



GOODHUE COUNTY BUDGET COMMITTEE
MINUTES
Administration Conference Room
September 28, 2005
9:00 a.m.

Present: Jim Bryant, Ted Seifert, David Hamilton, Brad Johnson, Melissa Cushing, Amy Hove, and Andrea Benck.

C/Bryant called the meeting to order.

Health and Wellness Account. Mr. Johnson reported that the balance of the Health & Wellness Account as of August 31, 2005 was \$1,099,514.68. Checks are occasionally drawn on the account yet, but due to the drop in numbers, the county is only able to gain a small amount of interest on the account.

As the check draws are small, staff recommended an immediate transfer of all but \$100,000 to the money market account to enhance interest earnings. It was also recommended that the county create a designation in the General Fund to “protect” the Health & Wellness money as future plans are developed. As soon as it is assured no more draws will occur, or the few remaining billed to the county directly, staff recommended to close out the current Health & Wellness bank account, but the Designation would ensure separate accounting of the closing balance.

C/Bryant asked where the interest would go. Mr. Johnson stated that typically it would go to the general fund; however, they could keep track of it.

Mr. Hamilton felt that it was important on where that revenue would go. He suggested that this revenue be recaptured within that account until the county is comfortable with the new insurance.

C/Bryant asked if all of the interest in the county goes into the general fund. Mr. Johnson stated that was technically correct, but they were asking an opinion from the state auditors. There are some exceptions. Ms. Hove pointed out that this account would be within the general so that would not be an issue.

C/Seifert asked how much interest that account would draw. Mr. Johnson estimated approximately 3.5%.

Mr. Hamilton stated that given where the county was headed, he asked if the interest could be recaptured into that account. Ms. Hove agreed and added that the county already does that for another situation. A portion of interest is returned to the employee training account as approved by board resolution. It was definitely something that could be done.

C/Seifert commented that there were still some bills coming in. Mr. Johnson agreed and stated that they would leave \$100,000 in the account to cover any remaining bills.

The budget committee recommended an immediate transfer of all but \$100,000 of the Health and Wellness account to the money market account to enhance interest earnings and to create a designation in the General Fund to “protect” the Health & Wellness money as future plans are developed.

C/Bryant pointed out that the account actually ended December 31, 2005. He questioned the bills that were still out there. Ms. Cushing stated that there were not a lot of bills left; however, she did receive a call from Medicare and the county could expect a \$14,000 bill in the future. C/Bryant asked if the county was checking into those bills. Ms. Cushing stated that they are looking at them very carefully. There are not that many bills still coming in, but the ones that they are receiving will be looked over very carefully.

C/Bryant was glad to see that the account would not be drained. He suggested keeping \$100,000 in the account for unforeseen circumstances. Ms. Cushing agreed that was a good idea.

Transfer of half time from MIS to Assessor. Included in the budget packet was a budget adjustment transfer to transfer salary & benefit line items from the MIS budget to the Assessor budget to account for the transfer of a 0.5 FTE from MIS to the Assessor. This was approved at the Personnel Committee on February 22, 2005 and by the County Board on March 1, 2005.

C/Bryant asked what the total amount budgeted in 2005 was for that position. Mr. Johnson thought the salary was around \$18,000 without benefits. C/Bryant asked if Mr. Johnson would include those figures in the report that goes into the board packet. Mr. Johnson agreed.

Ms. Benck asked if this position was included in the Assessor’s first draft budget for 2006. Mr. Johnson believed that it was. C/Bryant asked if this was referred to in the narrative portion of the budget. Mr. Johnson agreed.

The committee recommended approval of the budget adjustment transfer of salary and benefit line items from the MIS budget to the Assessor’s budget to account for the transfer of the .05 FTE transfer that was board approved.

Next meeting is October 26 at 9:00 a.m.