

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2007

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

**STATE OF MINNESOTA)
DODGE COUNTY)**

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATION OFFICE
MANTORVILLE, MN**

2007-04 C.O.W.

The Dodge County Commissioners met in Committee of the Whole February 27, 2007, in the Commissioner's Room at the Dodge County Courthouse Annex, Mantorville, MN, at 9:00 a.m. CST. Don Gray opened the meeting at 9:00 a.m. CST.

Meeting Convened

The Chair acknowledged those present:

Those Present

Members present:	Lyle Tjosaas	District #2
	David Erickson	District #3
	Don Gray	District #4
	David Hanson	District #5
Members absent:	Klaus Alberts	District #1
Also present:	David McKnight	County Administrator
	Becky Lubahn	Deputy County Clerk
	Duane Johnson	Planning Director

Planning Director Duane Johnson informed the board that the purpose of the meeting today was to discuss the future home of the Mantorville Welcome Center.

Future Home of the
Mantorville Welcome
Center Discussion

Jamie Jencks, a spokesperson for the City of Mantorville, Marjorie Rapp the President of the Mantorville Chamber of Commerce and Linda Kreter provided information on the request.

The Mantorville Chamber of Commerce has identified a critical need for a visitor Welcome Center. Their vision for the Welcome Center includes:

- Regional Information Center: tour maps, brochures, business information
- Opportunity for community participation
- Small historical exhibit space with topics that change seasonally
- Chamber offices and events phone line with recorded event messages
- Selling: tour and history books, t-shirts, mugs and other mementos
- Trail-heading building for walking tour, bike path, and snowmobile route
- Outdoor visitor patio, garden and porch for relaxing and snacking

The Mantorville Chamber of Commerce has found the ideal location for a Welcome Center and signed a purchase agreement with the current owner Andy Cummings. Their anticipated closing date is April 1, 2007. The property is a quaint 1910 cottage located at 407 North Main Street, formerly occupied by Bridgeport Family Law.

To make the Welcome Center a reality they need to raise \$62,000. Several local businesses and residents have pledged almost \$15,000 or nearly 25% of the total funds needed. The Mantorville Restoration Association is soliciting donations for this project as they feel it will be an asset to Mantorville and the surrounding area.

Ms. Rapp shared with the Board a floor plan for the proposed Welcome Center.

It was noted that the deadline for raising the \$62,000 needed to purchase the home is April 1, 2007.

Ms. Rapp informed the Board that the Kasson Chamber of Commerce has already been approached regarding support for the project.

Ms. Rapp stated that to date they have approximately 80 volunteers that have expressed interest in helping out with the Welcome Center and noted that community involvement in this type of project is highly desirable.

Ms. Rapp informed the Board that a new coffee shop will be opening in Mantorville in May, an art center is coming to town as well as a bed and breakfast which will be located in the old mansion. The Chamber would like to open the Welcome Center in May when the new coffee shop opens.

The Chamber of Commerce is looking for support from the Dodge County Board of Commissioners by attending the fundraisers or through a financial contribution.

Ms. Rapp indicated that ownership issues are still being worked out, it has not yet been determined if the Mantorville Chamber of Commerce or the Mantorville Restoration Association would be the owners of the Welcome Center.

Linda Kreter informed the Board that a mulligan stew fundraiser will be held at the Hubbell House on Thursday, March 15th at 5:00 p.m. There will also be a live auction and music. Donations can be dropped off at the Mantorville Square. It was noted that Don Pappas has been a big supporter of the project and has offered to donate the food and staff time for this fundraiser with all of the proceeds from the event going towards the Welcome Center.

Jamie Jencks discussed the bike trails and what they would like to accomplish by adding additional trails that go through Dodge County.

Duane Johnson questioned why there was a deadline for the purchase of the home.

Ms. Rapp informed the Board that the current owner of the building is allowing the building to sit empty for four months in order to allow the Chamber time to raise the money needed to purchase the house. If the Chamber is unable to raise the money for the house by the April 1, 2007 deadline, the owner plans to sell the house privately.

It was noted that the house would need to be re-roofed and that there are a lot of people that are willing to volunteer time and supplies in order to help keep costs down.

Commissioner Tjosaas wanted more information on the grants available for the project.

Future Home of the
Mantorville Welcome
Center Discussion -
Continued

Mr. Jencks stated that the grant process is an on-going process, there are lots of unknowns that are still being worked out.

The Board thanked Ms. Rapp, Mr. Jencks and Ms. Kreter for coming in and sharing the Welcome Center information with them.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:27 a.m. CST.

Meeting Adjourned

ATTEST:

DON GRAY
CHAIR, COUNTY BOARD

BECKY LUBAHN
DEPUTY CLERK

DATED: