

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY BOARD
BUDGET HEARING MINUTES

LEGISLATIVE BUDGET HEARINGS

Tuesday, September 7, 2010

**Brookens Administrative Center, Lyle Shields Meeting Room
1776 E. Washington St., Urbana**

5:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Carol Ammons, Jan Anderson, Steve Beckett, Ron Bensyl, Matthew Gladney, Stan James, John Jay, Greg Knott, Alan Kurtz, Ralph Langenheim, Brendan McGinty, Diane Michaels, Steve Moser, Alan Nudo, Steve O'Connor, Michael Richards, Giraldo Rosales, Jonathan Schroeder, C. Pius Weibel, Barbara Wysocki

MEMBERS ABSENT: Tom Betz, Lloyd Carter, Lorraine Cowart, Chris Doenitz, Brad Jones, Larry Sapp, Samuel Smucker

OTHERS PRESENT: Jeff Blue (County Engineer), Kat Bork (Administrative Assistant), Deb Busey (County Administrator), Holly Jordan (Developmental Disabilities Board President), Cameron Moore (RPC Executive Director), Elizabeth Murphy (RPC Chief Financial Officer), Tracy Parsons (Mental Health Board Access Initiative Grant), Deborah Townsend (Mental Health Board Vice-President), Peter Tracy (Mental Health Board & Developmental Disabilities Board Executive Director)

CALL TO ORDER

The hearing was called to order at 5:44 p.m. by Finance Chair McGinty.

ROLL CALL

Bork called the roll. Ammons, Anderson, Beckett, Bensyl, James, Knott, Kurtz, McGinty, Michaels, Nudo, O'Connor, Rosales, Schroeder, Weibel, and Wysocki were present at the time of the roll call. McGinty declared a quorum and proceeded with the meeting.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA/ADDENDUM

MOTION by Beckett to approve the agenda; seconded by James. **Motion carried with unanimous support.**

BUDGET PRESENTATIONS

Champaign County Mental Health Board & Developmental Disabilities Board

The budgets were distributed to Board members. Peter Tracy introduced Mental Health Board Vice-President Deborah Townsend, Developmental Disabilities Board President Holly Jordan, and Tracy Parsons, who works for the Mental Health Board on the Access Initiative Grant. The budgets presented in this presentation included the Mental Health Board, Developmental Disabilities Board, Drug Court Fund, Quarter Cent Fund, and the Access Initiative Grant budgets.

Tracy remarked that the situation with the State of Illinois as worsened since last year. His is very worried about how the state budget will impact the agencies that provide mental health, developmental disabilities, and substance abuse services in the community. Payments to providers have been delayed and cuts made by the State. Even if there is a tax increase, the concern is that it might not filter down until April 2011. This would leave agencies to make serious changes or go out of business due to the lack of funding. The Mental Health Board and Developmental Disabilities Board see their role as trying to stabilize the situation and maintain as many critical services as possible.

The priorities of the Mental Health Board include focusing on the youth services sector. The Parenting with Love & Limits program (implemented in partnership with the Court Services Department and the State's Attorney) and the Access Initiative Project (a federal cooperative agreement) will focus primarily on youth of color who are over-represented in the juvenile justice system. Six additional staff and Parsons were hired by the Mental Health Board to run the Access Initiative Project. The Developmental Disabilities Board money is integrated with the MHB money in an effort to further its impact. Other areas of interest for FY2011 will include the established Drug Court and the Mental Health Court that is being implemented. The MHB provides about \$200,000 in funding to the Drug Court. Tracy is looking into how funding can be redirected to provide adequate services for people involved in the Mental Health Court when it is initiated. The integration of physical and behavioral health is another area of concentration for the boards. The MHB has co-funded a perinatal depression program with the County Board of Health for the past two years. Because of budgetary issues, the Board of Health will not be able to contribute to the program in FY2011. The MHB will continue that program because the board thinks it is important. A significant challenge facing the boards has to do with the gaps caused by the State of Illinois's budgetary situation.

The Developmental Disabilities Board (DDB) will focus on five major areas: vocational services, flexible family support, residential, comprehensive services for young children, and the adult day programming. The DDB has redirected money to support the apartment services for people with developmental disabilities because the State walked away from this program. The DDB also funds three family groups related to developmental disabilities.

Richards entered the hearing at 5:51 p.m.

Tracy spoke about service integration and efforts to work with partners in County government. These areas of integration include the Memorandum of Understanding between the MHB and DDB for coordination and staff support and the Memoranda of Understanding with the County Board for Drug Court and the Quarter Cent Fund. The MHB is attempting to maintain all

the programs funded through the Quarter Cent Fund, such as the RPC Diversion Program and the Don Moyer Boys & Girls Club. The MHB is adding some of its money to these programs because of lacking revenue. Staff meets on a quarterly basis with a group that includes the State's Attorney, Court Services staff, and Connie Kaiser from the Juvenile Detention Center to review how the Quarter Cent money is being used. Another area of collaboration is the Parenting with Love & Limits program. The MHB works with law enforcement and the State's Attorney on this evidence-based practice. There are also a couple of anti-stigma programs that use the Roger Ebert Film Festival and the Disability Expo as centerpieces. Tracy offered to answer any questions from the Board.

Wysocki appreciated the overview of programs and funding sources versus the state revenue. She asked Tracy if the MHB and DDB would be able to fulfill these projects next year or would some projects need to be traded off to fulfill certain programs. Tracy said trading may be possible, but it will be subject to conversations with the agencies during the course of the year. The boards have given staff the authority to redirect money if necessary through a contract amendment process. Tracy wants to try and maintain the major priorities. All of the federal grant matches are from programs funded by the MHB and DDB. These matches have to continue to be a priority or they will lose the federal Access Initiative money. A big investment was made to the Parenting With Love & Limits program as the evidence-based practice. It is showing good returns. The project developer, Scott Sells, will be at the October MHB meeting to provide research on the project's impact and recidivism numbers.

MOTION by Beckett to receive and place on file the Mental Health Board & Developmental Disabilities Board budget presentation; seconded by Weibel. **Motion carried with unanimous support.**

RPC & Related Funds

Cameron Moore and Elizabeth Murphy distributed the Regional Planning Commission (RPC) budget. Moore explained the FY2011 proposed budget is in the neighborhood of \$22 million. This budget accommodates over 116 departments with 85% of the income coming from federal and state grants. Salaries and fringe benefits amount to 65% of total expense. Moore anticipates slightly reduced staffing levels during the next year. Continuation of staffing levels is related to the enhanced federal stimulus funding for the Weatherization program, LIHEAP, National Spatial Data Infrastructure Grant, Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants, State Metro Planning Grant, and the Safe Routes to Schools contract with the City of Champaign. RPC hopes the Safe Routes to Schools will be an ongoing contract with the City of Champaign. He anticipated those grants and programs would have the same funding level or some growth in FY2011.

The County Planning Contract is budgeted at \$68,833. This is a 10% decrease from the current year as directed by the County Board. The membership dues the County pays to RPC are budgeted at \$22,365 for FY2011. This represents a 0% increase for third year in a row. Senior Services programs will absorb a 4% decrease. The Mental Health Board also provides support for the Senior Services programs. The County's support for CUUATS through the Highway Department will be increased by 5% for total of \$26,284. This type of increase is a standard practice for CUUATS and the CUUATS members have agreed to continue this practice. This money leverages over \$475,000 in other state and federal funding. The Court Diversion project is

budgeted at \$141,302, which is a 0% increase. The Police Training local match will increase by 5% to \$6,652 and is tied to state grant contributions to leverage other funding. The County's portion of the GIS Consortium funding will include the base allocation of \$214,245 and additional funding of \$19,565 for the Assessment Mapping Project. The GIS Consortium funding has taken a 10% cut from the current amount. It will be combined with the Champaign County GIS Special Projects budget at about \$31,500. Moore stated RPC has tried to be realistic in drafting the budget while also building in flexibility. He feels it represents a stable budget over the current year. RPC will probably begin to see significant revenue declines about this time next year.

