

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2007

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

**STATE OF MINNESOTA)
DODGE COUNTY)**

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATION OFFICE
MANTORVILLE, MN**

2007-22 C.O.W.

The Dodge County Commissioners met in Committee of the Whole November 27, 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
Gary Thompson Sheriff
Jim Trihey Chief Deputy

Mr. McKnight provided the Board with a School Resource Officer (SRO) update. The County Administrator reported that the potential costs to continue the School Resource Officer position would be between \$53,972 – \$75,557 in 2007 costs.

School Resource
Officer Update

Discussion took place regarding benefits, FTE equivalencies and school contributions.

Commissioners wanted to know if this position would require another squad car. Sheriff Gary Thompson reported that the Sheriff's Office already has a car designated to the SRO program.

Commissioner Erickson wanted to know if there was a possibility that the cities would become involved in funding the SRO program.

The County Administrator noted that the City of Dodge Center will be talking to the school district about possible funding to continue the SRO program in Triton Schools.

Mr. Thompson informed the Board that the cities would like to see the SRO program continue and may be willing to contribute money towards the program.

Commissioner Alberts stated that he supports the SRO program and believes that each school should have a SRO Officer. Mr. Alberts commented that he was in favor of continuing the program.

The Sheriff indicated that he agrees with Mr. Alberts and believes the SRO program is an invaluable asset to the county.

School Resource Officer Update - Continued

Commissioner Hanson wanted to know what involvement the schools superintendents have with the School Resource Officer program.

Mr. Thompson informed the Board that there are meetings with the schools regarding the SRO program, agreements are in place with each of the schools and that the schools have input into how the program is run.

The County Administrator stated that they will sit down with the schools and discuss the School Resource Officer program. Mr. McKnight also noted that funding for this position is covered in the 2008 budget.

Commissioner Tjosaas wanted to know how many deputies would qualify for the SRO position.

Mr. Thompson reported that currently only one deputy would qualify for this position. The deputy in this position is required to complete a one-two week training session in order to obtain certification as a School Resource Officer.

Commissioner Gray stated that he appreciates the cooperative effort displayed by the Sheriff's Office in working with the schools to carry out this program.

Mr. Thompson thanked the Board for their support of the SRO program.

The County Administrator discussed with the Board a County Board procedures proposal.

County Board Procedures Proposal Discussion

Mr. McKnight presented for the Board's consideration a draft County Board Procedures document. The purpose of the document is to formalize a number of factors that the county uses in preparing for and conducting Dodge County Board of Commissioners meetings.

Most of the procedures that the County Administrator included in the document are things that are taken for granted. The procedures have been performed this way for many years and there are never really any questions on these issues. Mr. McKnight also noted three areas that he thought the County Board might want to discuss that include:

1. Charging back costs to conduct a special meeting of the County Board. This is the type of meeting that very rarely occurs, but the County Administrator wanted to be able to charge back any costs the county incurs from such things as printing the minutes in the legal newspaper back to a private individual (not a county department) who has requested that a special meeting be held.
2. Mr. McKnight reviewed a number of other counties procedures documents and they often times have any new ordinances or revisions to ordinances on their meetings twice before they take formal action. This appeared in a number of different organizations that the County Administrator thought he would bring the issue up for discussion here.

3. The final issue to discuss is the conduct that might cause an individual to be asked to cease comments, return to their seat or be asked to leave a meeting. While we have not had many issues that might have called for this, we have had some. Mr. McKnight thought he would bring this forward for discussion at this point.

County Board
Procedures Proposal
Discussion

The County Administrator noted that he is not looking for any action on this item today, if the County Board is comfortable with the proposed procedures or want to make changes he will bring the item back at the Board's next meeting for consideration.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:28 a.m. CDT.

Meeting Adjourned

ATTEST:

DON GRAY
CHAIR, COUNTY BOARD

BECKY LUBAHN
DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK

DATED: