



**GOODHUE COUNTY BUDGET COMMITTEE**  
**MINUTES**  
**Administration Conference Room**  
**April 26, 2011**  
**9:00 a.m.**

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Staff Present: Commissioner Richard Samuelson, County Administrator Scott Arneson, Finance Controller Amy Hove, Sheriff Scott McNurlin, Captain Pat Thompson, Dispatcher Dee Holm, Public Works Director Greg Isakson, Public Works Deputy Director Ken Bjornstad, and Administrative Assistant Andrea Benck.

**Out of State Travel.** The Sheriff's Department requested approval to send Captain Patrick Thompson to the Mid-States Organized Crime Information Center's (MOCIC) 2011 State Review Committee Summit/Training Session in Springfield, MO on June 7-10. All expenses except for Captain Thompson's salary would be paid for by MOCIC.

*The Budget Committee recommended approval to send Captain Pat Thompson to the Mid-States Organized Crime Information Center (MOCIC) State Review Committee Summit/Training in Springfield, MO, June 7-10, 2011.*

**Public Works.**

*Wild Parsnips.* Wild Parsnips has been added to the States noxious weed list. Staff has researched the issue and found that the best way to control this weed is by spraying an herbicide in mid May prior to emergence. The cost to apply the herbicide is \$31.75/acre or approximately \$90,000 for the 2,800 acres in Goodhue County. The 2011 budget includes only \$5,000 for weed spraying; however, the paving contracts came in under budget so those funds could be used to pay for the additional spraying.

C/Samuelson asked if the herbicide works and how it would affect the environment. Research shows that this herbicide does work. Staff would work with farmers in the areas that were to be sprayed.

C/Samuelson felt this was a safety issue and needed to be done, but questioned where the money would come from. Mr. Isakson noted that the paving contract came in quite a bit lower so they could use some of those monies.

*The Budget Committee recommended approval to move forward with the spraying for the Wild Parsnips due to safety concerns.*

*Gravel Road Maintenance out-sourcing.* Staff requested that the Budget Committee consider and make a recommendation to the full county board concerning the option of contracting out the summer blading of several county gravel roads. Staff asked if the committee would like to continue with out-sourcing and if so, would they rather work only with townships or include private contractors. The cost implications are that if the board would like to out-source, the

funds are not in the current budget. The program could supplement if/as staffing levels are reduced. Since these additional expenditures involve more than just personnel costs, the cost increase of about \$36,000 replaces approximately 18% of one employee based on hours of blading. Whereas, based on annual personnel costs, 18% of an equipment operator is a bit over \$13,000.

C/Samuelson did not think it made sense to out-source and when it would cost the county more money. He has not received any complaints on the work the county has done. The only way this out-sourcing would save the county money would be if an employee was laid off.

***The Budget Committee recommended that the board not continue with the option of out-sourcing summer blading at this time and use the current staff to do the work.***

**2011 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Report.** Amy Hove reviewed the 2011 First Quarter Report with the committee. Revenues at the end of the first quarter were at 15% which was typical for this time of the year. Expenditures are at 26% of budget. When compared to last year at the same time, the county was in a similar situation.