

COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE: **Finance, Tax & Budgets**
 Information & Communications Technology
 Social & Environmental

CHAIRPERSON: **Yerda Potter, Chair**

DATE/TIME: **August 31, 2005. 7:00 p.m.**

PRESENT:

Baranski
 Berlage
 Bielenda
 Carroll
 Cooper

Hasken
 Kent
 Mapes
 Montelius
 Petitgout

Potter
 Schubert
 Schultz
 Toepfer
 Zillig

Others: Troy Brown, Diane Williams, Joe Kratcha, Jean Dimke, Peggy Murphy, Fran Rosenthal, Rose Imbus, Gary Jobgen, Rose Taylor, Lyle Campbell, Rich Machala, Lona Kniskern, Judy Eikstadt

MINUTES

1. Consideration and recommendations of departmental and agency budgets for preliminary approval and placement into the draft comprehensive budget document.

A) Information & Communications Technology Committee

i. County Clerk.

- a. County Clerk & Recorder. Jean Dimke reported that she under-funded a couple of items in order to meet her target number. Bill Cooper made a motion to accept the County Clerk & Recorder budget as presented and place it in the comprehensive draft budget document. Ron Mapes seconded and the motion passed.
- b. Elections. Dimke reported that the Elections budget is higher this year because there will be two elections in 2006. She needs more funding for her Maintenance Service and Professional Service and has listed Publishing on her unfunded request. The committee discussed the unfunded items. Domer Schubert made a motion to accept the Elections budget as presented and place it in the comprehensive draft budget document. Tim Petitgout seconded and the motion passed with Merri Berlage voting no.
- c. County Clerk Automation Fund. Alan Kent made a motion to accept the County Clerk Automation Fund budget as presented and place it in the comprehensive draft budget document. Mapes seconded and the motion passed.
- d. Recorder Automation Fund. Dimke reported that this fund is used for the imaging of her documents in the Recorder's Office. Petitgout made a motion to accept the Recorder Automation Fund budget as presented and place it in the comprehensive draft budget document. Joanne Bielenda seconded and the motion passed.
- e. Election Equipment Fund. This fund was established for the replacement of the punch card voting system. Dimke must procure ADA compliant voting machines for 2006 and will receive a grant to cover the cost. Margie Montelius made a motion to accept the Election Equipment Fund budget as

presented and place it in the comprehensive draft budget document. Petitgout seconded and the motion passed.

- ii. Information & Communications. Troy Brown reported that this is a small budget in the General Fund that covers some of the technology needs for the courthouse. The Information & Communications Technology Committee has been researching sound systems for the County Board room and would like to add an unfunded request to this budget. Vince Hasken made a motion to accept the Information & Communications budget as presented, including an unfunded request of \$12,000 for a sound system, and place it in the comprehensive draft budget document. Cooper seconded and the motion passed.
 - iii. GIS. Joe Kratcha reported that he has decreased his revenue estimate by \$10,000 due to the fact that fewer documents are being recorded since interest rates started to rise. He increased his subscriptions revenue because he anticipates more users of the GIS website. He has removed the intern from his budget for next year because other items are taking priority. Petitgout made a motion to accept the GIS Automation Fund budget as presented and place it in the comprehensive draft budget document. Hasken seconded and the motion passed.
- B) Social & Environmental Committee
- i. Health Department
 - a. Public Health. Peg Murphy reported that her revenues reflect an increase in the amount received from the tax levy. She also plans an increase in salaries as a result of changing her employees to a 40-hour work week, instead of 37½ hours. She feels that the change in work week is very important to providing their services. The committee discussed using fund balance to cover the cost of this change. Beth Baranski made a motion to accept the Public Health Fund budget as presented and place it in the comprehensive draft budget document. Montelius seconded and the motion passed with Berlage and Yerda Potter voting no.
 - b. Public Health Bio-terrorism. Murphy reported that the grant revenues for this fund can be applied only to specific costs. The department uses it for training, computers, servers and software. Baranski made a motion to accept the Public Health Bio-terrorism Fund budget as presented and place it in the comprehensive draft budget document. Bielenda seconded and the motion passed.
 - c. Public Health Investment Fund. The committee discussed the uses for this fund and Murphy stated that the goal was to reach a balance of \$500,000 in this fund. Schubert made a motion to accept the Public Health Capital Investment Fund budget as presented and place it in the comprehensive draft budget document. Baranski seconded and the motion passed.
 - d. Home Health Care. Murphy reminded the committee members that no County money is used to fund this service. It is supported by reimbursement from private pay insurance. They are considering

contracting with a service that will help them collect for their services. The department pays rent to Public Health for their office space and utilities. The committee discussed the fund balance and Murphy stated that they have tried to keep about six months of expenses. Baranski made a motion to accept the Home Health Care Fund budget as presented and place it in the comprehensive draft budget document. Bielenda seconded and the motion passed.

- e. HHC Memorial Fund. This fund is used for bequests and gifts made by families. Baranski made a motion to accept the Home Health Care Memorial Fund budget as presented and place it in the comprehensive draft budget document. Cooper seconded and the motion passed.

ii. Social & Environmental Services

- a. NICAA Golden Meals. Rose Taylor reviewed the various services offered by the agency. They are requesting funding to assist with the Golden Meals program for Jo Daviess County. Taylor reviewed the method they use to determine the amount for their request. The committee discussed the service offered in Hanover. Cooper made a motion to accept the NICAA Golden Meals request for the Social & Environmental budget as presented and place it in the comprehensive draft budget document. Schubert seconded and the motion passed.
- b. Veterans' Grave Markers. Lyle Campbell reported to the committee members the uses for the money received from the County. Dues from the members are their other source of revenue. Schubert made a motion to accept the Veterans' Grave Markers request for the Social & Environmental budget as presented and place it in the comprehensive draft budget document. Petitgout seconded and the motion passed with Cooper abstaining.
- c. Jo Daviess Transit. Rich Machala presented his three requests for funding the Medical Transportation, Public Transportation and the Transportation pass-through grant. He has also submitted an unfunded request for \$1400 to purchase a radio. That would allow him to keep a vehicle in service longer since he believes that fewer vehicles will be available in the future. The committee discussed the need for the radio. Bielenda made a motion to accept the Jo Daviess Transit requests for the Social & Environmental budget as presented and place it in the comprehensive draft budget document. Montelius seconded and the motion passed.
- d. Stephenson County Senior Center. Lona Kniskern distributed some information about the agency and discussed the services offered. The funding from Jo Daviess County is applied to salaries, benefits and rent for the Galena office and represents the local match required for federal funding. Cooper made a motion to accept the Stephenson County Senior Center request for the Social & Environmental budget as presented and place it in the comprehensive draft budget document. Montelius seconded and the motion passed.

- e. Jo-Carroll Solid Waste Agency. No budget request has been received from this agency. Baranski reported that a meeting is scheduled for next week and expects the funding request to be the same or less than the previous year.

- iii. 708 Mental Health Board. Gary Jobgen reported that the 708 Mental Health Board reviewed the requests received by various agencies and trimmed them to the request presented. The amount that was trimmed was then placed on an unfunded request. The committee discussed the legality of funding Tyler's Justice Center through the Mental Health levy. Jobgen stated that it was the opinion of the board that Tyler's reduces the trauma to children, thereby reducing use of services through other agencies. Schultz stated that they were presented with figures supporting the idea that child advocacy centers generally save other agencies money. Brown stated that he spoke with the States Attorney about the issue and it was Terry Kurt's position that Tyler's does not qualify under that statute. The committee discussed obtaining a written opinion from the States Attorney. Cooper made a motion to accept the 708 Mental Health Board budget as presented, pending a written opinion from the States Attorney, and place it in the comprehensive draft budget document. Schultz seconded. After further discussion, Cooper made a motion to amend his previous motion, deleting the necessity of an opinion from the States Attorney. Petitgout seconded and the amendment passed with 7 aye votes and 5 no votes. The amended motion to accept the 708 Mental Health Board budget as present passed by voice vote. The County Administrator advised the committee members that the budget request submitted was over the levy amount by approximately \$2250 and asked the committee to give direction on which levy they would like to reduce to accommodate that and to affirm the desire of the committee to not further pursue obtaining a legal opinion. Carroll made a motion to accept the Mental Health budget at the approved levy amount and add the \$2250 to their unfunded request, making that amount \$16,060. Hasken seconded and the motion passed.

- iv. Small Rental Properties Program. Judy Eikstadt requested that the County Board consider participating in the program this year. NICAA prepares and submits the grant application to IDHA and pays the \$250 application fee. The committee members discussed the agreement and questioned the cost to the County, including writing checks and the fact that Federal funds require a single audit at the end of the year. Berlage made a motion to accept the Small Rental Properties Program budget as presented and place it in the comprehensive draft budget document. Carroll seconded and the motion passed. The committee discussed the County's participation in the program and the item will be placed on the next County Board agenda for the whole Board to discuss and act upon.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m. following a motion by Mapes and seconded by Cooper.