

**MINUTES OF THE
BUDGET COMMITTEE**

TUESDAY, JANUARY 24, 2006

At a meeting of the **Budget Committee**, held Tuesday, January 24, 2006, in the Board Room, on the 9th Floor of the Administration Building, Mt. Clemens, the following members were present:

Kolakowski-Chair, Brandenburg, Brdak, Brown, Crouchman, DeSaele, DiMaria, Doherty, Duzyj, Flynn, Gibson, Gielegghem, Haggerty, Kennard, Lund, Mijac, Rengert, Revoir, Rocca, Sauger, Slinde, Switalski, Szczepanski, Vosburg and White.

Absent and excused was Hill.

Also Present:

David Diegel, Director, Finance Department
John Foster, Assistant Director, Finance Department
Steve Smigiel, Finance Department
George Brumbaugh, Director, Corporation Counsel
Frank Krycia, Assistant Corporation Counsel
Jill Smith, Assistant Corporation Counsel
John Anderson, Director, Risk Management and Safety Department
Ted Cwiek, Director, Human Resources Department
Doug Fouty, Program Director, Personnel Services, Human Resources Department
Karlyn Semlow, Human Resources Coordinator, Human Resources Department
Sheriff Mark Hackel
Undersheriff Kent Lagerquist
Judge Denis LeDuc, 42-1 District Court
Rhonda Deriemaecker, Director of Board Services
Thomas Kalkofen, Director/Health Officer, Health Department
Frank Taylor, Director, Macomb County Community Services Agency
Cynthia Zerkowski, Director, Information Technology Department
Josephine Savalle-Dunn, Administrator, Martha T. Berry
James Langtry, Chief of Operations, Prosecuting Attorney's Office
Phil Frame, Director, Office of Public Affairs
Angela Willis, Director, Senior Citizen Services Department
Darlene LaBelle, Director, Macomb County Library
Russell McPeak, Director, Community Corrections Department
Marilyn Rudzinski, Director, MSU Extension Services Department
Richard Weaver, Director, Veterans Services Department
Chad Selweski, Reporter, The Macomb Daily
Steve Neavling, Reporter, The Detroit Free Press

There being a quorum of the committee present, Chair Kolakowski called the meeting to order at 9 a.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

AGENDA

Chair Kolakowski added as agenda item #5B a resolution authorizing MCCSA to receive additional Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program Grant Funds for 2005-06. This item was waived to the Budget Committee by Community Services Committee Chair.

MOTION

A motion was made by Haggerty, supported by Brandenburg, to adopt the agenda, as amended (to include items #5A and #5B). **The Motion Carried.**

MINUTES

MOTION

A motion was made by Duzyj, supported by Gibson, to approve the November 15 and December 14, 2005 minutes of this committee, as written. **The Motion Carried.**

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Rita Shendel, Clinton Township

Ms. Shendel and her dog, Mollie, voluntarily visit residents at Martha T. Berry. She spoke highly of the facility and said it is not the same as a nursing home. Some residents are in their 20s, 30s, and 40s. She asked Commissioners to keep the light of Martha T. Berry shining and intact.

Marge Swiatkowski, 29540 Old North River Road, Harrison Township

Ms. Swiatkowski, Chair, Macomb County Library Board, invited Commissioners to take a tour of the library to see the importance of each department. She asked that the entire library be saved.

Don Lobsinger, St. Clair Shores

Mr. Lobsinger called on the Board to eliminate the position of the Ombudsman Office. He suggesting taking that money and use it to hire more law enforcement officers.

**RECOMMENDATION FROM JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING
OF 01-20-06**

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION – MOTION

A MOTION WAS MADE BY HAGGERTY, SUPPORTED BY DUZYJ, TO RECOMMEND THAT THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AUTHORIZE TO RENEW SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT CURRENT LEASE WITH WOLVERINE HARLEY-DAVIDSON (CLINTON TOWNSHIP) FOR 15 HARLEY-DAVIDSON POLICE MOTORCYCLES AT A COST OF \$300.00 PER MOTORCYCLE PER YEAR (2006) WITH A TOTAL COST OF \$4,500.00. FUNDING IS AVAILABLE IN THE 2006 BUDGET. **THE MOTION CARRIED.**

AUTHORIZE MCCSA TO RECEIVE ADDITIONAL LOW-INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM GRANT FUNDS FOR 2005-06 (Item waived to Budget Committee by Community Services Committee Chair)

Chair Kolakowski informed Commissioners that the resolution sheet was placed at their desks prior to the start of this committee meeting.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION – MOTION

A MOTION WAS MADE BY DeSAELE, SUPPORTED BY BRANDENBURG, TO RECOMMEND THAT THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AUTHORIZE THE MACOMB COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICES AGENCY TO RECEIVE ADDITIONAL LOW-INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM GRANT FUNDS FOR 2005-06. **THE MOTION CARRIED.**

SENIOR CITIZENS HOME DELIVERED MEALS ASSESSMENT (Item waived to Budget Committee by Community Services Committee Chair)

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION – MOTION

A MOTION WAS MADE BY RENGERT, SUPPORTED BY SAUGER, TO RECOMMEND THAT THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AUTHORIZE THE MACOMB COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICES AGENCY TO ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE SENIOR CITIZEN HOME DELIVERED MEALS ASSESSMENT FUNCTION. **THE MOTION CARRIED.**

2005 BUDGET ADJUSTMENT – JUVENILE COURT

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION – MOTION

A MOTION WAS MADE BY DiMARIA, SUPPORTED BY RENGERT, TO RECOMMEND THAT THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AMEND THE 2005 JUVENILE COURT BUDGET LINE ITEM ATTORNEY FEES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$80,000.00 WITH

FUNDING AVAILABLE IN THE 2005 CONTINGENCY ACCOUNT. **THE MOTION CARRIED.**

RECEIVE AND FILE DEPARTMENTAL 3% BUDGET REDUCTION DIRECTIVE RESPONSES

Mr. Diegel overviewed his three-page letter dated January 17, 2006, that had attached to it Schedule I entitled, "Department Responses on 3% Cut From 2006 General Fund Budget."

Schedule I consisted of seven pages. The totals shown on Page 7 were as follows: 3% Target \$5,951,019; Revenue Enhancement \$2,136,413; Personnel Reduction No. Amount 13.9 \$1,565,873; Operating Reduction \$547,946; Internal Services \$710,697; Reduction in Other Budgets \$1,066,449; Total \$6,034,335.

He said that the County's departmental directors have specifically identified \$6,034,335 in potential net savings to the County which compares very favorably to the target 3% reduction of \$5.9 million.

Chair Kolakowski clarified that this committee would first deal with the 3% departmental reductions recommendations. Mr. Diegel wanted to present at the February 2, 2006 Budget Committee meeting, a list of those items that he felt could be immediately implemented. Chair Kolakowski stated that at a subsequent Budget Committee meeting, Commissioners would go back to the Discretionary Services Schedule.

A brief discussion ensued about the procedure that would be taken in reviewing the bound booklet entitled, "Departments Responses 3% Reduction 2006 Budget."

All of the departmental 3% budget reduction directive responses were discussed. Numerous department heads were called upon to answer specific questions relating to their department. Mr. Diegel was directed to acquire additional information regarding several of the recommendations.

Commissioners discussed whether any employees would have to be laid off; whether department heads have approached their staff to see if anyone was interested in volunteering to work a 32-hour workweek, instead of 37.5 hours; implementing the fee increases for certain County services.

A lengthy discussion ensued with Sheriff Hackel regarding Sheriff services in the northern townships and the County as a whole. Sheriff Hackel felt that the four northern townships (specifically Bruce, Armada, Richmond and Ray townships) need to recognize their needs and develop a plan to deal with their policing issues, so they have guaranteed coverage. He asked the Board to give him more time to allow for a solution.

Commissioners expressed concern about the rumors that the Board was going to close the Macomb County Library and Martha T. Berry Medical Care Facility.

The Board Office 3% departmental budget reduction directive response was discussed.

Commissioners contemplated alternating the printing and mailing of the Annual Report with hosting the Older American Festival (OAF) every other year. Discussion ensued about the actual cost of last year's OAF being just under \$11,000 net. It was suggested to look into increasing the booth fees at the OAF to \$300. Inquiry was made about the total cost to publish, print, and mail the Annual Report.

Commissioners asked for a report on which Boards and Commissions are paid per diems, where that money is coming from, and which ones are statutorily required.

Mr. Diegel believed the total savings identified of \$6,034,335 was a realistic number. He said that each of the items identified on the summary would require an ongoing review and analysis to determine if the proposed savings are being realized as projected. His department would be providing this committee with a quarterly analysis of actual savings realized.

Chair Kolakowski reminded Commissioners that next week (on February 2nd) they would vote on implementing some of these cuts.

MOTION

A motion was made by Lund, supported by Brown, to receive and file the departmental 3% budget reduction directive responses. **The Motion Carried.**

2005 CONTINGENCY ACCOUNT UPDATE

MOTION

A motion was made by Mijac, supported by DeSaele, to receive and file the 2005 Contingency Account Update. **The Motion Carried.**

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioners expressed concern about the rumors that the Board was going to close or eliminate services at the Macomb County Library. Several questions were directed to Ms. LaBelle.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Rita Shendel, Clinton Township

Ms. Shendel reiterated her comments made during the first public participation. She recalled reading that Martha T. Berry was being considered for closure and that is why she came here today to make her presentation.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION

A motion was made by Brandenburg, supported by Revoir, to adjourn the meeting at 2:30 p.m. **The Motion Carried.**

Denise M. Jacks
Committee Reporter