

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2007

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

**STATE OF MINNESOTA)
DODGE COUNTY)**

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATION OFFICE
MANTORVILLE, MN**

2007-20 C.O.W.

The Dodge County Commissioners met in Committee of the Whole October 23, 2007, in the Commissioner's Room at the Dodge County Courthouse Annex, Mantorville, MN, at 9:00 a.m. CDT. Don Gray opened the meeting at 9:00 a.m. CDT.

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 County Clerk
	Mark Gamm	Environmental Quality Director
	Sandra Schaefer	Septic System Coordinator/Account Technician

Environmental Quality Director Mark Gamm met with the Board to discuss a proposed amendment to the Solid Waste Designation Ordinance.

Solid Waste
Designation
Ordinance
Amendment
Discussion

Mr. Gamm informed the Board that the county's Solid Waste Designation Ordinance regulates the delivery of garbage generated in the county. It states that all garbage generated in Dodge County must be delivered to the Dodge County Transfer Station unless deposited outside the state of Minnesota.

The Environmental Quality Director reported that since 1986, Dodge County has partnered with Olmsted County to build and operate a waste management system that uses garbage to generate renewable energy. Garbage is delivered to the Transfer Station then transported to the Olmsted Waste to Energy Facility for production of steam and electricity. All the expenses for this system are paid by user fees. To make the system economical and fair to everyone, Dodge County must make sure all garbage generated within the county is delivered to the Transfer Station.

Mr. Gamm discussed with the commissioners the proposed changes to the Designation Ordinance. A recent decision by the U.S. Supreme Court has clearly authorized counties to designate the delivery of all garbage generated within its border to a publicly-owned and operated facility. Dodge County proposes to amend its Designation Ordinance to remove the current exemption for out-of-state disposal of waste and to designate such waste to its publicly owned and operated Transfer Station.

Commissioner Erickson discussed issues that have occurred in Olmsted County and Red Wing and wanted to know what makes this different.

Solid Waste
Designation
Ordinance
Amendment
Discussion -
Continued

The Environmental Quality Director reported that these issues arose before the Supreme Court ruling and reiterated that if the county owns and operates a facility that they have the right to designate where the garbage collected in Dodge County goes.

Commissioner Alberts wanted to know how much waste collected in Dodge County goes out of the county.

Mr. Gamm and Septic System Coordinator/Account Technician Sandra Schaefer informed the Board that they do not believe that any licensed haulers are currently transporting designated waste from the county to a facility in another state.

Mr. Alberts wanted to know how the Environmental Quality Office would enforce the ordinance.

The Environmental Quality Director noted that if a hauler goes across the line his office is usually tipped off by someone and then the hauler is contacted.

Mr. Gamm shared with the Board a timeline of events relating to the Solid Waste Designation Ordinance.

The Environmental Quality Director stated that the next step would be to put a public notice out and then meet with the haulers to discuss the proposed amendments to the Solid Waste Designation Ordinance.

County Administrator David McKnight wanted to know if the attorney is going to attend the public hearing.

Mr. Gamm indicated that he has not contacted the attorney yet but can ask that he attend the meeting.

It was the consensus of the Board that they supported the proposed amendments to the Solid Waste Designation Ordinance and that the Environmental Quality Office should proceed with a public hearing.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:23 a.m. CDT.

Meeting Adjourned

ATTEST:

DON GRAY
CHAIR, COUNTY BOARD

BECKY LUBAHN
DEPUTY CLERK

DATED: