



**GOODHUE COUNTY BUDGET COMMITTEE**  
**MINUTES**  
**Administration Conference Room**  
**June 26, 2007**  
**1:00 p.m.**

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Present: Commissioner Richard Samuelson, Commissioner Dan Rehtzigel, County Administrator Scott Arneson, and Administrative Assistant Andrea Benck.

Others: Joe Wheeler and Buffy Beranek-South Eastern Minnesota Multi Housing and Redevelopment Authority (SEMMCHRA); Char Henn- Goodhue County Historical Society; Glen Roberson and Paul Voxland-Goodhue County Soil and Water; David Legvold-Cannon River Watershed Partnership; Mickey Szymanski-Goodhue County Humane Society; Roy Harley –SCORE; Kathy Silverthorne-Red Wing Visitors and Convention Bureau.

C/Samuelson called the meeting to order.

**Outside Agency Funding.**

**SEMMCHRA.** Buffy Beranek and Joe Wheeler reviewed the 2008 and 2009 levy requests. The 2008 levy request totals \$352,123 of that \$62,903 for general expenditures, \$0 for community development and \$289,220 for new and existing housing developments. The 2009 levy request totals \$281,148 of that \$66,737 for general expenditures, \$35,000 for community development and \$179,411 for new and existing housing developments.

C/Rehtzigel questioned the \$90,975 that the board approved previously and the fact that the board was told that that would not be additional money asked for in the 2008 budget for SEMMCHRA. He felt that SEMMCHRA's budget was too ambitious.

The committee discussed the fluctuation from year to year within the SEMMCHRA budget and suggested Mr. Wheeler put together a ten year plan to help levy the amount of funding needed. Mr. Wheeler stated that they present what they need each year and nothing more. It fluctuates according to the need.

C/Rehtzigel suggested he setup a contingency fund and budget accordingly to eliminate the spikes.

Mr. Wheeler commented that if they needed to cut anywhere, they would cut the commercial loan side. C/Rehtzigel felt that the \$90,000 did not all need to go to commercial loans. Mr. Wheeler asked where the commissioners suggested he should cut. C/Rehtzigel suggested lowering their request to under \$300,000.

**Historical Society.** Char Henn reviewed the Goodhue County Historical Society's 2008 and 2009 budget requests. Both the 2008 and the 2009 request was for \$110,000 each year. They have reduced staff in the past years from eleven down to five and now are climbing back to seven with four being part-time employees.

C/Rechtzigel questioned a gradual increase such as \$105,000 for 2008 and up to \$110,000 for 2009. Ms. Henn agreed that while they would prefer going to \$110,000 in 2008, any increase would help.

**Soil & Water.** Glen Roberson and Paul Voxland reviewed the Soil and Water budget requests. The request was for \$328,241 for 2008 and \$341,369 in 2009.

C/Rechtzigel asked about the staff and if holding off on hiring a position would take care of the 2007 deficit. Mr. Roberson stated that they talked about bringing in an entry level position and the remaining shortfall to come from reserves.

C/Rechtzigel questioned grant opportunities. Beau Kennedy is the current grant writer and in the past they have been able to get grants, but nothing that is ongoing.

Mr. Arneson questioned the fluctuation in the capital plan. It was due to the purchase of a truck.

C/Samuelson asked about the staffing level and if they had enough employees to get everything done. Mr. Roberson stated that they have been getting by. Some feedlot projects are getting pushed back so they are not quite keeping up. They currently have seven employees but would like to hire one additional. C/Rechtzigel asked if they could get by until August when they would have a good idea of where the county would be at for funding before they hire someone and then have to lay them off due to funding issues. Mr. Roberson agreed.

**Cannon River Watershed Partnership.** David Legvold reviewed the Cannon River Watershed Partnership budget request of \$2,000 each year. The majority of their costs are personnel related. Recently, the Cannon River Partnership has established a working relationship with the county and with Jason Peterson from Environmental Health. Some current issues they are working on include addressing raw sewage discharge and failing septic systems.

**Humane Society.** Mickey Szymanski stated that the Humane Society has contracted with the county since 1994. Their agency works closely with the Sheriff's Department and Land Use Management on both regulated and dangerous animals. They always try to work with the owner rather than using tax payer dollars to pay for related expenses. They also work with the County Attorney's Office to recoup costs. The Humane Society is asking for an increase of \$5,000 for 2008 and \$6,000 for 2009.

C/Samuelson asked how they handle short falls. Ms. Szymanski stated that they take out loans and look for additional donations. The Humane Society is a non profit organization and they rely largely on donations. The dollars provided by the county are spent on rural areas only. Any work they do within the city limits is billed back to the cities.

**SCORE.** Roy Harley on behalf of SCORE made a budget request of \$1,000 for both 2008 and 2009. This was the same amount they have received in the past. Most of the money goes to fixed costs. All employees are volunteer.

**Visitors Bureau.** Kathy Silverthorne represented the Visitor's Bureau and requested the same funding level which was \$2085.

***Committee Recommendations:***

Cannon Valley Trail: Fund at level equal to the 49% funding level which was agreed to in the Joint Powers Agreement = **\$31,019.**

Goodhue County Fair: increase by \$700 = **\$22,976**

Cannon Valley Fair: increase by \$700 = **\$13,825**

Keynon Historical: same level of funding = **\$750**

Soil and Water: increase by 4% over 2007 = **\$316,659**

Cannon River Watershed: increase by \$250 = **\$750**

Humane Society: increase by \$1,000 in 2008 and \$2,000 in 2009 = **\$11,000 in 2008** and **\$12,000 in 2009**

Goodhue Historical Society: increase to **\$105,000 in 2008** and **\$110,000 in 2009**

SCORE: same level of funding = **\$1,000**

Initiative Foundation: same level of funding = **\$3,000**

Red Wing Visitors & Convention Bureau: same level of funding = **\$2085**

Red Wing 20/20: no funding

SEMMCHRA: goal would be to stay under **\$260,000 for 2008** and **\$275,000 for 2009.**

The committee discussed achieving those numbers by removing the \$49,431 for the new housing developments and \$50,000 from the \$90,975 for commercial loans from the proposed budget.

Next meeting: July 24 at 3:30 p.m.