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NOVEMBER, 2023

Volume 5 • Issue 8

## September Dodge County Commissioners Meeting

The Dodge County Commissioners met in regular session September 12, 2023, in the Commissioner's Room at the Dodge County Government Services Building, Mantorville, MN, at 9:30 a.m. Vice Chair John Allen called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. It was noted that Commissioner Kenworthy was attending remotely from the McCormick Center in Chicago, IL.

Mr. Kohlhofer reported that in 2024 they will be resurfacing/reconstructing CSAH 3, from T.H. 14 to T.H. 30, using federal funds for a portion of the cost. Included in the Board packet was an agreement that needs to be executed between Dodge County and MnDOT. This allows MnDOT to act as Dodge County's agent in accepting federal aid funds. The Dodge County Engineer will act as the representative for the county. The Highway Department is requesting approval of the proposed agreement and resolution. Commissioner Toquam offered the following resolution (#2023-32), seconded by Com-

missioner Tjosaas: BE IT RESOLVED, that pursuant to Minnesota Stat. Sec. 161.36, the Commissioner of Transportation be appointed as Agent of Dodge County to accept as its agent, federal aid funds which may be made available for eligible transportation related projects. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the \*Vice Chair and the \*Clerk are hereby authorized and directed for and on behalf of Dodge County to execute and enter into an agreement with the Commissioner of Transportation prescribing the terms and conditions of said federal aid participation as set forth and contained in "Minnesota Department of Transportation MnDOT Contract Number 1054852," a copy of which said agreement was before the

County Board and which is made a part hereof by reference. Resolution Adopted [Unanimous]

Tobey Hicks, Information Technology Director & Ryer Anderson, Captain Dodge County Security Camera Discussion/Risk Analysis Mr. Hicks informed the Board that Dodge County has had cameras since before he started in 2008. These cameras were connected via BNC and were very expensive. The IT Director noted that back then cameras were not as common as they are now. The only cameras Dodge County had in 2008 was in the Courtroom. Mr. Hicks recalled that they had 4 to 6 cameras at that time which were wired into Dispatch to a box that would record like a VCR. If at any time someone needed to turn off a camera for whatever rea-

son, someone would physically have to go into Dispatch and unplug a camera, or cameras. These cameras were monitored by the Dodge County Sheriff's Office (DCSO). In 2010 the DCSO switched out cameras from BNC to IP based cameras. This started out as replacing the cameras in the Courtroom and adding some at the entrances into the Annex and Courthouse. The total amount of cameras during this project was about 13 to 15 cameras. When IP cameras entered into Dodge County, IT then became involved due to the need for a Windows Server, server maintenance and storage. The IT Director reported that a few years later a new Sheriff was elected and this Sheriff wanted a bigger camera security system.

(continued on page 2)

### Announcements

• The United Methodist Church of Dodge Center at 20 First Street NE offers a dine in and carry out meal from 5:00-6:00pm the third Wednesday of each month.

Do you have an announcement?

Email:

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### Triton FFA Corn and Soybean Donation Drive

We had a great event that raised over \$19,000 from around 100 donors. Proceeds run our operations for the year and \$1000 will be reinvested in Dodge County by purchasing groceries at Sunshine Foods and delivering it to the Dodge County Food Shelf in Kasson. Thank you to all of our donors that assisted us this year and we look forward to seeing you at our annual Steak Feed appreciation meal held at Faith Community Church in West Concord on Saturday February 24, 2024.



(additional picture on page 3)


Pictured to the left: Jacob Kasper is opening up the gravity box while members (left to right) August Johnson, Connor Sowieja and Brady Staub provide supervision.



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# September Dodge County Commissioners Meeting

(continued from page 1)

At that time the server was removed from IT support and managed by the Sheriff himself and vendors. During this time more cameras and panic buttons were added in all offices in the Annex, Courthouse, and Impound Lot. The server needs increased tremendously and a large Windows Server was needed. At that time Mr. Hicks believes they were close to 40 cameras. The IT Director reminded the Board that IT was not involved with this system again until around 2015 when the remodel was going on with the Government Services Building. This system was then in need of a major upgrade by the Sheriff during that time. The system was designed to double in size which also increase the needs of the system. Mr. Hicks believes this was around the time that we got yet another new Sheriff after the previous Sheriff had planned and built what he thought was coming in the future. So once there was the new Sheriff (current one) the camera server came to be maintained by IT, and the DCSO made the decisions on what, where and why new cameras would be needed. Other Dodge County departments started requesting cameras in their areas for their safety and security. The requests for cameras came from Fairview Care Center, Public Health, Highway, Transfer Station, and now 218 (415 Main St Mantorville, MN-maintenance garage). After the Courthouse remodel was done the DCSO had more interview rooms and such that required more security coverage. Shortly after the remodel, Dodge County created a security checkpoint in the Annex and now has someone that can monitor a number of cameras throughout their shift. The IT Director noted the county currently has just shy of 100 cameras total. Mr. Hicks reported this is the background of how the camera system grew into what we have today. The Board was informed that a Security Committee has been formed consisting of Captain Anderson, the IT Director and the Facilities & Fleet Manager. Captain shared with the Board a risk assessment spreadsheet and reported that there are three reasons why we have cameras; 1) for liability, 2) for accountability and 3) for evidence. Mr. Anderson discussed with the Board the tier system they have come up with to identify which cameras need immediate attention when they go down and which cameras may or may not be replaced if they fail. Captain Anderson reported that Tier 1 cameras are cameras that are placed in locations of high liability. Commissioner Toquam pointed out the camera system was developed over time and because of that the cameras being used are likely different brands. Ms. Toquam wanted to know if the committee's plan included trying to get all of the same brand of cameras as they are replaced. Mr. Hicks stated moving forward they will try to put the same brand which has worked well for them, the Access brand. Mr. Harbaugh reported if they are using all of the

same camera brand that they could potentially have a camera fail in an area that is a high priority area and replace it with a camera from another area. Commissioner Tjosaas wanted to know what the life span of a camera was. The IT Director informed the Board that the replacement plan for the cameras is 5-7 years. Commissioner Allen stated he has mixed feelings will all of the cameras and where they are located. Mr. Allen questioned how many cameras are enough? Captain Anderson reported that they will never be able to catch everything on the cameras, but they do their best to catch what they can.

Mr. Elmquist presented the Personnel Agenda for the Board's consideration. Motion by Tjosaas seconded by Toquam to approve the following personnel actions: A. Highway Department A.1 Troy Jobe - Sign Technician Step increase from B23 step 7 \$32.05 to B23 step 8 \$32.86. Effective Date: 9/1/23 A.2 Adam Wendt - Equipment Operator Step increase from B23 step 7 \$29.84 to B23 step 8 \$30.58. Effective Date: 9/1/23 A.3 Ryan Baker - Engineering Technician Step increase from B31 step 3 \$31.97 to B31 step 4 \$32.77. Effective Date: 9/1/23 A.4 Jessica Brennan - Highway Accountant Step increase from C41 step 4 \$33.47 to C41 step 3 \$34.39. Effective Date: 10/1/23 B. Attorney's Office B.1 Jenna Shallbetter - Paralegal Step increase from B31 step 2 \$29.45 to B31 step 1 \$30.34. Effective Date: 8/6/23 C. Sheriff's Office C.1 Miranda Wintheiser - Records Support Specialist No longer employed. Effective Date: 8/28/23 C.2 Records Support Specialist Authorization to fill vacancy, Effective Date: 9/12/23 C.3 Michelle Clements - Courthouse Deputy No longer employed. Effective Date: 9/15/23 C.4 Courthouse Deputy - On-Call Authorization to post and fill. Effective Date: 9/12/23 D. Environmental Services D.1 Rita Cole - Waste Management Administrator Step increase from C41 step 7 \$30.29 to C41 step 6 \$31.40. Effective Date: 9/8/23 E. Annual Band and Grade Re-

views E.1 Approval of updated job descriptions and recommended changes in Band and Grade assignment. Band and Grade review completed by Tessia Melvin with DDA. From To Payroll Specialist/Employee Relations Assist. B31 B32 Administrative Assistant - Extension B21 B22 Effective Date: 12/1/23 Motion Adopted [Unanimous]

Commissioner Rhonda Toquam Commissioner Toquam presented a summary of the Public Safety Committee report and action items. Pork E Pines Farms Donation to Dodge County Sheriff's Office Ms. Toquam reported that Pork E Pines Farms has expressed interest in supporting the Sheriff's Office Chaplain and Peer Support program and wanted to make a donation to support their efforts. Commissioner Toquam offered the following resolution (#2023-33), seconded by Commissioner Tjosaas: WHEREAS, the Dodge County Sheriff's Office from time to time receives donations from individuals and/or organizations; and WHEREAS, the Dodge County Sheriff's Office wishes to accept this donation and utilize it to help fund equipment and training for the Chaplain and/or Peer Support Team Programs; and WHEREAS, pursuant to Minnesota Statute 465.03, the county shall by resolution of the governing body adopt by a two-thirds majority of its members accept a grant or devise of real or personal property and maintain such property for the benefit of its citizens in accordance with the terms prescribed by the donor. NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Dodge County Board of Commissioners hereby accept the following donation to be used for the Chaplain Program and Peer Support Program. Pork E Pines Farms - \$50 Resolution

Adopted [Unanimous] Lamae's Bright Light Donation to Dodge County Sheriff's Office Commissioner Toquam informed the Board that Lamae's Bright Light has expressed interest in supporting the Sheriff's Office Chaplain and Peer Support Program and wanted to make a donation to support their efforts. Commissioner Toquam offered the following resolution (#2023-34), seconded by Commissioner Tjosaas: WHEREAS, the Dodge County Sheriff's Office from time to time receives donations from individuals and/or organizations; and WHEREAS, the Dodge County Sheriff's Office wishes to accept this donation and utilize it to help fund equipment and training for the Chaplain and/or Peer Support Team Programs; and WHEREAS, pursuant to Minnesota Statute 465.03, the county shall by resolution of the governing body adopt by a two-thirds majority of its members accept a grant or devise of real or personal property and maintain such property for the benefit of its citizens in accordance with the terms prescribed by the donor. NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Dodge County Board of Commissioners hereby accept the following donation to be used for the Chaplain Program and Peer Support Program. Lamae's Bright Light - \$4,710.00 Resolution Adopted Ms. Kramer reviewed bills with the Board. Motion by Tjosaas seconded by Toquam to approve the bills as discussed in the following amounts from the appropriate funds as determined by Finance: 01 Revenue Fund \$ 310,347.77 13 Road and Bridge Fund \$ 257,524.08 16 Environmental Quality Fund \$ 157,665.55 19 \$ 85.89 Total \$ 725,623.29 Motion Adopted [Unanimous]

(continued on page 3)



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**HARVEST FEAST DINNER  
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**Wednesday, November 8, 2023**

**Dinner: 5:00-7:30 pm**

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# September Dodge County Commissioners Meeting

*(continued from page 2)*

The Finance Director reported that included in the Board packet was the County Management Representation letter for the 2020 audit. Near the end of each audit the State Auditors require a signed Management Representation letter describing that County management understood its audit responsibilities and to the best of our knowledge we submitted accurate information and have disclosed any important subsequent events. Motion by Toquam seconded by Tjosaas to approve and authorize the County Board Chairman, Finance Director and County Administrator to sign the 2020 Management Representation Letter as requested. Motion Adopted

Ms. Cornelius and Ms. Cole met with the Board to discuss e-waste. Currently, Dodge County is on the State contract with Dynamic Lifestyle Innovations for electronic waste recycling, we pay \$0.195 per lb. for e-waste. However, they have been made aware that Dynamic will deal directly with Counties for pricing, which sometimes allows for better pricing on commodities. Environmental Services staff has verified that neither our local ordinance nor our solid waste management plan requires the county to use the State contract. Therefore, Environmental Services staff approached Dynamic about a direct contract. Included in the Board packet was the agreement that Dynamic provided. Based on this provided agreement and the 3-4 loads per year that Dodge County averages, this could be an average savings of \$6,500 - \$9,000 per year. Motion by Tjosaas seconded by Toquam to approve and authorize Waste Management Administrator, Rita Cole, to sign the proposed Service Agreement with Dynamic for disposal of e-waste. Motion Adopted [Unanimous]

The Environmental Services Director reported that the Transfer Station has allotted \$125,000 in capital to purchase a new loader. Included in the Board packet were four quotes for a new loader and one used loader. Environmental Services is recommending moving forward with the Komatsu WA320-8. CAT

|                    |              |                       |                        |
|--------------------|--------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 930M Komatsu WA320 | Deere 544P   | Hyundai 940A XT (new) | Hyundai 940A XT (used) |
| Cost               | \$258,433.98 | \$256,071.11          | \$253,000.00           |
|                    | \$233,400.00 | \$217,400.00          | Trade-in               |
|                    | \$113,000.00 | \$115,000.00          | \$105,000.00           |
|                    | \$110,000.00 | \$110,000.00          | TOTAL                  |
|                    | \$145,433.98 | \$141,071.11          | \$148,000.00           |
|                    | \$123,400.00 | \$107,400.00          |                        |

A question was raised as to why Environmental Services wasn't recommending that they go with the Hyundai's since they were cheaper. Ms. Cornelius informed the Board that when you included the cost of the loader and the added cost of attachments that the cost for the Hyundai would be higher. They are also more familiar with the Komatsu brand. Motion by Tjosaas seconded by Toquam to approve and authorize Environmental Services to move forward with purchasing a Komatsu WA320-8 at a cost of approximate \$141,071.11 as requested. Motion Adopted Ms. Cornelius reported that currently, the Transfer Station purchases DEF by a 55-gallon barrel but would like to get a pump system similar to the Highway Department in order to purchase DEF by bulk. The Transfer Station currently has 3 vehicles that need DEF and purchases roughly 10 barrels a year. While there would be a one-time cost of \$1,540.00 to setup the pump system, the cost of bulk is currently 75 cents a gallon cheaper than by the barrel. Therefore, purchasing DEF in bulk over time will be a cost savings for the County. Motion by Toquam seconded by Tjosaas to approve and authorize Environmental Services to move forward with installing a pumping system at the Transfer Station and purchasing DEF in bulk as requested. Motion Adopted [Unanimous] Ms. Cornelius informed the Board that the concrete pile at the Transfer Station needs to be crushed. Included in the Board packet was a crushing proposal from Soma and Holtmeier. This payment will be coming out of the Transfer Stations Capital Expense Motion by Tjosaas seconded by Toquam to approve and authorize the Environmental Services Director to sign the crushing proposal with Holtmeier at a cost of approximately \$23,125.00 as recommended. Motion Adopted

Public Hearing for Cannabis Interim Ordinance The Public Hearing to enact an interim ordinance on cannabis was opened at 10:00 a.m. Ms. Evans was attending the meeting remotely and informed the Board that caveats have been added to the proposed ordinance that would allow them to respond to the State if the State issues a state cannabis license be-

fore January 2025. Ms. Evans reported that on May 30, 2023, Minnesota became the 23rd state to legalize the use of cannabis products. This new legislation creates a new regulatory framework to license businesses that would cultivate, manufacture, and sell cannabis at retail dispensaries. Possession for adults 21 and older became legal on August 1, 2023, however the sale of cannabis is illegal without a state license. The legal sale of cannabis is not anticipated until January 2025. During this time, the newly developed Office of Cannabis Management will work to develop the rule making and licensing processes. Dodge County Public Health has written an interim ordinance which deals with prohibiting the establishment of new uses or the expansion of existing uses related to sales testing, manufacturing, cultivating, growing, transporting, delivery and distribution of cannabis within Dodge County. This ordinance will allow Dodge County staff time to evaluate the regulatory options while protecting the health, safety, and welfare of county residents. The ordinance has been reviewed by the Environmental Services, Planning and Zoning Director, County Administrator and the County Attorney. In preparation for the public hearing on 9/12/2023, a notice of hearing was published in the Dodge County Independent for two weeks. Commissioner Allen wanted to know if the ordinance in front of them was provided by the State. Ms. Evens clarified that the ordinance that is being proposed is Dodge County's ordinance which was created using

