

COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE: Finance, Tax & Budgets and Law Enforcement & Courts
CHAIRPERSON: Yerda Potter, Chair
DATE/TIME: September 6, 2006. 6:30 p.m.

PRESENT:

Berlage
 Carroll

Kent
 Mapes

Potter
 Schultz

Other Board members: Beth Baranski, Bill Cooper, Jack Zillig, Margie Montelius, Dane Jackson, Terry Stoffregen

Others: Dan Reimer, Diane Williams, Brian Melton, Steve Hamilton

MINUTES

1. Health Insurance renewal. Steve Hamilton of Tricor reported to the committee that average increases nationally for health insurance premiums are 8-12%. The increase of the current employee health insurance program through Medical Associates is 4.43%. Hamilton reported that a survey was distributed to the employees to determine which providers the employees would like to use if given the choice. Approximately 87% of the employees responded and most indicated they would like to use the Medical Associates providers. Hamilton reported that Principal and United Health Care declined to bid on the group and that a quote was received from Blue Cross/Blue Shield. Hamilton reviewed some different options that the County could utilize in structuring the group to reflect little or no increase in premiums. The committee discussed the various options and Chairperson Yerda Potter reminded the committee that no specific option needs to be chosen at this time; but that the company and maximum increase should be decided in order to move forward with the budget process. Marvin Schultz made a motion to recommend that the County Board renews the employee health insurance plan with Medical Associates at a renewal rate not to exceed a 4.43% increase. Bill Cooper seconded and the motion passed with Margie Montelius and Ron Mapes voting no.
2. Consideration and recommendations of departmental and agency budgets for preliminary approval and placement into the draft comprehensive budget document. County Administrator Dan Reimer reported that this is the fifth of five budget review sessions. Basic guidelines were established by the Finance Committee regarding wage increases and inclusion of mandatory expenses in departmental and agency budgets. Outside of those increases, the General Fund targets remained the same. Potter stressed that this is not a final approval for the budgets presented, but that the committee will be moving the budgets forward to the draft comprehensive budget document.
 - A) Law Enforcement & Courts Committee
 - i. Courthouse. Sheriff Brian Melton reported that this budget is a collaborative effort with the County Administrator's Office. He used projected expenses for the current year and historical data to establish the budget figures. The largest increase in this budget is for utilities. The committee discussed bidding the completion of the courthouse controls project with the HVAC project for the Public Safety Building. Melton reviewed the unfunded request for parking lot resurfacing. The committee discussed asking the Highway Department if this is a

project that they could assist with. Melton will contact the County Engineer. Dane Jackson made a motion to move the Courthouse budget forward to the draft budget document. Cooper seconded and the motion passed.

- ii. Sheriff. Melton advised the committee that when the target was established for this fund, some of the union increases and mandates were not considered and included. He increased the salary line item to include expenses associated with the 86-hour rule, holiday pay and the sick-leave buy back program. There has been some officer turnover and restructuring of the department, so increases have been kept to a minimum. The maintenance line item has been increased for squad car maintenance. This budget also includes an interfund transfer for five vehicles; four passenger cars and one four-wheel drive. This is an ongoing operational expense of the department and Melton stated that as long as the item remains in the budget the impact remains constant. The committee discussed the river patrol and if those costs are included in this budget. Melton replied that it is included in the Overtime line item. The consensus of the committee is to take \$3,000 out of the overtime line item and move it into a new line item called River Patrol. Melton will check on the statutory requirements for river patrol. The committee also discussed the liability insurance deductible and the impact on this budget. Mapes made a motion to move this budget with the proposed change forward to the draft budget document. Jack Zillig seconded and the motion passed. Melton distributed a report to the committee members about the take-home squad program.
- iii. Public Safety Building. Melton reviewed the line item changes in the Public Safety Building budget. He expects the General Insurance to be less this year because while the rate is the same, the average population of the jail has been lower this year. Zillig made a motion to move the Public Safety Building budget forward to the draft budget document. Cooper seconded and the motion passed. Melton reviewed the two unfunded requests for this budget; for an additional corrections officer and for HVAC upgrades. The committee discussed the requests at length.
- iv. Communications. Melton reported that the only changes in this budget are for salaries. Cooper made a motion to move the Communications budget forward to the draft budget document. Montelius seconded and the motion passed. Schultz asked if the true salaries of this department could be reflected here instead of in the ETSB budget. This could be accomplished by a transfer out of ETSB and into the General Fund. Schultz made a motion to include all the Communications salaries in this budget and make an equivalent transfer from the ETSB budget. Mapes seconded and the motion passed.
- v. Court Security. Melton reported that this budget assumes that the court security officers are included in the union as they have petitioned. He has included some funding for minor equipment repair and replacement for the camera system and panic alarm system. This budget has an unfunded request for an additional officer. Cooper made a motion to move the Court Security budget forward to the draft budget document. Terry Stoffregen seconded and the motion passed.
- vi. Emergency Management. Melton reported that there have been no changes to this

