

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2006**

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

**STATE OF MINNESOTA)  
DODGE COUNTY)**

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATION OFFICE  
MANTORVILLE, MN**

**2006-23 C.O.W.**

The Dodge County Commissioners met in Committee of the Whole December 12, 2006, in the Commissioner's Room at the Dodge County Courthouse Annex, Mantorville, MN, at 9:00 a.m. CST. David Erickson opened the meeting at 9:00 a.m. CST.

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 Clerk  
Peggy Espey Public Health Director  
Ashley Olson Public Health Educator

Public Health Director Peggy Espey and Public Health Educator Ashley Olson met with the Board to present the findings of the recent smoking survey which was conducted for Dodge County by the Mellman Group.

2006 Smoking  
Survey Results  
Report

Ashley Olson shared the following information with the Board:

- There is broad-based support for a law prohibiting smoking in indoor public places, including restaurants and bars.
- Dodge County residents recognize the benefits of smoke-free workplaces.
- Dodge County residents overwhelmingly believe that the rights of customers to breathe clean air trumps the rights of smokers to smoke.
- There is evidence that a Smoke-Free Ordinance would increase patronage of restaurants and bars.

Ms. Olson reported that the methodology used was that 400 residents in Dodge County were screened for registered voters. Interviews were then conducted October 12-15, 2006. The Mellman Group estimates a margin of error +/- 4.9% overall, higher for subgroups.

Commissioner Alberts commented that he thinks they did a fine job with the survey and that he would support the ban at the state level.

Commissioner Tjosaas stated that he was in favor of doing a smoking ban on the county level if the state does not do it first.

Commissioner Hanson noted that Rochester businesses initially lost business due to their smoking ban and that business is now picking up again in Rochester.

2006 Smoking  
Survey Results  
Report - Continued

Discussion took place regarding smoking that occurs in bars and homes.

County Administrator David McKnight asked that the Public Health Director make this same presentation at the Department Head meeting.

It was the consensus of the Board that they would wait and see if the state acts on the smoking ban, if not, the Board would discuss initiating their own smoking ban for Dodge County.

Ms. Espey and Ms. Olson were thanked for the report.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:26 a.m. CST.

Meeting Adjourned

**ATTEST:**

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DAVID ERICKSON  
CHAIR, COUNTY BOARD

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BECKY LUBAHN  
DEPUTY CLERK

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DATED: