

COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE: Finance Committee
CHAIRPERSON: John Creighton, Chairperson
DATE/TIME: December 18, 2002 7:00 pm

PRESENT: ___ Alexander _x_ Hasken _x_ Schultz
 x Berlage ___ Jackson ___ Sisler
 ___ Bielenda ___ Lyons ___ Stoffregen
 x Carroll ___ Montelius ___ Toepfer
 ___ Cooper _x_ Potter ___ Zillig
 x Creighton ___ Schubert

Others: Duane Olivier, County Administrator
 John Lang, Regional Superintendent of Schools

1. **Approval of Minutes.** The Committee reviewed Minutes for its meeting on November 8, 2002. On a motion by Vince Hasken, 2nd by Yerda Potter, the Minutes were approved.

2. **Regional Superintendent of School's budget.** John Lang, Regional Superintendent of Schools, distributed materials regarding the budget of the Office of the Regional Superintendent. He stated that other County department/office budgets were reduced by 5% for all expenditures other than salaries and that his office's budget was reduced by 5% including salaries. He requested that his budget be treated in the same manner as other County department/office budgets and that the 5% reduction apply only to expenditures other than salaries. After discussion, on a motion by Merri Berlage, 2nd by Jody Carroll, the Committee agreed not to recommend a change in the prior decision of the County Board to reduce the budget of the Office of the Regional Superintendent of Schools by 5% from the prior year's budgeted expenditures.

3. **Special county retailers' occupation tax for public safety.** The Committee discussed the idea of placing the matter of an increase in the county-wide sales tax to support public safety services on the April 2003 ballot. (Attached excerpt from Illinois Statutes) To put the questions on the April ballot, the County Board would need to adopt a resolution at its February meeting requesting that the matter be place on the ballot. Committee members had a number questions, including: How would we use the sales tax money? . . . How have other counties used the tax? . . . Can limits be placed on how the tax is being used? . . . How late can a referendum issue be withdrawn? John Creighton and Merri Berlage volunteered to seek answers to the Committee's questions. Following more discussion, the Committee agreed to put the proposal of a public safety sales tax on the February County Board agenda and to meet prior to the Board meeting to finalize its recommendation.

4. **County fee cost study update.** The cost study for determining the adequacy of various fees charged for County services is underway. The consultant, Lindgren, Callihan, Van Osdol and Company, LTD, has requested a variety of information for the County and has personnel on site interviewing and collecting information. It is anticipated that the study should be completed by the end of December or early January.
5. **County department/office and County' supported agency review.** During the final approval of the FY2003 Annual Budget, the Board agreed to undertake a thorough review of County services, programs, and activities. To that end, a memo (attached) will be distributed to all departments/offices requesting information about their services, programs, and activities. Beginning in January (schedule attached), the Committee will meet with each department/office to review and discuss the information. All County Board members will be encouraged to attend these meetings.
6. **Meeting schedule for 2003.** The Committee reviewed and approved its 2003 meeting schedule.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.