

**MINUTES OF THE  
BUDGET COMMITTEE**

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2006**

At a meeting of the **Budget Committee**, held Wednesday, February 15, 2006, in the Board Room, on the 9<sup>th</sup> Floor of the Administration Building, Mt. Clemens, the following members were present:

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

Absent and excused were Haggerty and Hill.

**Also Present:**

David Diegel, Director, Finance Department  
John Foster, Assistant Director, Finance Department  
Ted Cwiek, Director, Human Resources Department  
Eric Herppich, Division Director, Labor Relations, Human Resources Department  
Karlyn Semlow, Human Resources Coordinator, Human Resources Department  
Chief Circuit Court Judge Antonio Viviano  
Rhonda Deriemaecker, Director of Board Services  
Phil Frame, Director, Office of Public Affairs  
Steve Gold, Deputy Health Officer, Health Department  
James Langtry, Prosecuting Attorney's Office  
Anthony Casasanta, Administrator, County Park  
Polly Helzer, Purchasing Manager  
Keith Beasley, Court Administrator  
Darlene LaBelle, Director, Macomb County Library  
Gene Schabath, Public Works Department  
Charles Seidelman, Director, Juvenile Justice Center  
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 1:50 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**AGENDA**

**MOTION**

A motion was made by Mijac, supported by Duzyj, to adopt the agenda, as amended (to include item #4A). **The Motion Carried.**

### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Greg Murray, 66 Robertson Street, Mt. Clemens

Mr. Murray hoped Commissioners give new consideration for retaining the Office of the Ombudsperson with respect to serving the residents of Macomb County.

Don Lobsinger, St. Clair Shores

Mr. Lobsinger spoke about Mr. Eddings report that was fully reviewed at the Personnel Committee meeting earlier today.

### **RECOMMENDATION FROM HEALTH SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING OF 02-09-06**

#### **COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION – MOTION**

A MOTION WAS MADE BY WHITE, SUPPORTED BY SAUGER, TO RECOMMEND THAT THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS APPROVE PAYMENT OF \$7,243.94 TO THE CITY OF FRASER FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS: LAKE/RIVER FUND FOR WEED CONTROL AND E.COLI TESTING PROJECT AS APPROVED MAY 19, 2005. **THE MOTION CARRIED.**

#### **JUVENILE DRUG COURT GRANT**

#### **COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION – MOTION**

A MOTION WAS MADE BY SAUGER, SUPPORTED BY GIBSON, TO RECOMMEND THAT THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ACCEPT THE 2006-2007 JUVENILE ACCOUNTABILITY BLOCK GRANT - JUVENILE DRUG COURT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$48,746. FURTHER, TO CONCUR WITH THE REQUEST OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY AND MAINTAIN THE APA POSITION PREVIOUSLY FUNDED BY THE GRANT UTILIZING \$109,335 IN DRUG FORFEITURE FUNDS AT NO COST TO THE GENERAL FUND. **THE MOTION CARRIED.**

### **RECEIVE AND FILE REPORT ON BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

Contained within committee packets was information that Commissioners requested at the December 14<sup>th</sup> meeting regarding whether certain boards and commissions are statutorily mandated and the payments associated therewith. Contained within these 10 pages was a summary regarding the current list of mandated/non-mandated boards and commissions.

#### **MOTION**

A motion was made by Szczepanski, supported by Rengert, to receive and file the report on Boards and Commissions.

Commissioner Vosburg felt discussion of the entire amount should be on a future agenda,

because maybe some boards and commissions could be reduced in scope or reduced.

Commissioner Flynn offered a **substitute motion**; it was supported by Commissioner Szczepanski. The motion reads as follows:

### **MOTION**

A motion was made by Flynn, supported by Szczepanski, to **refer** this report for discussion to a future Budget Committee meeting.

Commissioner Doherty requested information on funding by each board and commission in totality as to the number of people on a particular board or committee, and if that includes mileage.

Chair Kolakowski noted that the Community Growth Alliance is no longer in existence and it should be removed from the list. She suggested when this item comes back to committee, to attach the enacting legislation to each of these boards and commissions.

Chair Kolakowski called for a vote on the **motion to refer** and **The Motion Carried.**

### **SCHEDULE II – REVIEW OF DISCRETIONARY SERVICES**

Contained within committee packets was additional information that Commissioners requested at the December 14<sup>th</sup> meeting in order to help them make decisions regarding the first 10 items found on Schedule II of the Discretionary Services Schedule. Each item had a separate resolution sheet, that had attached to it the additional information requested.

Chair Kolakowski informed Commissioners that she would be accepting motions. If Commissioners felt information provided was sufficient, they could move to receive and file. If Commissioners wanted to take particular action on an item, they were free to make that motion, as well.

### **BOC – Public Affairs Office**

### **MOTION**

A motion was made by White, supported by Revoir, to receive and file the information provided by the Finance Department regarding the BOC – Public Affairs Office.

Mr. Frame was called upon to answer specific questions relating to the recent expenditures for equipment in his department.

Chair Kolakowski called for a vote on the motion and **The Motion Carried with Brandenburg, DeSaele and Szczepanski voting “No.”**  
**Review Overtime**

### **MOTION**

A motion was made by Brown, supported by Revoir, to receive and file the information provided by the Finance Department regarding the Macomb County Overtime and Extra Hire Appropriation.

Commissioner Doherty offered a **substitute motion**; it was supported by Commissioner Szczepanski. The motion reads as follows:

### **MOTION**

A motion was made by Doherty, supported by Szczepanski, to request that the Finance Department put together a report showing a five-year history of overtime usage for the top five departments. **The Motion Carried.**

### **County Library**

### **MOTION**

A motion was made by Doherty, supported by Switalski, to receive and file the information provided by the Finance Department regarding the Macomb County Library Department. Commissioner Lund inquired why additional information that was previously requested was not submitted. Mr. Diegel, Mr. Foster, and Ms. LaBelle acknowledged there was a misunderstanding.

Commissioner DeSaele offered a **substitute motion**; it was supported by Commissioner Szczepanski. The motion reads as follows:

### **MOTION**

A motion was made by DeSaele, supported by Szczepanski, to **refer** this item to the next meeting of this committee.

A lengthy discussion ensued with Ms. LaBelle about potential cost savings if the hours at the County Library were reduced or was closed on some days; it being required by contract to pay overtime on Sunday's and possibly negotiating straight time into the contract; hours of operation; peak and non-peak hours of usage; if it could be determined what type of population is using the County Library at various times, particularly on Sunday; the amount of reference questions asked on a daily basis; how it would impact patrons of the Macomb Literacy Partners and Macomb Library for the Blind & Physically Handicapped if hours were reduced; the types of support services provided to other libraries; what percentage of the blind and physically handicapped come into the library and what percentage of service is provided via mail.

Ms. LaBelle was directed to supply additional information that was requested, so it could be reviewed at next month's committee meeting.

Chair Kolakowski called for a vote on the **motion to refer** and **The Motion Carried.**

### **Office of Ombudsperson**

#### **COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION – MOTION**

A MOTION WAS MADE BY SZCZEPANSKI, SUPPORTED BY BRANDENBURG, TO RECOMMEND THAT THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS DELETE THE OFFICE OF OMBUDSPERSON FROM THE BUDGET.

After further discussion, the following action was taken:

#### **MOTION**

A motion was made by Switalski, supported by Flynn, to **postpone** this item until the April meeting of this committee.

Commissioners wanted additional time to explore whether the Ombudsman position should be eliminated, retained or reduced to part-time. Commissioners wanted to consider other options such as a civil service commission, utilizing a resolution center, or creating an ad hoc committee to go over applications for the position. The issue came up of employee morale and it was suggested to have employees fill out a survey to gauge how they feel their supervisors treat them. It was felt that the new Ombudsman should be given the necessary tools to do the job.

Chair Kolakowski called for a vote on the **motion to postpone** and **The Motion Carried with Brandenburg, Brown, DeSaele, Lund, Revoir and Szczepanski voting “No.”**

### **Summer Help Program**

#### **COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION – MOTION**

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MIJAC, SUPPORTED BY LUND, TO RECOMMEND THAT THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS REDUCE THE SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM TO \$50,000.