budget. Mapes made a motion to move the Emergency Management budget forward to the draft budget document. Alan Kent seconded and the motion passed.

- vii. Merit Commission. Melton reported that there is also no change in this budget. Jody Carroll made a motion to move the Merit Commission budget forward to the draft budget document. Mapes seconded and the motion passed.
- viii. Drug Enforcement & Education. Melton reported that the revenues for this fund come from drug fines and forfeitures. Schultz made a motion to move the Drug Enforcement & Education Fund budget forward to the draft budget document. Kent seconded and the motion passed.
- ix. D.A.R.E. There are no changes to this budget. Schultz made a motion to move the D.A.R.E. Fund budget forward to the draft budget document. Carroll seconded and the motion passed.
- x. DUI. Melton reported that there have been no changes to this budget. Carroll made a motion to move the DUI Fund budget forward to the draft budget document. Kent seconded and the motion passed.
- i. Request for new special fund – Squad Replacement Fund. Melton stated that an activity code in the General Capital Equipment Fund was established a couple of years ago. A new law has been passed that allows a portion of the court supervision fee to come back to the County for the purpose of acquisition and maintenance of squad vehicles. The committee reviewed the proposed fund description. Melton estimates \$20,000 per year in revenue for this fund. The funds held in reserve in the Capital Equipment Fund (048) for squad vehicles will be moved into this fund; approximately \$18,000. Carroll made a motion to establish a Sheriff Vehicle Fund with the fund description as presented. Kent seconded and the motion passed.
- ii. Emergency Telephone Systems Board-911. Melton reported that there have been no major changes to this budget. The salaries and related benefit expenses will be moved to the Communications budget and an equivalent interfund transfer will be scheduled in this budget. The ETSB does not anticipate any large projects and would like to build up the fund balance right now. An amount has been included in contingency in case a project would become necessary. Melton also included a 5-year plan with the budget. The committee discussed the future expenses of the plan for the radio communications system. The committee discussed how technology advances improves services and responses, but doesn't necessarily reduce manpower. Mapes made a motion to move the ETSB budget with the recommended changes forward to the draft budget document. Schultz seconded and the motion passed.
- iii. State's Attorney's Drug Forfeiture Fund. Reimer advised the committee that this fund has existed for several years but never been included in the budget. It is the suggestion of the auditor that this be included in the budget. Reimer reported that estimated figures for FY2006 have been used in developing this budget for FY2007. He also reviewed the proposed fund description. Carroll made a motion to recommend approval of the fund description as presented and move the State's Attorney Drug Forfeiture Fund budget forward to the draft budget document.

Mapes seconded and the motion passed.

B) Special Service Area 2 and 4. Carroll made a motion to forward the Special Service Area 2 and 4 Fund budget forward to the draft budget document. Schultz seconded and the motion passed.

3. Other. The budget workshops were scheduled as follows:

- Wednesday, October 4, 7:00 p.m. for review and approval of the tax levy, General Fund revenues, and Special Funds revenues and expenditures (Step 1, 2 and 3).
- Wednesday, October 11, 7:00 p.m. for approval of the General Fund expenditures and initial review of the unfunded requests (Step 4).
- Thursday, October 19, 7:00 p.m. for approval and award of unfunded requests (completion of Step 4).

4. Citizens' Comments – none

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m. following a motion by Cooper and seconded by Schultz.