

COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE: Finance, Tax & Budgets
CHAIRPERSON: John Creighton, Chairman
DATE/TIME: October 1, 2003 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Berlage	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hasken	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Schubert
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Carroll	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mapes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Schultz
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Creighton	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Potter	

Other Board members: Dick Alexander
Others: Duane Olivier, County Administrator
Jean Dimke, County Clerk/Recorder
Nancy Miller, Chief County Assessment Officer
Carol Soat, County Treasurer
Sharon Wand, Clerk of the Circuit Court
Steve Keeffer, County Engineer
John Mazor, CVB Executive Director
Richard Veith, Court Administrator
Joe Kratcha, GIS Coordinator

FY2004 Annual Budget Review

1. Executive Session. On a motion by Merri Berlage, 2nd by Domer Schubert, the Committee approved going into executive session to discuss a possible litigation matter.

The Committee returned from executive session and took no action as a result of such session.

2. General Fund. Dick Veith, Court Administrator of the 15th Judicial Circuit was present and commented on various aspects of the proposed Courts budget. Dick was asked about the need to purchase books in addition to subscribing to online services. He responded by saying that not all laws and court decisions are available online and are only available in book form. He also commented that with or without the Law Library fee the same amount of money would likely be spent on online services and books.

3. Special Funds. The Committee reviewed the following Special Fund budget proposals:

a. Highway Department

- Highway Fund
- Motor Fuel Tax Fund
- Federal Aid Matching Fund
- County Aid to Bridges Fund
- Highway Capital Investment Fund
- Highway Capital Equipment Replacement Fund
- Rabies Control Fund
- Dog Fund

b. Health Department

Public Health Fund

Peg Murphy distributed a revised proposed budget for the Health Department approved by the Health Board. The proposed budget included a property tax revenue amount equal to the current year's. Uniquely, the proposed budget also included a loan to the General Fund to cover the estimated General Fund deficit. The proposed budget also includes increased fees for Environmental Health Services. Comments were made by the Committee regarding the proposed property tax revenue, which the Committee had previously agreed to reduce by 10%, and about the feasibility of the loan proposal. On a motion by Vince Hasken, 2nd by Jody Carroll, the Committee reaffirmed on a 6 to 1 vote (Marv Schultz voted no) its previous preliminary agreement that the Health Fund tax levy be reduced by 10% from the current year's levy.

PH Capital Investment Fund

Bioterrorism Fund

Home Health Care Fund

HHC Memorial Fund

c. Convention & Visitors Bureau

Tourism Promotion Fund

Tourism Capital Development Fund

LTCB Matching Grant Fund

d. Mental Health Fund

The proposed Mental Health Fund budget is based on the Committee's preliminary agreement to reduce the Mental Health Fund levy by 10% and an application of the percentage distribution to various agencies provided by the Mental Health Board. After discussion, the Committee asked that the Mental Health Board submit a budget that proposes a specific dollar amount rather than percentages.

e. Extension Education Fund

The proposed Extension Education Fund budget is based on the Committee's preliminary agreement to reduce the Extension Education Fund levy by 10% and an application of the reduced levy to the budget requested by Extension Education.

f. Other Special Funds

Recorder Automation Fund

County Clerk Automation Fund

Election Equipment Upgrade Fund

Circuit Clerk Automation Fund

Circuit Clerk Fund

Court Document Storage Fund

Maintenance and Child Support Fund
County Treasurer (Tax Sale) Automation Fund
Probation Services Fund
Probation Electronic Monitoring Home Detention Fund
GIS Automation Fund
Special Service Area #1 Fund
Special Service Area #2 Fund
Special Service Area #4 Fund
Small Rental Properties Program Fund
Social Security Tax Fund
IMRF Fund
Insurance Fund
GF Capital Investment Fund
GF Capital Equipment Replacement Fund
Economic Development Investment Fund
States Attorney's Drug Forfeiture Fund

3. Trust and Agency Funds (non-appropriation/non-budget funds)

Working Cash Fund
Indemnity Fund

The Committee discussed by the Working Cash Fund and the Indemnity Fund an agreed that both might be considered for elimination, but reach no final conclusion regarding these funds. In either case, if eliminated the monies in these funds will be available only one time and may not be appropriate funds for reducing the estimated General Fund deficit.

Review of the proposed 911 Fund, Drug Enforcement & Education Fund, and D.A.R.E. Fund budgets were deferred until the meeting on October 15th so that a representative of the ETSB/911 Board and the Sheriff's Office can be present to present these budget proposals and answer questions.

Other comments about the proposed FY2004 annual budget included a suggestion by Merri Berlage to reduce the estimated General Fund deficit by charging the Health, Mental Health, and Extension Education Funds "administrative fees" (similar to that charged the Tourism Promotion Fund, 10% of revenues), and to reduce the proposed Sheriff's Office budgets by \$80,000 and the proposed States Attorney's budget by \$10,000.

4. County Board Budget Review Dates. Merri Berlage suggested the following dates for County Board review, consideration, and adoption of the FY2004 Annual Budget:

November 4th – Budget review workshop

November 10 – County Board meeting and continued budget discussion

November 18th – Budget public hearing and adoption of the FY2004 Annual Budget, Appropriations Ordinance, and Tax Levy Ordinance.

November 25th – If needed to complete budget approval process.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.