Commissioner Lund felt some departments do need summer help.

A **friendly amendment** by Commissioner Doherty was accepted as follows: “That departments still planning to request summer help send their request to the Human Resources Department as to how many hours they need, justification for the need, and provide demonstration of an increased workload.”

Commissioner DiMaria offered a **substitute motion**; it was supported by Commissioner Gielegem. The motion reads as follows:

#### **COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION – MOTION**

A MOTION WAS MADE BY DiMARIA, SUPPORTED BY GIELEGHEM, TO RECOMMEND THAT THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ELIMINATE THE SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM FROM THE 2006 GENERAL FUND.

Commissioner DiMaria wanted to eliminate the program and have department heads come before the Board with their specific need as to why they need the summer help.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE **SUBSTITUTE MOTION** AS FOLLOWS:

VOTING YES WERE BRANDENBURG, BRDAK, BROWN, CROUCHMAN, DiMARIA, DOHERTY, DUZYJ, GIBSON, GIELEGHEM, KENNARD, KOLAKOWSKI, LUND, MIJAC, REVOIR, SAUGER, SWITALSKI, SZCZEPANSKI, VOSBURG AND WHITE. THERE WERE 19 "YES" VOTES.

VOTING NO WAS DeSAELE. THERE WAS 1 "NO" VOTE.

**THE MOTION CARRIED.**

### **Law Library**

#### **MOTION**

A motion was made by Vosburg, supported by Brandenburg, to **postpone** discussion of the Law Library for one month.

Commissioner Vosburg said that Mr. Beasley was coming up with a plan to maybe consolidate more than one library and consolidate some of the books.

Chair Kolakowski called for a vote on the motion and **The Motion Carried.**

### **Capital Outlay**

#### **COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION – MOTION**

A MOTION WAS MADE BY SZCZEPANSKI, SUPPORTED BY DOHERTY, TO RECOMMEND THAT THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS REDUCE THE 2006 GENERAL FUND CAPITAL OUTLAY APPROPRIATION TO \$200,000. **THE MOTION CARRIED.**

### **Parks & Recreation**

#### **MOTION**

A motion was made by Doherty, supported by Brown, to direct the Parks Director to reduce his budget by the 3% as requested from the Board and come back before this committee next month.

A brief discussion ensued with Mr. Casasanta about revenues, expenditures and arrearages. Another issue brought up was the naming rights for the amphitheater.

Chair Kolakowski called for a vote on the motion and **The Motion Carried.**

### **Health Department - EMRAP**

A letter from the Macomb County Fire Chiefs Association dated February 13, 2006 was distributed. It pertained to the Health Department's Environmental Protection Program that responds to chemical spills and addressed the importance of this program.

### **MOTION**

A motion was made by Brdak, supported by Switalski, to receive and file the information provided by the Finance Department regarding the Macomb County Health Department Environmental Management Risk Assessment Program (EMRAP). **The Motion Carried.**

### **Health Department - Dental**

### **MOTION**

A motion was made by Doherty, supported by DeSaele, to receive and file the information provided by the Finance Department regarding the Macomb County Health Department Dental Program. **The Motion Carried.**

### **REVISE 3% REDUCTION RECOMMENDATION – JUVENILE JUSTICE CENTER**

### **COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION – MOTION**

A MOTION WAS MADE BY BRANDENBURG, SUPPORTED BY WHITE, TO RECOMMEND THAT THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS CONCUR WITH THE DIRECTOR OF THE JUVENILE JUSTICE CENTER'S RECOMMENDATION TO AMEND THE 3% REDUCTION IN THE JJC BUDGET TO ELIMINATE ONE CUSTODIAN POSITION INSTEAD OF ONE HOUSEKEEPER POSITION. **THE MOTION CARRIED.**

### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Greg Murray, Mount Clemens

Mr. Murray thanked Commissioners for their vote not to eliminate the Ombudsman position.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION**

A motion was made by White, supported by Gielegem, to adjourn the meeting at 3:50 p.m.

**The Motion Carried.**

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**Denise M. Jacks**  
**Committee Reporter**