examples from two other counties. Sheriff Rose was present along with Captain Anderson and Mr. Maas and informed the Board that they were there to support the proposed ordinance in any way they could. There weren't any members of the public that wanted to comment on the proposed Cannabis Interim Ordinance. Commissioner Tjosaas noted that he supports the proposed ordinance which would allow the county time to create an ordinance and rules that will fit our needs. The public hearing was closed at 10:04 a.m. Motion No Vote Approval of Enactment of Ordinance #23-02 The Public Health Director presented for the Board consideration a request to approve the proposed Cannabis Interim Ordinance #23-02. Motion by Tjosaas seconded by Toquam to approve and authorize Cannabis Interim Ordinance #23-02 as presented. Motion Adopted [Unanimous]

The County Administrator informed the Board that this meeting will be the last one for budget presentations by departments. The Sheriff and Environmental Services presented in Committee of the Whole at this morning. No action is being requested until the second meeting in September where the Board will be asked to certify a preliminary budget and levy in preparation for final certification in December. Included in the Board packet was a preliminary budget draft with a preliminary levy which showed a 4.2% increase from 2022.

*(continued on page 4)*



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## Triton FFA Corn and Soybean Donation Drive



Savannah Peterson is checking the quality of the grain as it is being unloaded

## September Dodge County Commissioners Meeting

(continued from page 3)

The budgets reflect Dodge Olmsted Community Corrections' perceived levy amount, MnPrairie's levy as stated at the all-commissioner meeting, added interest income, and a revision to boarding costs. The budget also holds an added amount in commissioner contingency. The Board was reminded that they can certify at a lower amount, certify at the amount presented today, or certify at a higher amount to protect against any levy needs before December. As always, the preliminary certification is a number that reflects the potential tax amount on the Truth in Taxation mailing, but the final levy is the actual levy amount after a public hearing the first meeting in December. Mr. Elmquist noted the first meeting in December will be a night meeting. The Finance Director was available to answer questions on the proposed budget. Commissioner Allen reported he is ok with the budget being set between 4-5% with the intention of that number coming down. Commissioner Tjosaas stated he is ok with setting the proposed budget at 5% with a plan to bring it down from there. Commissioner Kenworthy didn't have anything to add. Motion No Vote

**SEMMCHRA Levy Request** Mr. Elmquist reported this item is presented on this agenda after Ms. Beranek's presentation at the previous meeting. The Board was asked to consider a resolution for preliminary certification of SEMMCHRA's levy request. The County Administrator informed the Board that \$54,150 is what was included for SEMMCHRA in the 2024 budget. Commissioner Allen reported that he doesn't want anything higher than the \$54,000 included in the Budget for SEMMCHRA. Commissioner Toquam stated she doesn't know all of the history behind the county's relationship with SEMMCHRA, but she believes the previous Executive Director purchased properties that they shouldn't have. Ms. Toquam reported she does feel there's been a change in how things are being handled by Ms. Beranek and she knows they are working to clean things up and recognized the work that has been done. Commissioner Toquam noted she hesitates with the \$54,000, but she thinks Ms. Beranek is heading the program in a better direction. Commissioner Allen indicated that he feels Ms. Beranek has done a good job, but he feels this is a program for the cities, not Dodge County. Commissioner Toquam offered the following resolution (#2023-35), seconded by Commissioner Tjosaas: **RESOLUTION APPROVING PRELIMINARY SPECIAL BENEFIT TAX LEVY OF SOUTHEASTERN MINNESOTA MULTI-COUNTY HOUSING AND REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY PURSUANT TO MINNESOTA STATUTES, SECTION 469.033, SUBD. 6, AND APPROVING A BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024.** WHEREAS, the Southeastern Minnesota

Authority (the "Authority") was created by action of the Boards of Commissioners of Dodge, Goodhue, Wabasha and Winona Counties (collectively referred to as the "Counties") pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 469.004; and WHEREAS, pursuant to such action on the part of the Counties and Minnesota Statutes, Sections 469.001 to 469.047 (the "Act"), the Authority was granted all of the same functions, rights, powers, duties, privileges, immunities and limitations as are provided for housing and redevelopment authorities created for cities under the Act; and WHEREAS, Section 469.033, subd. 6, of the Act permits the Authority to levy and collect a special benefit tax of up to .0185% of taxable market value upon all taxable property, both real and personal, within the Authority's area of operation; and WHEREAS, the Authority has requested that the Board of Commissioners of Dodge County approve the preliminary levy of such a special benefit tax in the amount of \$54,150.00 to be levied upon all taxable market value of taxable property within the Authority's area of operation contained within Dodge County; and WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of Dodge County has considered such request by the Authority and believes that consenting to such a preliminary special benefit tax levy by the Authority is in the best interests of Dodge County and its residents; and WHEREAS, the Authority is also required pursuant to Section 469.033, subd. 6, of the Act to, in connection with the levy of such a special benefit tax, formulate and file a budget in accordance with the budget procedures of the Counties in the same manner as required of executive departments of the Counties and the amount of the tax levy for the following year shall be based upon that budget and approved by the Counties; and WHEREAS, the Authority has presented to the Board of Commissioners of Dodge County a copy of a proposed budget for its operations for fiscal year 2024. NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Board of Commissioners of Dodge County as follows: Section 1. That the budget for fiscal year 2024 for the operations of the Authority as presented for consideration by the Board of Commissioners of Dodge County is hereby in all respects approved. Section 2. That the levy of a preliminary special benefit tax pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 469.033, subd. 6, is hereby consented to with respect to taxes payable in calendar year 2024 in the amount of \$54,150.00 to be levied upon all taxable market value of taxable property within the Authority's area of operation within Dodge County. Resolution Adopted [Unanimous]

**Forfeited Property Appeal Discussed** Motion by Toquam seconded by Tjosaas to appeal the Court of Appeals decision on whether or not the county has the authority to impose conditions requiring demolition of a pre-existing structure and establishment of a new well as conditions of a tax-forfeiture sale. Motion Adopted [Unanimous]

**The Dodge County Commissioners met in regular session September 26, 2023,** in the County Board Room at the Dodge County Government Services Building, Mantorville, MN, at 5:00 p.m.

Mr. Elmquist presented the Personnel

Agenda for the Board's consideration. Motion by Toquam seconded by Tjosaas to approve the following personnel actions: A. Administration A.1 Duke Harbaugh - Facilities & Fleet Manager Step increase from C43 step 4 \$42.65 to C43 step 3 \$44.42. Effective Date: 9/09/23 B. Sheriff's Office B.1 Ellie Tuttle - 911 Dispatcher No longer employed. Effective Date: 9/24/23 B.2 911 Dispatcher Authorization to fill vacancy. Effective Date: 9/26/23 B.3 Shelly Grossman - Records Administrative Assistant Step increase from B23 step 4 \$25.23 to B23 step 3 \$25.99. Effective Date: 8/15/23 B.4 Amy Amidon - Records Support Specialist Authorization to employ at B21 step 4 \$21.59 to fill approved vacancy. Effective Date: TBD B.5 Michael Weaver - Courthouse Deputy Authorization to employ at C41 step 1 \$28.29 to fill approved vacancy. Effective Date: TBD Motion Adopted [Unanimous] County Administrator Update Mr. Elmquist provided the Board with a County Administrator update. Motion No Vote

Ms. Kramer reviewed bills with the Board.

The Finance Director reported they discovered that only half of the Shred-N-Go bill was paid on page 7. Another payment in the amount of \$314.37 to Shred-N-Go will be added to the bills. Motion by Kenworthy seconded by Toquam to approve the bills as discussed in the following amounts from the appropriate funds as determined by Finance: 01 Revenue Fund \$ 72,424.72 13 Road and Bridge Fund \$ 42,924.76 16 Environmental Quality Fund \$ 29,689.45 61 Nursing Home Fund \$ 100.00 Total \$ 145,138.93 Motion Adopted [Unanimous]

**Mobile Home Tax Penalty and Interest Abatement** Ms. Kramer informed the Board that Jean Allen spoke with Mr. Moreno after mobile home revenue recapture notice letters were sent this year. Mr. Moreno was unaware of the unpaid mobile home tax on his wife's mobile home until he received the letter finance sent to his wife as part of the process for filing the unpaid tax with revenue recapture to attempt collection.

(continued on page 9)



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**2023 RAM 1500 Tradesman**  
**- D23509**  
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**2023 Jeep Grand Cherokee L**  
**Limited - J23389**  
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**2023 Chrysler Pacifica**  
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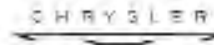
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**2024 RAM 1500**  
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 D240009  
 Retail Price: \$61,699  
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**YOU SAVE: .....\$8,107**

**2024 RAM 3500**  
 Laramie - D240003  
 Retail Price: \$94,395  
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**YOU SAVE: .....\$5,817**

**2023 RAM 1500**  
 Laramie - D23574  
 Retail Price: \$66,766  
 Best Price: \$54,994  
**YOU SAVE: .....\$11,706**

**2024 RAM 1500 Limited**  
 - D240015  
 Retail Price: \$64,866  
 Best Price: \$77,558  
**YOU SAVE: .....\$9,504**

**2024 RAM 1500**  
 Big Horn/Lone Star -  
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 Best Price: \$29,372  
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**2024 Jeep Grand Cherokee**  
**Limited - J240021**  
 Retail Price: \$60,385  
 Best Price: \$54,950  
**YOU SAVE: .....\$5,435**



# September Dodge County Commissioners Meeting

(continued from page 4)

In speaking with Mr. Moreno, he indicated that he wanted to get the taxes paid, but the penalty and interest that had accrued on the unpaid tax was a barrier to getting all the back years paid. Currently the Moreno's son is living in the mobile home. To facilitate getting the mobile home tax paid up to date on parcel 23.951.0003 the Finance Director is recommending that the penalties and interest in the amount of \$11,275.11 be abated to clean up this parcel. Commissioner Toquam stated we don't typically abate these taxes, but when the amount is beyond what we feel can reasonably be paid, it makes sense to abate the penalty and interest. Ms. Toquam noted the penalty and interest rate is set by state statute, not the county. Commissioner Peterson asked that Ms. Kramer bring a list of delinquent properties for the Board to review at a future meeting. Motion by Toquam seconded by Kenworthy to approve and authorize the abatement of penalties and interest in the amount of \$11,275.11 on parcel 23.951.0003 as recommended. Motion Adopted [Unanimous]

Ms. Kramer presented for the Board's consideration the final draft of the 2024 preliminary budget. This preliminary budget represents a 5.0% increase over 2023 for a

total levy of \$17,334,555. The total budget represented at this meeting is \$39,410,986. This total budget number is slightly higher than 2023. This preliminary budget and levy will be used to calculate Truth in Taxation notices to be mailed in November. Between this preliminary certification date (September 26, 2023) and the final budget hearing on December 12th, the Board may continue to refine the budget and levy, however the preliminary levy represents the maximum amount the county can certify for 2024. Per the proposed resolution, the final budget hearing is scheduled for December 12th at 6:00 p.m. as this date is an evening Board meeting falling within statute and rules established by the Minnesota Department of Revenue. It was noted that the adjustments to this budget were minimal. Interest was increased based on the consistently higher rates the County is seeing for investments. Prisoner board was reduced slightly based on close to a year's experience with Olmsted County Corrections Facility, and commissioner contingency was adjusted to achieve a 5% net levy increase. As stated on the net levy summary page that was included in the Board packet, the overall effective levy rate will be reduced by -4.9 percent. Commissioner Allen commented that he would like to see the budget increase for 2024 at 3%. Commissioner Kenworthy stated he's not in favor of lowering the preliminary budget beyond 5% at this time with the cost of living going up and the potential for other increases that are unknown to them at this time. Mr. Kenworthy reported he doesn't want to waiver much from the 5% increase that was proposed. Commissioner Allen offered the following resolution (#2023-36), seconded by Commissioner Kenworthy: WHEREAS,

Minnesota Statute 275.065 requires Dodge County to adopt a proposed budget and certify the preliminary tax levy for taxes payable in the following year by September 30th; and WHEREAS, Dodge County continues to have increased demands on its budget due to a number of factors including: capital needs, increasing costs for state mandated services, and increasing personnel costs; and WHEREAS, the Dodge County Board of Commissioners considers the growth of Dodge County a key factor in delivering services and helping to spread the cost of county government to additional taxpayers while understanding that with this growth, tax rates may stabilize. NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Dodge County Board of Commissioners hereby adopts the 2024 preliminary county budget at \$39,410,986 and certifies the 2024 preliminary tax levy at \$17,334,555. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that under state statute the County Board must announce at this meeting their preliminary tax levy amount and the date and location of the County Board meeting at which the final budget/tax levy will be discussed and certified. This meeting will be held as a part of the County Board meeting scheduled for Tuesday, December 12, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. at 721 Main Street N. in Mantorville, Minnesota. Resolution Adopted [Unanimous]

Commissioner Rhonda Toquam Commissioner Toquam presented a summary of the Public Safety report and action items. 2024 Towards Zero Deaths Grant Ms. Toquam presented for the Board's consideration the 2024 Toward Zero Deaths Grant request. The Dodge County Sheriff's Office is seeking approval of a resolution to enter into an agreement with the Minnesota Office of Traffic Safety for the 2024 Towards Zero Deaths traffic safety initiative. The grant funds overtime (plus fringe benefit) patrols of Dodge County for specific traffic safety projects that include impaired driving, seatbelt enforcement, distracted driving, speed enforcement, and move over laws. As in years past the Dodge County Sheriff's Office is the fiscal administrator and will coordinate the grant. Their partner agencies are the Kasson Police Department, West Concord Police Department, Steele County Sheriff's Office, Owatonna Police Department, and the Blooming Prairie Police Department. The funding for 2024 is as follows: Impaired Driving Enforcement \$ 8,600 Seat Belt Enforcement \$ 4,200 Speed Enforcement \$ 15,000 Distracted Driving Enforcement \$ 4,100 Move Over Enforcement \$ 1,000 Special Projects

Enforcement and Education \$ 1,000 Equipment Purchase Match and Training \$ 5,500 Total for Grant \$ 39,400 The grant is funded by the National Highway Traffic and Safety Administration (NHTSA). The funding is allocated to the state and then distributed by need according to data received by the Minnesota Office of Traffic Safety. The goal is to reduce traffic fatalities and serious injuries to zero. As of today, there has been 1 fatality on our roadways in 2023, 2 in 2022, 3 in 2021, 3 in 2020, 4 in 2019, and tragically 6 in 2018. Over the past several years Dodge County has averaged one to two fatalities per year but as seen by the numbers above that average seems to be decreasing. Funding for this grant is necessary to achieve the goal of zero deaths on our roads. Commissioner Toquam offered the following resolution (#2023-37), seconded by Commissioner Allen: BE IT RESOLVED that the Dodge County Sheriff's Office enter into a grant agreement with the Minnesota Department of Public Safety, for traffic enforcement projects during the period from October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2024. The Dodge County Sheriff is hereby authorized to execute such agreements and amendments as are necessary to implement the project on behalf of the Dodge County Sheriff's Office and to be the fiscal agent and administer the grant. Resolution Adopted [Unanimous]

