

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2006

**APPROVED MINUTES OF THE
TRUTH IN TAXATION HEARING HELD**

**STATE OF MINNESOTA)
DODGE COUNTY)**

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATION OFFICE
MANTORVILLE, MN**

2006-01

The Dodge County Board of Commissioners met in a truth in taxation hearing December 7, 2006, in the Commissioner's Room at the Courthouse Annex, Mantorville, MN, at 6:30 p.m. CST. David Erickson, Chair called the Truth in Taxation Hearing to order at 6:30 p.m. CST.

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
	David Hanson	District #5
Members absent:	Don Gray	District #4
Also present:	David McKnight	County Administrator
	Wendell Engelstad	County Assessor

The Chair turned the meeting over to County Administrator David McKnight.

2006 Proposed
Budget and Property
Tax Levy Discussed

County Administrator David McKnight presented the proposed 2007 Dodge County budget and tax levy. The proposed 2007 budget is \$21,683,962 (19.04% increase) and the proposed tax levy is \$8,552,043 (6.37% increase).

Mr. McKnight reviewed the 2007 budget and tax levy by fund and explained where your tax dollars will go in 2007. The County Administrator reviewed the specific reasons why the tax levy was proposed to increase in 2007 including:

1. GIS position
2. Sheriff inmate/boarding cost increases
3. Inspector/Septic position
4. Efforts to increase Environmental Quality tax levy
5. Cafeteria contribution increases
6. County Board legal costs
7. Building maintenance projects

The impact of growth in the county was reviewed by city and township.

Commissioner Erickson opened the public hearing at 6:45 p.m. CST.

Hearing Opened to
the Public

Bernice Sabetti had a value question. She was concerned about continued increases.

Question and Answer
Session Held

Wendell Engelstad explained the process to contest property value.

Lois Nash reported that she purchased a property in Mantorville that doubled in value.

Question and Answer
Session Held -
Continued

Mr. Engelstad explained the process of putting values on property, including the sales comparison approach. In addition, the impact of going from homestead to non-homestead was discussed.

Mike Shelton asked when you do mass appraisals do you look at individual homes?

Wendell Engelstad stated that when they do mass appraisals their goal is to look at 20% per year.

Commissioner Erickson commented that this is why the earlier valuation process is so important.

Emil Pechacek noted that there are two farms across the road from each other with very different tax increases.

Mr. Engelstad stated that he will discuss this with Mr. Pechacek individually.

Terry Anderson wanted to know how many types of classifications there are?

Wendell Engelstad reported there are 30+ different classifications.

Mr. Anderson commented that increases in value automatically produce tax increases.

Mr. Engelstad stated that this is not true.

The County Administrator answered a number of questions on the proposed budget including questions on the new proposed positions, the county cafeteria plan, highway funding, tasks performed by the Environmental Quality Department and the tax levy increase.

Budget & Levy
Adoption Discussed

Mr. McKnight stated that since there were no additional questions there was no need for a continuation hearing. The County Board will consider adoption of the 2007 budget and levy at their meeting on December 12, 2006.

The Chair closed the public hearing and declared the meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m. CST.

Meeting Adjourned

ATTEST:

DAVID ERICKSON
CHAIR, COUNTY BOARD

DAVID MCKNIGHT
CLERK

DATED: