

The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, September 7, 1999 at 8:00 p.m. in Room 231 of the Henry A. Skewis Annex, Marquette, Michigan.

Chairperson Corkin opened the FY 2000 budget process work session.

Present: Comm. Arsenault, Comm. Bergdahl, Comm. Curto, Comm. Joseph, Comm. Rapport, Comm. Roberts, Comm. Seppanen, Comm. Tuominen, Comm. Wallace, and Comm. Corkin. Absent none.

Steve Powers, County Administrator, presented a summary of adjustments to the recommended FY 2000 budget as discussed during the previous Committee of the Whole budget work sessions. Indigent Dental Services has received an additional \$26,000 while the District Court proposal will require \$69,000 to be taken out of the General Fund Budget as uncollected revenue. Information received from the State Treasurer increases the cigarette and liquor tax revenue from the amount budgeted. By statute, the Health Department will receive an additional \$22,427 in cigarette tax revenue and Eastern U.P. Substance Abuse will receive an additional \$12,657 in liquor tax revenue. The General Fund will receive an additional \$10,324.

With the changes in revenue and Indigent Dental Services, the recommended contingency is \$120,481. While the starting contingency is less than budgeted in past years, the unallocated General Fund balance of \$536,902 and the Budget Stabilization Fund of \$317,925 will provide adequate protection for emergencies in uncontrollable revenue or expenditure changes in 1999 and 2000, including the anticipated property tax refunds to Wisconsin Electric and U.P. Power Company.

Administrator Powers further noted that the discussion on the August 30th Committee of the Whole Budget Work Session helped staff to understand the Board's policy regarding the COPS Grant. He will work with the Sheriff to further develop revenue sources and expenditure reductions to attempt to retain five positions for at least one year after the grant expires. Also, the County Board's direction is that additional officers hired using the COPS Grant must have specific retention sources. Without specific retention sources, the positions will not continue after the grant requirements. The Sawyer positions are examples of this policy. Another example, Marquette Township revenue will be used to cover the continuation of an additional officer requested by the Township. With the above changes the FY 2000 budget is balanced.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Rapport that the District Court revenues and additional position be added into the FY 2000 budget. The Committee engaged in a lengthy discussion regarding the matter. Motion failed 2 Ayes (Comm. Seppanen and Rapport) to 8 Nays.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Wallace, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee recommend that the position of Conservation District Watershed Manager be added for FY 2000 at a cost of \$51,899, funding to come from the Forestry Fund.

Commissioners considered the supplemental retiree pay. Gary Yoder, Finance Manager, noted that currently we are providing the difference to bring retirement pay to a minimum of \$300 per month at a cost for FY 2000 at \$16,601. Should Commissioners decide to bring the minimum to \$350 per month it would cost \$26,803 or an additional \$10,202 for FY 2000. The County would then be paying a supplement to 18 retirees.

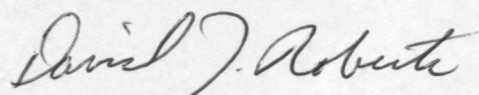
It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Rapport and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend that the County Board provide a supplement to bring the minimum retirement pay up to \$350 with the additional funds to come from Contingency.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Tuominen and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend approval of the County of Marquette Administrator's recommended FY 2000 Capital Improvement Budget, balanced at \$742,485.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Wallace and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole accept the recommendation from Administrator Powers, with the adjustments as approved by the Committee of the Whole, for the FY 2000 County General Fund Budget, final budget recommendation to be considered at the September 28, 1999 Committee of the Whole meeting, to be then forwarded to the Annual Meeting to be held on October 12, 1999.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:38 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,



David J. Roberts
Marquette County Clerk

The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, August 31, 1999 at 1:30 p.m. in Room 231 of the Henry A. Skewis Annex, Marquette, Michigan.

Chairperson Corkin opened the FY 2000 budget process work session.

Present: Comm. Arsenault, Comm. Bergdahl, Comm. Curto, Comm. Rapport, Comm. Roberts, Comm. Tuominen, Comm. Wallace, and Comm. Corkin. Absent and excused: Comm. Joseph and Seppanen.

The Committee noted that it began the budget work session with a recommended contingency amount of \$205,157 for FY 2000. The main items under consideration include:

- 1) Marquette County Dental Clinic - \$20,000
- 2) District Court - \$69,000 revenue increase/\$38,000 expenditures increase, one position.
- 3) County Clerk - 1/2 FTE Court Clerk - \$17,000.
- 4) Conservation District Watershed Manager - \$50,860.
- 5) Compliance Audit - \$19,000.

Dental Clinic

Steve Powers, County Administrator, reported that after reviewing past County Board minutes, the original intent regarding indigent dental care was to set aside \$106,600. By increasing this appropriation \$20,000 it would lower contingency to \$185,000.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Rapport and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee consensus is to add \$20,000 from contingency to the Indigent Dental Care Fund.

District Court

District Court has proposed raising fees which generate an additional \$69,000 in revenue and request a Clerk position to assist in the courtroom at a cost of \$38,000 per year. Administrator Powers has included the \$69,000 in revenue into the FY 2000 General Fund Budget but has not included the position. Indication from Judges is that if the position is not approved then they would not raise fees to generate the additional revenue. If this be the case then the General Fund Budget revenues must be lowered by \$69,000. Administrator Powers plans to discuss the situation further with the Judges but had not had an opportunity to do so prior to this meeting.

Commissioners took no action and will wait for further information.

County Clerk

County Clerk Dave Roberts explained the need for the additional half-time Court Clerk, which would only bring office back to the staffing levels prior to the layoffs beginning with FY 1996 where he lost one full-time court clerk in which a half-time court clerk was reinstated one year later. Commissioners took no action.

Compliance Audit

It was moved by Comm. Tuominen, seconded by Comm. Roberts and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend not to include funding for a compliance audit in the FY 2000 budget.

Conservation District Watershed Manager Position

Commissioners clearly supported the concept of a watershed manager if funds are available. Finance Manager Gary Yoder noted that the Forestry Fund currently has \$760,000 in it. Commissioners also noted that this position may not require the full \$50,860 for the following year depending upon grant funding available, which is one main objective of a Watershed Manager, to seek grants.

Comm. Bergdahl, a member of the County Forestry Committee, will discuss the matter at the next Forestry Committee meeting scheduled for Wednesday evening. If this is a legitimate expense the Forestry Fund is an excellent source for this particular proposal.

It was moved by Comm. Bergdahl, seconded by Comm. Arsenault and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend to provide funding from the Forestry Fund for one year at \$50,860 for the hiring and support of a Marquette County Conservation District Watershed Manager.

Pensions

Commissioners requested information regarding the amount of pensions and cost to the County, especially for the lowest paid pensioners. It has been the County Board's past practice to assist former County employees who are on very low pensions.

Gary Yoder will provide a report to the Committee of the Whole regarding retirees payroll for the next budget work session.

CIP Budget

The Administrator's recommended FY 2000 Capital Improvement Budget amounts to \$742,482. Administrator Powers noted some of the CIP highlights which include:

- Assistance to Road Commission for facility improvements (\$78,500)
- Building maintenance, improvements, and repair (\$97,000)
- Personal computers, printers, and software (\$162,000)
- Recreational facility improvements (\$105,195)

Commissioners asked questions regarding various details in the FY 2000 CIP budget.

It was moved by Comm. Tuominen, seconded by Comm. Roberts and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee recommend adoption of the FY 2000 Capital Improvements Budget as recommended.

Chairperson Corkin commended Administrator Powers and Finance Manager Yoder for presenting a balanced budget. He believed that the County Board is very close to adopting a FY 2000 budget which funds no new positions but also requires no layoffs and provides a workable level of funding for all County departments. One more budget work session should be all that is necessary to reach a final recommendation on the FY 2000 budgets.

Committee consensus was to conduct the next budget work session on Tuesday, September 7, 1999 immediately following the regular County Board meeting at approximately 7:30 P.M. in the commission chambers.

There being no further business, the Committee of the Whole budget work session was recessed at 2:43 P.M. until September 7th.

Respectfully Submitted,



David J. Roberts
Marquette County Clerk

The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole on Monday, August 30, 1999 at 1:30 p.m. in Room 231 of the Henry A. Skewis Annex, Marquette, Michigan.

Chairperson Corkin opened the FY 2000 budget process work sessions.

Present: Comm. Arsenault, Comm. Bergdahl, Comm. Curto, Comm. Rapport, Comm. Roberts, Comm. Tuominen, Comm. Wallace, and Comm. Corkin. Comm. Seppanen arrived at 3:20 P.M. Absent and excused: Comm. Joseph.

Steve Powers, County Administrator, provided an overview of the FY 2000 recommended County budget.

Revenues: Total General Fund Revenues projected are \$15,317,500. Economic growth and higher state revenues have caused a 5.2% (\$763,253) increase in General Fund revenues. No budget stabilization funds or fund equity are needed to balance the General Fund Budget. The FY 2000 recommended General Fund budget includes \$207,000 in additional license and permit revenues and charges for service, some in anticipation of a revised fee schedule for Building Codes and District Court. Indirect cost allocations from the Forest and Recreation Fund (\$13,000), Airport Fund (\$43,000), and Community Development Fund (\$1,100) are recommended for 2000. Interest earned from the \$1.8 million sale proceeds from the Marquette County Airport is used as a revenue source for the Sawyer International Airport. The estimate assumes repayment of a \$450,000 transfer from the Delinquent Tax Fund for t-hangars and the reduction for sales costs. (A concern for the FY 2001 budget is proposed changes in the personal property tax structure of Michigan. Reductions of 1 to 2 percent in revenues are likely.)

Expenditures: The recommended budget contains few significant changes from the 1999 budget. No additional programs or personnel are being recommended. Various departments requested 7-1/2 FTE positions. The recommended budget provides the resources necessary for Department Directors and Elected Officials to accomplish their FY 2000 objectives. Total General Fund requests amounted to \$16,057,218 with total General Fund budget expenditures recommended at \$15,317,500 to balance with revenues. Total request reduction by the Administrator's recommendation amounts to \$739,714, which also provides for a higher contingency than the past year at \$205,000.

Administrator Powers answered detailed questions from Commissioners regarding his recommendations for the General Fund and Capital Improvements budgets.

Chairperson Corkin opened the budget work session to the various department heads desiring to speak to the Committee of the Whole.

Marquette County Conservation District:

Laurie Dhondt, Conservation District Director, and Carl Lindquist, Chocolay Township Watershed Manager, provided a slide presentation of accomplishments and goals of the Marquette County Conservation District.

Their request is for \$50,860 per year for 3 years to hire a Watershed Program Manager to assist with working with the 19 Townships and 15 Watersheds in Marquette County for the purpose of seeking funding sources to improve Marquette County's watershed quality.

County Clerk:

Dave Roberts, Marquette County Clerk, addressed his request to increase a 1/2 time Court Clerk position to full-time at a cost of an additional \$17,000 annually.

County Treasurer's Office:

Jim Sodergren, Marquette County Treasurer, was present and requested that the County Board provide a Compliance Audit in conjunction with the FY 1999 Financial Audit. A compliance audit has not been performed in Marquette County since 1982. Additional cost for a compliance audit amounts to \$19,000.

Sheriff's Department:

Jim Bjerne, Marquette County Undersheriff, was present to discuss staffing levels in the Marquette County Sheriff's Department and financial considerations as they relate to the COPS Grant.

Marquette County Health Department:

Randall Johnson, M.D., Health Department Director, expressed his concern for a \$20,000 reduction in the Indigent Dental Care Program.

Committee Discussion Continued:

The Committee compiled the following list for further discussions during the next budget work session:

1. Dental Clinic.
2. District Court increased revenue associated with their request for additional staff.
3. Clerk's half-time Court Clerk position.
4. Compliance Audit.
5. Conservation District employee.

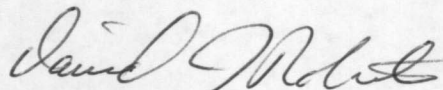
Commissioners reviewed the Capital Outlay Projects and the Administrator's FY 2000 CIP recommendations. Commissioners concurred that the Road Commission Office needs work as does the carpeting in the DeFant Building.

Administrator Powers noted that smaller departmental needs were generally addressed through George Wright, Facilities Manager.

The Commissioners scheduled the next budget work session for Tuesday, August 31, 1999, at 1:30 P.M. in room 231 of the Henry A. Skewis Annex.

There being no further business, Chairperson Corkin recessed the Committee of the Whole Budget Work Session.

Respectfully Submitted,



David J. Roberts
Marquette County Clerk