Dodge County Youth Hockey Association is requesting a gambling permit for use from October 1, 2023 to September 30, 2024. The raffles will take place at Dodge County Fairgrounds, 100 11th Street NE, Kasson, MN 55944. It was Ms. Marquardt's recommendation that the County Board set forth a motion to approve the raffle Gambling Permit for Dodge County Youth Hockey Association. Commissioner Allen offered the following resolution (#2023-38), seconded by Commissioner Kenworthy: BE IT RESOLVED that approval for Premises Permit Renewal Application has been given to the following: Dodge County Youth Hockey Association, Kasson, Minnesota to conduct gambling at Dodge County Ice Arena, 100 11th Street NE, Kasson, Minnesota. Resolution Adopted [Unanimous]

Hayfield Fireman's Relief Association Premises Permit Application Mr. Peterson presented for the Board's consideration the Hayfield Fireman's Relief Association permit application for The Oaks Golf Course. The Hayfield Fireman's Relief Association would like to do gambling activities at The Oaks Golf Course.

(continued on page 10)

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# September Dodge County Commissioners Meeting

(continued from page 9)

It was the Accounting Services Director's recommendation that the County Board pass a resolution on the Premises Permit Application for the Hayfield Fireman's Relief Association for gambling activities at The Oaks Golf Course. Commissioner Allen offered the following resolution (#2023-39), seconded by Commissioner Kenworthy: BE IT RESOLVED that approval for Premises Permit Renewal Application has been given to the following: Hayfield Fireman's Relief Association, Hayfield, Minnesota to conduct gambling at The Oaks Golf Course, 73671 170th Ave, Hayfield, Minnesota. Resolution Adopted [Unanimous]

Ms. Evans reported that on May 30, 2023, Minnesota became the 23rd state to legalize the use of cannabis products. Use, possession and personal growing of cannabis for adults 21 and older became legal on August 1, 2023 subject to requirements and restrictions of Minnesota Statutes. This new legislation creates a new regulatory framework for local government control. State legislation authorizes the adoption of a local ordinance establishing a petty misdemeanor offense for public use of cannabis. Additionally, MN Statute § 145A authorizes the adoption of an ordinance to regulate actual or potential

threats to the public health. Dodge County Public Health recognizes the risks that unintended access and use of cannabis products and exposure to cannabis and its effects present to the health, safety and welfare of members of the public, particularly the youth. Therefore, Dodge County Public Health has written an ordinance pertaining to the use of cannabis in public spaces. This ordinance will prohibit the use of cannabis flower, cannabis products, lower-potency hemp edibles, or hemp derived consumer products in a public place or a place of public accommodation unless the premises is an establishment or event licensed to permit on-site consumption of adult-use cannabis flower and cannabis products. This ordinance will prohibit the ability to vaporize or smoke cannabis flower, cannabis products, artificially derived cannabinoids, or hemp-derived consumer products in any location where the

smoke, aerosol, or vapor would be inhaled by a minor. The ordinance has been reviewed by the Environmental Services, Planning and Zoning Director, County Administrator and the County Attorney. In preparation for the public hearing on September 26, 2023, a notice of hearing was published in the Dodge County Independent for two weeks. Commissioner Allen had a question regarding the proposed ordinance and where people can use cannabis. Mr. Allen was concerned with the possibility of people using cannabis at events. Ms. Evans clarified that people can only use cannabis on their property, they cannot use it at an event. The Public Health Director noted there aren't any businesses in Dodge County that can sell cannabis products. Only tribal reservations can sell cannabis in the State of Minnesota at this time. Motion by Toquam seconded by Kenworthy to open the public

hearing to public comment at 6:06 p.m. Motion Adopted [Unanimous] Public Comment Period There were no members of the public that wanted to comment on the proposed cannabis use in public spaces ordinance. Ms. Evans informed the Board that they didn't receive any comments regarding the proposed ordinance at their office. Public Hearing Closed Motion by Toquam seconded by Kenworthy to close the Cannabis Use in Public Spaces public hearing at 6:07 p.m. Motion Adopted [Unanimous] Approval of Enactment of Ordinance #23-03 Motion by Kenworthy seconded by Allen to approve and authorize the Chair and County Administrator to sign the proposed Cannabis Use in Public Spaces Ordinance #23-03 as presented. Motion Adopted [Unanimous] Adjourn The Chair adjourned the meeting at 6:08 p.m.



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**TRITON ISD NO. 2125 – SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2023 – 6:00 P.M. TRITON HIGH SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER – DODGE CENTER, MN & ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCING (ANDROY HOTEL 1213 TOWER AVE., SUPERIOR, WI 54880)**

-Meeting Proceedings- Chair Lloyd Henslin, Jr. called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Those members present: Wendy Kenworthy, Lloyd Henslin, Jr., Duane Bartel, Jim Jensen, Dale Jensen, and Rebecca Knutson; present via ZOOM: Brian Ginder; absent: none. Also present: Superintendent Craig Schlichting, Dean of Students Tricia Johnson, Principal Luke Lutterman, A.D. Corey Black, Student Council Representative Corey Lilledahl, Tina Kozisek and 6 visitors. There were no visitors present via ZOOM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Knutson/Kenworthy moved to approve the agenda as pre-

sented. Voting in favor: Kenworthy, Knutson, Ginder, Bartel, J. Jensen, D. Jensen, and Henslin. Voting against: none. Motion carried unanimously. Cobra Pride honorees Whitney Hesse, Marisa Starkson, Michelle Petersohn, and Annalee Thomas were recognized and congratulated. Bartel/D. Jensen motioned to approve the consent agenda including the August 21, 2023 regular meeting minutes as presented; budget update; claims and bills; treasurer’s report; donations; open enrollment/nonresident agreements for students #091823A, #091823B, #091823C, #091823D, #091823E, #091823F, #091823G, #091823H, #091823I, #091823J, #091823K, #091823L, #091823M, #091823N, #091823O, #091823P, #091823Q, #091823R, #091823S, #091823T, #091823U, and #091823V; contracts for Travis Scanlan as Assistant Building, Grounds, & Transportation Supervisor, Bethany Glarner as Special Education Paraprofessional, Riley Kettner as Special Education Educational Assistant, Cayla Heald as Special Education Educational Assistant; extra-curric-

ular contracts for Madison Sequin as Cheerleading Coach, Jeremy Himli as Head Girl’s Soccer Coach, Shelly Bungum as Head Cross Country Coach, Laurie Essig as Head Volleyball Coach, Allissa Hallaway as Assistant Volleyball Coach, Kayce Munnikhuisen as Assistant Volleyball Coach, Karissa Eipers as C-Squad Volleyball Coach, Olivia Swaschka as JH Volleyball Coach, Peyton Soltau as JH Volleyball Coach, Brandon Neseth as Head Football Coach, Sam storlie as Assistant Football Coach, Cole Rollins as Assistant Football Coach, Brady Essig as Assistant Football Coach, Joe Giesler as JH Football Coach, Dale Tate as JH Football Coach, and Mark Evjen as JH Football Coach. Voting in favor: Kenworthy, Knutson, Ginder, Bartel, J. Jensen, D. Jensen, and Henslin. Voting against: none. Motion carried unanimously. FFA Advisors Robert Ickler and Tyffanie Heublein, and 2 FFA members shared information regarding the National FFA Convention trip to Indianapolis. Bartel/Knutson motioned to approve the overnight stay for the National FFA Con-

vention trip to Indianapolis, November 1-4, 2023. Voting in favor: Kenworthy, Knutson, Ginder, Bartel, J. Jensen, D. Jensen, and Henslin. Voting against: none. Motion carried unanimously. J. Jensen/D. Jensen motioned to approve the proposed 2023 Payable 2024 Levy Certification – “maximum amount”. Voting in favor: Kenworthy, Knutson, Ginder, Bartel, J. Jensen, D. Jensen, and Henslin. Voting against: none. Motion carried unanimously. Superintendent Schlichting reported on enrollment numbers. There were no new policy updates to discuss. Student Council Representative Corey Lilledahl reported on upcoming homecoming activities. Chair Henslin & Superintendent Schlichting gave a ZED update. A.D. Corey Black reported on the start of the fall season, homecoming events, great student super fan participation, MSHSL Boys Volleyball discussion, youth events hosted by the football and volleyball teams, and homecoming kick off receptions. Superintendent Schlichting reported Theme Song Thursdays, HERO awards, location of the new basketball court, and a great start to the new year. Dean of Students Tricia

Johnson reported on the Purpose Retreat, WEB orientation, changes to homeroom, Safety Patrol interest, and Young Authors and Artist event. Principal Luke Lutterman reported on a successful start to the new year, Chromebook distribution, great attendance at the Open House, grade level meetings, Purpose Retreat, new staff, senior sunrise, My Ascension, E-Hallpass, grade level checks, and the homecoming parade. Superintendent Craig Schlichting reported on My Ascension, NICE insurance benefit, preparing for a speaker in November, contract negotiations, and a study session October 25. Bartel/D. Jensen motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:58 p.m. Voting in favor: Kenworthy, Knutson, Ginder, Bartel, J. Jensen, D. Jensen, and Henslin. Voting against: none. Motion carried unanimously.

School District Clerk

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SIGNED BY: Joe Amy, Officer  
Published in the Dodge Center Messenger  
October 18, November 1, 2023

**DODGE CENTER SUMMARY COUNCIL MINUTES Monday, October 9, 2023**

This published information is a summary of the full minutes of the October 9, 2023 Dodge Center City Council meeting. A copy of the full minutes is available for viewing at City Hall, 35 East Main Street or online at [www.ci.dodgecenter.mn.us](http://www.ci.dodgecenter.mn.us).

Present: Bill Ketchum, Gary Trelstad, Cathy Skogen, Paul Blaisdell, Matt Maas, Lee Mattson, AJ Gengler, Jeremy Dostal, Deputy Vermeersch, Tim Woessner, Pastor Langworthy and Kathy Freeman

The City Council approved the following items:

- Agenda and amended consent agenda;
  - Burn request from Praise Fellowship pending proper burn permits;
  - Awarding of City Shop heating bid to Nelson’s Gas, Inc;
  - Approval of creation of Dodger Days Committee;
  - Closed Session – 6:34 p.m.
  - Re-opened Session – 6:54 p.m.
- Meeting adjourned at 6:55 pm

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Thursday, November 16: Open Mic 7:00 to 10:00pm

Friday, December 1st: The Dreamers 7:00 to 10:00pm

Thursday, December 7th: Lady’s Happy Time 4:30 to 6:30pm

Open Mic 7:00 to 10:00pm

Friday, December 29th:

New Years Eve Party Starts at 7:00pm, Countdown at 10:00pm

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