

COUNTY BOARD STAFF/FINANCE COMMITTEES
July 30, 2010

Call to Order. County Board Staff Committee Chair Podzilni called the joint meeting of the County Board Staff Committee and the Finance Committee to order at 8:30 A.M. in Conference Room N-1/N-2 on the fifth floor of the Rock County Courthouse-East.

Committee Members Present County Board Staff Committee – Supervisors Podzilni, Arnold, Brill, Bussie, Peer, and Yankee. Finance Committee – Supervisors Beaver, Mawhinney and Podzilni.

Committee Members Absent: Supervisor Kraft (County Board Staff & Finance), Supervisor Collins (County Board Staff), Supervisor Jensen (County Board Staff), Supervisor Diestler (Finance).

Staff Members Present: Craig Knutson, County Administrator; Randy Terronez, Assistant to the County Administrator; Dave O'Connell, Human Resources Director; Ben Coopman, Public Works Director; Lori Williams, Parks Director; Ron Burdick, Airport Director; Sherry Oja, Senior Accountant/Assistant to the Finance Director.

Approval of Agenda. Supervisor Yankee moved approval of the agenda as presented, second by Supervisor Peer. ADOPTED.

Citizen Participation, Communications and Announcements. Mr. Knutson informed the committees that the next joint meeting would be August 6, 2010 at 8:30 a.m. with Human Services here at the Courthouse. Following this meeting will be a joint meeting on August 13, 2010 at 8:30 a.m. at the Sheriff's Office in the Blue Room.

Approval of Minutes. Supervisor Brill moved approval of the minutes as presented, second by Supervisor Mahwinney. ADOPTED.

Review and Discussion of Preliminary 2011 Budget Projections and Program Information - Department of Public Works. At this time Chair Podzilni turned the meeting over to Ben Coopman.

Mr. Coopman informed the committees that the Department of Public Works is divided into three divisions, which are Parks, Airport and Highway. Under Highway there are three more sections, which are Financial/Clerical, Field Operations, and Shop Operations.

At this time Ms. Williams the Parks Director gave her presentation. Ms. Williams informed the committees that her division was comprised of a quarter time secretary, a community coordinator, two and a half patrolmen and a seasonal that works from July through August.

Ms. Williams went through the list of Park Groups/Partnerships/Cooperative Agreements who play a very important part in the Rock County parks system with their support:

Multi-Use Trail Group, Inc., Rock County Ice Age Trail Chapter, Friends of Beckman Mill, Inc. (FBM, Inc), Friends of the Welty Environmental Center, Inc., Mystic Deer Display at Sportsman's Park, Rock County Association of Snowmobile Clubs, Inc., Pelishek-Tiffany Nature Trail Foundation, Inc., Rock Trail Coalition, Inc., Friends of Carver-Roehl Park, Inc., Wisconsin Park & Recreation Association, Rock County Conservationists, Rock River Coalition, National Parks and Recreation Association, and several other new groups are in the process of developing partnerships with Rock County.

Ms. Williams said that the Snowmobile Trail Program which is a county-wide system operated with the Rock County Alliance of Snowmobile Clubs is 226.4 miles and operates on a 100% grant funding. The system includes the following snowmobile clubs: Brodhead Snowdrifters, Sundowners, Snowblowers, Evansville Sno Devils, Clinton Fencehoppers, Lake Koshkonong Club, Janesville Snow Chiefs, Milton Snow Riders, and Country Riders.

Ms. Williams pointed out that the boat landing donations and fees through June 30, 2010 are \$9,312 and last year for 2009 the total amount was \$15,997. She commented also that the 2009 park reservations were 17,534 and through June 30, 2010 they are already at 15,303. She said that they were having a very good summer.

The Park's Division's 2010 tax levy was \$460,216 and the requested 2011 budget levy is \$677,801 which is a 47.27% increase. Ms. Williams said that the reason for the increase for 2011 is the Capital Projects which total \$225,000, which historically have been funded from deferred financing but for 2011 are included in the requested tax levy.

Ms. Williams pointed out that some possible new revenue areas could include horse trail fees and park user fees. Another possible revenue option to look at could include selling firewood vs. giving it away as we currently do, or we may want to consider having a contractor come in and clean out our wooded areas for a price per cord of wood harvested.

At this time Ms. Williams concluded her presentation by showing improvements made to several parks this past Spring.

At this time Mr. Coopman presented the Highway Division's budget. He said that their theme started out to be "cut the fat" but since there was "little fat left", they are to the point of "cutting the muscle". He said that the Highway Division has around 70 employees. There are four superintendents - two highway, one construction, and one shop. In the front office there is one three quarter time secretary, an accounting supervisor, and two more accounting personnel.

Mr. Coopman pointed out that Wisconsin is the only state in the union doing maintenance for state highways. This accounts for one third of the Highway Division's business. He said that next year they are losing the Towns of Center and Union's business, which is 100 miles of town road maintenance responsibilities. Mr. Coopman commented that they reduced the Highway Division's employees by four positions last year and two this year as they've had two retirements so far this year.

Mr. Coopman said that the Highway Division's Operations consist of the State Trunk Highway System, County Trunk Highway System and the Town Roads. The State Trunk Highway System consists of approximately 255 centerline miles or 545 lane miles including the Interstate Highway System. The County Trunk Highway System consists of approximately 205 centerline miles or 420 lane miles. The Town Roads consist of approximately 685 centerline miles or 1,370 lane miles.

Mr. Coopman pointed out that annual overtime hours vary from year to year depending on how severe a winter we have.

Mr. Coopman went over the County construction trends and the cost of materials used. He pointed out that construction costs are up 5%, equipment prices up 7.8% and asphalt related materials up 10%. Mr. Coopman commented that for 2011 they are proposing a big construction project on County Trunk Highways A and M. Eleven miles will be done on M and four miles on A. Due to the condition of the roads on these stretches, they will have to be done from scratch. Mr. Coopman said that the towns are gravitating towards seal coating but since 2008 they have done less work with us due to the cost of materials.

Mr. Coopman pointed out that the average book life for most of the equipment is 10 years. Our equipment's average is several years beyond with several pieces going towards 18 years. This accounts for the breakdowns we have during plowing season especially as this is some of the older equipment.

The tax levy requested by the Highway Division for 2011 is \$5,804,422 up 166.54% from the \$2,117,703 tax levy for 2010. Things like deferred financing, use of equity or use of sales tax revenue are not identified as these choices are left to the discretion of the County Administrator.

Mr. Coopman pointed out that use of deferred financing and/or county sales tax revenue to fund Road Construction in 2011 would be a decrease off the anticipated increase in the levy of \$3,374,000. He also discussed other options including reducing the road construction program, charging higher fees to the towns, canceling the Inman Parkway Project and reducing staffing.

At this time Ron Burdick gave the Airport budget presentation. Mr. Burdick said that the Airport Division is made up of one full-time Account Clerk II, one full-time Airport Maintenance Crew Leader and three full-time Airport Maintenance Workers in addition to himself.

The direct client groups are: one fixed base operator, five corporate hangars, eleven businesses, 128-based aircraft and an aviation school. It is estimated there are 120 full-time employees between these groups. The indirect client groups are: community businesses and general aviation pilots.

Mr. Burdick informed that the revenue for the Airport comes from four areas: Leases, Rent, Non-Aviation and Operational. Mr. Burdick went through the history of each of these revenue sources.

Mr. Burdick informed the committees that the 2011 budget proposal includes a tax levy of \$470,631 or a 5.67% increase over 2010.

Mr. Burdick went through options to reduce the tax levy including increasing fees, reducing maintenance and reducing staffing.

Mr. Burdick pointed out that the County's share of the proposed 2011 Capital Improvement Projects is \$1,375,095. He commented that these projects are usually funded through deferred financing. These projects consist of: Expand Snow Removal & Equipment Building Expansion, Reconstruct an Apron near Regal Beloit Hangar, Crack Repair & Seal Coat Aprons, Terminal Building Improvements Phase 1 of 5, Design-Reconstruct Runway 36, Purchase Mowing Equipment, and Construct new Ten Unit Hangar. Mr. Burdick pointed out that the Terminal Building has been there since 1959 and the new addition to the back of the building is to keep the restaurant operational. He also pointed out that T-Hangars eventually pay for themselves.

At this time Chairman Podzilni thanked Mr. Coopman, Ms. Williams, and Mr. Burdick for their presentations.

Set Future Meeting Dates: Mr. Knutson informed the committees of these dates at the beginning of the meeting.

Adjournment. Supervisor Mahwinney moved adjournment at 10:30 A.M., second by Supervisor Beaver. ADOPTED.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Rabe
HR Secretary

NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY COMMITTEES.