

# COMMITTEE REPORT

**COMMITTEE:** Finance, Tax & Budgets  
Executive  
Public Works

**CHAIRPERSON:** Yerda Potter, Chair

**DATE/TIME:** August 30, 2005. 7:00 p.m.

**PRESENT:**

Berlage  
 Carroll  
 Hasken  
 Jackson

Kent  
 Mapes  
 Potter  
 Schubert

Schultz  
 Toepfer

Other Board members:

Others: Troy Brown, Diane Williams, Lester Johnson, Marie Stiefel, Steve Keeffer, Mark Maidek, Don Kautz

## MINUTES

1. Consideration and recommendations of departmental and agency budgets for preliminary approval and placement into the draft comprehensive budget document.
  - A) Executive Committee
    - i. County Administrator
      - a. County Board. Troy Brown reported that the County Board budget has no significant changes. Marvin Schultz stated that he would like the County Board budget to contain more funds for educational seminars and travel. He also would like the Board to consider holding a planning retreat. The committee members discussed both topics. Schultz made a motion to accept the County Board budget as presented, including an unfunded request for \$1000 in Education & Training and \$1500 in Travel Expense, and place it in the comprehensive draft budget document. Alan Kent seconded and the motion passed. Merri Berlage made a motion to amend the budget to increase the Professional Services line item to \$25,000 for legal services during collective bargaining. Jackson seconded and the motion passed.
      - b. County Administrator. Brown reported that there are no significant changes in this budget. Jackson made a motion to accept the County Administrator's budget as presented and place it in the comprehensive draft budget document. Domer Schubert seconded and the motion passed.
  - B) Public Works Committee
    - i. Extension Education. Mark Maidek gave an extensive presentation on the budget for his agency. The committee discussed the fund balance policy determined by the University of Illinois for the Extension office. Kent made a motion to accept the Extension Education budget as presented and place it in the comprehensive draft budget document. Sally Toepfer seconded and the

motion passed. Maidek also reported that the Extension Education is involved with an economic development organization in Carroll County.

ii. Soil & Water Conservation. Lester Johnson and Don Kautz distributed some information to the committee members. They reported that the Soil & Water District would like to levy funds in Jo Daviess County under the authority of the Tort Immunity Act. There was considerable discussion about the process and legality of levying taxes. Berlage made a motion to take no action on this budget request pending the receipt of more information about the tax levy from the County Clerk and States Attorney. Jackson seconded and the motion passed.

iii. Highway

a. Highway. Steve Keeffer reported that the salaries in his budget are subject to change depending on the outcome of the union negotiations. He has also increased some line items because of signs that his department obtains for townships and other entities that reimburse that Highway Department. He also reported that he is working on development of a fund balance policy for this fund. Schultz made a motion to accept the Highway Fund budget as presented and place it in the comprehensive draft budget document. Mapes seconded and the motion passed.

b. County Motor Fuel Tax. The committee discussed the source of revenues for this fund. Jackson made a motion to accept the County Motor Fuel Tax Fund budget as presented and place it in the comprehensive draft budget document. Jody Carroll seconded and the motion passed.

c. County Aid to Bridges. Keeffer reported no significant changes in this fund. Schubert made a motion to accept the County Aid to Bridges Fund budget as presented and place it in the comprehensive draft budget document. Kent seconded and the motion passed.

d. Federal Aid Matching Fund. Carroll made a motion to accept the Federal Aid Matching Fund budget as presented and place it in the comprehensive draft budget document. Jackson seconded and the motion passed.

e. Rabies Control. Keeffer reported that the revenue for this fund comes from licensing of dogs. A transfer is then made to the General Fund. The Governor has recently signed some legislation that may affect the County's revenues. He would like the States Attorney to review the bill. Potter made a motion to accept the Rabies Control Fund budget as presented with further information from the States Attorney and place it in the comprehensive draft budget document. Schultz seconded and the motion passed.

f. Dog. Keeffer gave a brief history of this fund. Its purpose is for animal kills and purchasing the animal control vehicle. Carroll made a motion to accept the Dog Fund budget as presented and place it in the comprehensive draft budget document. Mapes seconded and the motion passed.

- g. Highway Capital Investment. Keeffer reported that this fund was created for a specific project that is now completed. He does not expect any activity in this fund. Berlage made a motion to accept the Highway Capital Investment Fund budget as presented and place it in the comprehensive draft budget document. Mapes seconded and the motion passed.
  - h. Animal Control. Keeffer stated that he found it difficult to meet his target number for this budget and has submitted an unfunded request for Maintenance Services. Schultz asked if Keeffer can provide an annual report for this department's activity. He will create one. Schubert made a motion to accept the Animal Control budget as presented and place it in the comprehensive draft budget document. Kent seconded and the motion passed.
- C) Finance Committee
- i. Regional Office of Education. Marie Stiefel stated that the Regional Office of Education serves three counties; Carroll, Jo Daviess and Stephenson. She reviewed the responsibilities that the counties fund. The current lease for office space needs to be renewed and the committee had discussion on how the cost of the lease is distributed. The committee discussed how the proportionate share of cost is based on the Equalized Assessed Value (EAV) for each county. There was no one from Jo Daviess County present at the budget meeting held with Stephenson and Carroll Counties to discuss this budget. The ROE presented two budgets; one at the same level as last year and one with a nominal increase. Schultz made a motion to accept the increased budget for the Regional Office of Education with a strong statement that no budget will be passed next year without Jo Daviess County representation at the pre-budget meeting. Berlage seconded. Carroll made a motion to amend recommending acceptance of the increase budget but meeting with the other counties to discuss the unacceptable lease arrangement. Mapes seconded and the amendment passed with Hasken voting no. The amended motion passed with Potter voting no.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.