since September, there have been clarifications to the budget where he could propose to the Board a reduction to a levy of 2.94%. Items that allowed for the reduction are as follows:

Budget Discussion

1. commissioner salary reduction
2. DFO Contract reduction
3. withdrawal of a budget allocation to the Fairview Care Center per the Director's request
4. reduction in contingency fund allocation

Mr. Elmquist said he would present the budget approved in September, 2010 for the certification meeting, however, if the reduced levy proposal were accepted, the budget resolution would be amended with a levy reduction of \$113,695.

The County Administrator stated that a reduced levy would result in the following changes from 2010:

1. Total expenditures would increase 4.21%.
2. Total revenues would increase 7.06%.
3. County Program Aid will be reduced by 31.45% in anticipation of the state cutting funding to Dodge County (if County Program Aid were to stay the same as 2010, the budget would have a total levy increase of 0.57%).
4. To cut the levy to below \$10 million, the budget would need to be reduced by an additional \$1,942 – resulting in a 2.92% levy increase from 2010.

The Board discussed the overall budget and said they thought the reductions were appropriate and agreed that they should keep moving in this direction for the December meeting.

Mr. Elmquist presented to the Board the requests of the County Elected Official Salaries for 2011. While no action would be taken at the meeting, the Board wanted to give direction to the County Administrator for the December 14 meeting in preparation for taking action.

Elected Officials  
Salaries Discussed

The Board reviewed salary information for all affected relating to the Southeastern Region of Minnesota. The Board stated that relative to the County Board salary, they believed they needed to hold the line at a 0% increase. They reviewed County Attorney Paul Kiltinen's request of a 0% increase presented in September and while they appreciated the request, they felt that a 3% increase to \$41,952 as a half-time position was warranted knowing where salaries were for this position in other Counties in SE Minnesota. Mr. Elmquist stated that he met with Sheriff-Elect Jim Jensen and while Sheriff Trihey had presented an increase in salary from \$82,658 to \$86,278 in 2011, Mr. Jensen felt a 0% increase was fair as a starting point in his term. Sheriff Trihey had presented the request in September as a comparison point to the County Engineer and it was commented that the association of Sheriff to Engineer may not be a strong one. The Board felt that as the new Sheriff and a salary competitive to others in the SE Region, they could accept a 0% salary increase for 2011 for Jim Jensen. Commissioners then reviewed the County Recorder's requested salary increase of \$61,221 to \$64,282 for 2011. After assessing the amount in comparison to other Recorders in the region, the Board felt an increase of 3% to \$63,059 would be fair and reasonable. The Board commented on how well Ms. Alberts does the job and how they understood her request.

As a work-session, no action was taken at this meeting.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 11:50 a.m. CDT.

Meeting Adjourned

**ATTEST:**

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LYLE TJOSAAS  
CHAIR, COUNTY BOARD

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JIM ELMQUIST  
CLERK

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DATED: