



GOODHUE COUNTY BUDGET COMMITTEE
MINUTES
Administration Conference Room
October 24, 2006
9:00 a.m.

Present: Ted Seifert, Richard Samuelson, Amy Hove, Lisa Hanni, Joanne Pohl, and Andrea Benck.

C/Seifert called the meeting to order.

3rd Quarter Budget Report. Ms. Hove stated that for the third quarter of the year, the county was at 73% of expenditures and 86% of revenues. Things were where they should be for the third quarter of the year. There were some transfers in that skewed a few of the percentages in some cases. The 3rd quarter review page touched on expenditures and revenues that were greater than 85% of the budget or less than 65%. The inmate boarder revenue in the jail was below expected figures for this time of the year.

C/Samuelson asked about the jail boarder revenues. Ms. Hove stated that the county may need to look at more aggressively pursuing boarder detainees or possibly lowering the boarder fees to be more competitive. In addition, they could be more aggressive on their billings.

C/Seifert noted that the county was charging \$55 per day. He has seen other counties at \$65 per day. He was thinking that there needed to be more marketing. Ms. Hanni noted that she did have a conversation with Sheriff Albers and part of the problem is that the entire inmate process is down. It was not just Goodhue County that was low; other counties were also showing a decline in detainees. Ms. Hanni suggested that Sheriff Albers attend the next Budget Committee meeting to discuss the issue.

Both commissioners agreed that the Sheriff should attend the next budget committee meeting.

C/Seifert asked about GIS. Ms. Hanni stated that the mapping revenues were being receipted into both GIS and Land Use. Ms. Hove agreed that they could eliminate one of those line items so that all revenues would be receipted into the same department.

The budget committee recommended forwarding the 3rd quarter budget report to the county board.

2007 Budget- 2nd Draft. Ms. Hanni reviewed the 2nd draft of the 2007 budget along with the revised 2007 capital plan. The board established a preliminary levy of \$24,110,780 or 1.9% over 2005 and 2006 with the caveat that the additional \$450,000 be placed in the Road and Bridge Fund for road construction. The original first draft budget requested a levy of \$24,391,467.

Ms. Benck noted that Public Health and Welfare both were requesting a zero levy again for 2007. Outside Agencies were also budgeted for funding equal to 2006. Ms. Benck commented that the county has not received requests from a couple of the agencies; however, funding was budgeted at the amount equal to 2006. Letters were sent to the outside agencies asking for their budget requests and inviting them to attend the budget workshop.

Ms. Hanni suggested that for the 2008 budget cycle, the county create a form to send to the outside agencies with a deadline to submit. That would prevent an agency from submitting a request after the budget was complete.

Ms. Hanni noted adjustments to the budget since the first draft included a reduction in labor negotiator fees, schools and conferences, overtime, and the Economic Development Authority budget. There were also positions eliminated in the following areas: Accountant in the Sheriff's Department, Seasonal position in Land Use Management, Technician in Public Works. Revenues were reduced to reflect the loss in rent from the Department of Corrections lease agreement and the reduction in State Aid. The revised health care figures were also factored in which increased the budget by \$208,845.

Revisions to the 2007 capital plan included reductions totaling \$334,000. Revised estimates upon completion of the 2006 landfill indicated that the project request could be deferred to 2008 and 2009. Information Technology, Sheriff's Department, County Attorney and Maintenance also made price adjustments and/or revisions to their requests. Staff will be looking into the possibility of grant money to pay for the defibulators for the county buildings.

The budget was submitted for information. The board would be asked to approve the Capital Plan on November 21, 2006 and the final 2007 budget and levy on December 19, 2007.

Ms. Benck stated that the SEH report was also included in the packet of information. They are currently working on the domestic waterline and the elevator. There were a number of issues that were in the critical range. Ms. Hanni stated that they will explore the idea of combining projects when it made sense financially.

C/Samuelson asked about the reduction in state aid and if that was definite. Ms. Benck stated that the amount was certified so it was a definite reduction of \$89,513.

C/Seifert noted that the sheriff accountant position was one of the issues that came off the list. He asked if there were any ideas on how to deal with that. Ms. Hove noted that there have been many conversations with the Sheriff and at this point, the Sheriff's department is looking at a number of retirements early next year. The thought was that at that time, the issue could be addressed with the idea of reconfiguring duties and responsibilities.

C/Seifert asked if the position would be in the jail or the Auditor/Treasurer's office. Ms. Hove stated that both she and Dean feel that the position would be a better fit in the Auditor's office, but that was something that could be discussed when the position is created.

Meeting Adjourn.