

COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE: Finance, Tax & Budgets
CHAIRPERSON: Yerda Potter, Chair
DATE/TIME: November 29, 2005. 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT:

Berlage
 Carroll

Kent
 Mapes

Potter
 Schultz

Other Board members:
Others: Donna Berlage, Carol Soat

MINUTES

Yerda Potter called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

1. Minutes

Alan Kent made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 27, 2005 committee meeting. Ron Mapes seconded and the motion passed.

2. Old Business

- a) Discussion of FY2006 budget. The committee discussed the budget process and decided to send out another survey to the department heads and County Board members. Yerda Potter mentioned that the department heads have concerns about the process of awarding unfunded requests. The auditor recommends prioritizing the County's needs. Results from the budget survey should help for next year.
- b) Accrual accounting conversion. Carol Soat stated that Leon Heires is coming to the courthouse this week and the process is on track.

3. New Business

- a) Board of Review request for extension. Donna Berlage stated that the Board of Review was supposed to have their work done by September 7. She just received her sales ratio from the state, so she is requesting an extension. Jody Carroll made a motion to recommend approval of a resolution granting an extension to the Board of Review so that they may complete their work. Mapes seconded and the motion passed.
- b) Assessment Office software. Berlage stated that Devnet has offered a three-year software license for free if Jo Daviess County participates as a test county, if the County will purchase the third-party software. Some of the software the County already has. The other costs would be approximately \$600 for the ViewImage software for four workstations and she can pay for it from her 2005 budget. Some future costs would be less than her office is currently paying for. This software will streamline the process in the office. Carroll made a motion to recommend entering into a 3-year contract with Devnet upon review of the contract by the States Attorney. Alan Kent seconded and the motion passed. The committee

discussed setting aside funds in future budgets for when the software fees begin to be charged.

- c) Merit pay raise scale. The committee discussed the chart presented. The committee and department heads present also discussed relationship of the evaluation system to the merit chart. The department heads are incorporating the employee benefits letter into their meeting with the employee at the time of their evaluation. Mapes made a motion to recommend approval of the merit pay raise scale for FY2006 as presented. Carroll seconded and the motion passed.
- d) Assignment of Tax Sale Certificate of Purchase. Carol Soat reported to the committee that one of the parcels that was taken over by Joseph Meyer Company has now been sold. Kent made a motion to recommend that the County Board approve the Assignment of Tax Sale Certificate of Purchase as presented. Mapes seconded and the motion passed.
- e) Claims process. Jean Dimke was going to address this item with the committee. It will be discussed at the next meeting.

4. Other

Carroll inquired about commercial special use permits that the Board has approved in the past. He would like to see how those businesses are doing in regards to employment and/or sales tax revenues.

Mapes talked about the Enterprise Zone fee distribution. The States Attorney, County Board Chair, Finance Chair and Development & Planning Chair need to look into this item.

Potter reported that she and Merri Berlage have met with Galena Stauss Hospital and acquainted them with the revolving loan fund and encouraged them to make use of it if they could. She reported that the hospital is having some funding issues and plans to meet with Mercy Medical Center later this week.

5. Citizens' Comments – none

Meeting adjourned at 8:08 pm. following a motion by Carroll and seconded by Kent.