

FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT COMMITTEE  
BUDGET MEETING - TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2008

A budget meeting was held in the Stephenson County Board Room on the above date with Mr. Graham, the Chairman, presiding. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. Committee members present were Mr. Graham, Mr. Senn, Ms. S. Hooper, Ms. V. Hooper, Ms. Kubatzke, Mr. Mikkelsen and Mr. Kuhlmeier. County Board Chairman Blum was not present. Other County Board members present were Ms. Boynton, Mr. Détente, Ms. Dotson and Mr. Wire.

Judge Ursin presented and reviewed the Judicial (Fund 1, 805), Court Ordered Expense (Fund 1, 806) and Law Library (Fund 34) budgets. The County has invoiced the State for costs associated with defending several "sexual dangerous" persons. On a motion by Ms. V. Hooper, seconded by Mr. Mikkelsen, the Judicial (Fund 1, 805), Court Ordered Expense (Fund 1, 806) and Law Library (Fund 34) budgets were accepted.

The State's Attorney presented and reviewed the State's Attorney (Fund 1, 801) budget. Mr. Vogt explained that the new budget includes a copier from the State bid list and a new file server. The attorneys in his office have completed 2,706 hours beyond the normally scheduled time. He explained the services provided by the State Appellate Prosecutor's Office. On a motion by Mr. Kuhlmeier, seconded by Ms. Kubatzke, the State's Attorney (Fund 1, 801) budget was approved.

The Public Defender presented and reviewed the Public Defender (Fund 26) budget. Mr. Schorsch reported on the number of cases opened and closed, each year, since he took office. The number of cases opened each year has increased, while the percentage of cases closed has declined each year. The proposed budget includes another attorney and making the part-time receptionist full-time. On a motion by Ms. V. Hooper, seconded by Ms. S. Hooper, the Public Defender (Fund 26) budget was approved.

The Director of Court Services presented and reviewed the Probation (Fund 1, 803), Probation Service Fee (Fund 20) and Dependent Children (Fund 30) budgets. Mr. Pauley explained that the budget includes another officer, authorized by the State. There is a problem with the timeliness of the State's salary reimbursement payments. The new electronic monitoring equipment includes GPS. He plans to contract out the monitoring service and bring drug testing in-house. He has applied for a \$250,000 grant to reduce the number of juveniles being sent to the Department of Corrections. Under the grant, two Probation officers would be trained to work closely with the affected families. The grant will also assist with the costs of treatment. This grant has the potential to reduce the costs usually bourn by the Dependent Children Fund. On a motion by Ms. V. Hooper, seconded by Ms. Kubatzke, the Probation (Fund 1, 803), Probation Service Fee (Fund 20) and Dependent Children (Fund 30) budgets were accepted.

Ms. V. Hooper presented and reviewed the Jury Commission (Fund 1, 807) budget. On a motion by Mr. Kuhlmeier, seconded by Mr. Mikkelsen, the Jury Commission (Fund 1, 807) budget was approved.

Mr. Isbell presented and reviewed the Highway Department (Fund 5), Matching (Fund 6), County Bridge (Fund 7), Township Bridge (Fund 8), County Motor Fuel Tax (Fund 9) Township Motor Fuel Tax (Fund 10) and New Highway Building Construction (Fund 48) budgets. He explained that he has received new Property Tax revenue estimates for the three funds receiving Property Taxes. The additional revenue is being added to the Contingency budget lines. There was a discussion of the salt situation. The adoption of the IMRF's Early Retirement Incentive would not impact the 2009 budget. Its impact would be on the 2010 budget and those to follow. On a motion by Mr. Kuhlmeier, seconded by Ms. S. Hooper, the Highway Department (Fund 5), Matching (Fund 6), County Bridge (Fund 7), Township Bridge (Fund 8), County Motor Fuel Tax (Fund 9), Township Motor Fuel Tax (Fund 10) and New Highway Building Construction (Fund 48) budgets were accepted. Mr. Isbell explained that both the City of Freeport and a private developer were looking at the old Highway building.

There was a discussion on whether the Finance Committee should discuss the IMRF's Early Retirement Incentive in its November meeting. The Committee agreed to leave this issue to the new Finance Committee that takes office in December.

The County Administrator presented and reviewed the Administrative Services (Fund 1, 912) budget. The question was raised on when salary increases for the appointed department heads would be presented and whether Mr. Fortney should be on that list. Mr. Mulnix noted that Ms. Gravenstein was included on the three-year list that expired two years ago. On a motion by Ms. S. Hooper, seconded by Mr. Mikkelsen, the Administrative Services (Fund 1, 912) budget was accepted.

The County Administrator presented and reviewed the County Board (Fund 1, 901) budget. Mr. Mulnix explained that the new County Board per diems (\$65), adopted four years ago, go into effect on December 1, 2008 and are so included in the budget. On a motion by Ms. V. Hooper, seconded by Ms. S. Hooper, the County Board (Fund 1, 901) budget was accepted.

The Committee adjourned at 8:32 p.m. on a motion by Mr. Mikkelsen, seconded by Mr. Senn.

Approved: November 7, 2008

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Next Stated Meeting of the Committee:  
Friday, November 7, 2008 7:00 p.m.  
Stephenson County Board Room