

The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole for Departmental Budget Hearings on Wednesday, August 26, 1998 at 1:00 p.m. in Room 231 of the Henry A. Skewis Annex, Marquette, Michigan.

Chairperson Corkin called the meeting to order. Present: Comm. Arsenault, Comm. Bergdahl, Com. Cihak, Comm. Joseph, Comm. Rapport, Comm. Roberts, Comm. Seppanen, Comm. Tuominen, and Comm. Corkin. Absent and Excused: Comm. Angeli.

Steve Powers, County Administrator, began the Departmental Budget Hearings by presenting his summary of the FY 1999 Recommended General Fund and Capital Improvement Fund Budget. Administrator Powers noted that with considerable assistance from Gary Yoder, Finance Manager, and Ruth Solinski, Management Analyst, and the prudent requests of Department Directors and Elected Officials, the 1999 Operating and Capital Improvement Budget is balanced.

Mr. Powers highlighted significant items in the budget summary: 1) The General Fund support for the Marquette County Airport and the Sawyer Airport is less than 1998. This was anticipated and the 1999 Recommended Budget shows that reduction. 2) The K.I.Sawyer Development Fund is beginning to accumulate revenues that can be used for community needs. While the impressive challenges and opportunities of airport relocation and base redevelopment were consuming board agendas and public attention, traditional County services and programs continued. Ongoing service requirements, with an expectation that the County must deliver services from existing revenues, shape the majority of the General Fund Recommended Budget. The General Fund Budget is approximately \$14 million. The Sawyer effort, including caretaker, development, and the airport, is approximately \$5 million. No Budget Stabilization Funds are needed to balance the General Fund Budget. The 1999 Recommended General Fund Budget includes no fee increases.

Administrator Powers also noted that the Recommended Budget provides adequate service delivery, and services should not diminish in 1999, however there are enhancements that would improve services and respond to existing and emerging needs: 1) Court Security (county cost including capital) \$35,200; 2) .5 Corrections Deputy \$14,809; 3) .5 Clerical position Sheriff \$8,553; 4) Information Systems Coordinator \$48,751; and 5) Cost of Services Study (includes indirect cost plan) \$30,000.

Line Item Detail of each department; including 1997 actual expenditures, current year estimated expenditures, 1998 budgeted expenditures, departmental 1999 requested expenditures and the 1999 recommended expenditures; can be found in the computer printouts distributed to each Commissioner. The 1999 Budget Recommendation complied with the General Appropriations Act (P.A. 621 of 1978).

2:00 P.M. JOB CLASSIFICATION AND COMPENSATION PLAN

Bill Rye, O. William Rye & Co., was present to explain the Job Classification and Compensation Study and highlight the process that was used to complete this project. He provided a summary of the project's purpose, methodology, and findings. A complete review with findings on the Job Classification and Compensation Program was distributed to Commissioners. Mr. Rye summarized the primary objectives of the project as follows: 1) Analyze the duties and responsibilities of each position in the County and develop updated job descriptions that accurately reflect the nature and level of responsibilities within each job. A related purpose of the study was to update the County's job descriptions so that they are more responsive to the Americans with Disabilities Act;

2) Establish equitable pay relationships among all jobs in the County; and 3) Conduct a survey of the pay and benefits for similar jobs in similar counties and provide information that will assist the County in their collective bargaining and pay setting efforts.

3:00 P.M. RISK CONTROL COMMITTEE

Steve Powers, County Administrator, explained that earlier this summer the County Board requested that the Risk Control Committee look at the issues of court security and county security. The Committee was given a very aggressive time line in order to provide a recommendation for consideration as part of the 1999 budget.

Cynthia Beaudry, Chairperson, Risk Control Committee, was present to review the recommendation, explain the differences with the 1999 budget recommendation, and what the Committee feels is necessary. She stated that in order to achieve a secure courtroom atmosphere, the Committee agrees that "weapons screening" is essential. The Committee submits five different levels of screening for weapons, with #1 providing the highest level of security and #5 providing the lowest level. The Judicial Council, comprised of Probate, District, and Circuit Court Judges, recommend Proposal #1. Ms. Beaudry further explained that there are other options available short of weapons screening that would enhance the current level of court security but would not guarantee a weapons-free environment.

Len Anthos, Circuit Court Bailiff, was also present and explained that without security, sooner or later something or someone will erupt. He explained that the County needs a deputy for the quick emotional situations which are unpredictable, but feels that weapons screening is a must. Mr. Anthos feels that there is a growing lack of respect for Court Officials by the public and the County must have some type of court security in place.

3:30 P.M. TO 3:45 P.M BREAK

3:45 P.M. DEPARTMENTS/DISCUSSION

Jim Sodergren, Marquette County Treasurer and member of the Marquette County Plat Board, was present. Mr. Sodergren addressed the Committee and explained that the 1999 Recommended Budget for the Plat Board budget is \$125.00. \$25.00 for supplies, \$50.00 for printing and binding, and \$50.00 for travel. There is no per diem or salary entered. Mr. Sodergren stated that there has been amendments to the Plat Act which has reduced the workload, however compensation of Plat Board members has not changed. The Act states that each member of the County Plat Board shall be paid compensation and mileage for attendance at Plat Board meetings equal to compensation and mileage paid to supervisors for attendance at meetings of the board of supervisors. Compensation shall be paid from the general fund of the county. This may have worked years ago when the County Board was on per diem, but when the County Board went to salaries the Plat Board felt that it was not fair to expect that same compensation. The Plat Board does not claim mileage anymore, but does receive a \$30.00 per diem for each meetings.

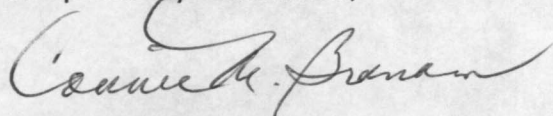
At of this time there are four preliminary plats being prepared for final approval. The Plat Board has reduced the number of meetings needed from two per month to one per month, however the Plat Board have been very good stewards. They do not meet if there is no business, but meetings are scheduled so the land surveyors, bankers, and attorneys can plan if they want or need information. So far in 1998 the Plat Board has met twice. The Plat Board does not enforce the administration of the Plat Law, that responsibility has been given to the local units of government, particularly the local assessors. If there is a violation it is no longer the function of the Plat Board. Any money budgeted for the Plat Board and not used in the past has been returned to the general fund at the end of the year.

Gary Yoder, Finance Manager, explained the Original Administrators 1999 Recommended Budget that was distributed to Departments had no money for per diem included. After department discussions the 1999 Recommended Budget was amended to \$180.00. This allows for two meetings next year and if more meetings are needed, the budget can be adjusted at mid-year.

Chairperson Corkin thanked departments for their presentations.

There being no further business the Departmental Budget Hearings were adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Connie M. Branam
Deputy County Clerk



COUNTY OF MARQUETTE

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DAVID J. ROBERTS
County Clerk
CONNIE M. BRANAM
Deputy County Clerk

NOTICE

The Marquette County Board of Commissioners will meet on Wednesday, August 26, 1998 from 1:00 P.M. to 5:30 P.M., Room 231 of the Henry A. Skewis Annex, Marquette, Michigan for the purpose of conducting the 1999 Budget Hearings.

DAVID J. ROBERTS
MARQUETTE COUNTY CLERK

BUDGET HEARING SCHEDULE

✓ 1:00 - 1:15
✓ 1:15 - 2:30
✓ 2:30 - 3:15
✓ 3:15 - 3:30
✓ 3:30 - 5:30

Budget Overview/Steve Powers
Job Classification and Compensation Plan
Risk Control Committee
Break
Departments/Discussion