Kurtz asked how much the RPC budget will decrease as the federal stimulus funding comes to an end. It was hard for Moore to predict the impact because some programs that received significant increases through the stimulus package have seen a continuation of funding. He was concerned with the LIHEAP funding at federal level. It appears likely that LIHEAP will be cut to pre-stimulus levels. He anticipates the increases in the Weatherization program could continue. Murphy confirmed the Weatherization and Head Start expansions will extend to next June and September respectively.

Wysocki asked Moore to describe how the financial picture translates to the personnel growth over the last year. Moore stated RPC has so many different funding sources which are experiencing different levels of fluctuation. RPC personnel has increased by 30 people when compared to the pre-stimulus figures. Most of the personnel increases were in the LIHEAP, Weatherization, and Head Start programs. He has seen some staff contraction in the transportation area.

Gladney entered the hearing at 6:08 p.m.

Moore issued nine layoff notices in Head Start at the beginning of the summer. This was in anticipation of a significant loss in state funding. The state came through very late and RPC is in the process of recalling all nine layoffs. These individuals were simply moved to other positions in Head Start not funded by the state.

Wysocki inquired if the Weatherization program involved year-long positions. Moore explained RPC does weatherization evenly through the year. The LIHEAP program has big surges during the year with people looking for assistance. LIHEAP mostly involves year-round employees.

Weibel exited the hearing at 6:09 p.m. Jay entered the hearing at 6:10 p.m. Weibel returned to the hearing at 6:10 p.m.

Ammons asked Moore about the revenue sources described in the budget. Moore expressed that some funding sources are very restrictive. Every minute staff spends working has to be charged to a particular funding source and multiple staff can be charged to a funding source.

MOTION by Beckett to receive and place on file the RPC & Related Funds budget presentation; seconded by Nudo. **Motion carried with unanimous support.**

Jeff Blue was not yet present to give his presentation on the County Highway budget. The Board waited for him to arrive.

Knott exited the hearing at 6:13 p.m. Langenheim entered the hearing at 6:16 p.m. Kurtz exited at 6:16 p.m. Knott returned to the hearing at 6:17 p.m. Kurtz returned at 6:18 p.m.

Champaign County Highway

Jeff Blue distributed the Champaign County Highway budget presentation manual to the County Board members. Blue reviewed the changes to the Highway organizational chart.

Weibel exited the hearing at 6:23 p.m.

Blue presented the budget highlights and purposes of each fund. The Motor Fuel Tax Fund budgeting was decreased by 10% from previous years due to a lack of revenue. The State Legislature promised a 15% increase in MFT allotments for five years to help compensate for the increased wear caused by the law allowing 80,000-pound trucks on roads. Blue has not seen this promised increase yet and he is not depending on it. He talked about the relationship between the township road districts and the County Highway Department. The township road districts receive help from the County Highway Department on engineering and construction. The County also does the townships' programs and bidding. Blue spoke about the benefit of having CUUATS to perform all the regional transportation planning and studies on corridors and traffic. He felt this is money well spent. Blue announced the sign program should be completed this year.

Weibel returned to the hearing at 6:30 p.m. Richards exited the hearing at 6:30 p.m.

Of the \$2.4 million revenue in the Highway Fund, \$1.6 million is spent on personnel. That accounts for the salaries of all Highway employees, except for Blue. Other commodities are paid by this fund, including a large amount of diesel. Blue reminded the Board about the truck that caught on fire and was replaced with a new truck. Having a new truck now will lessen maintenance costs in the near future. Blue's budget anticipates expending the total \$2.4 million for a balanced budget. The Highway expense per capita will decrease in FY2011. Highway has continued to come close to projected costs when projects are built. The pavement management study shows the roads are being kept in pretty good shape overall.

The County Bridge Fund supplies money for the engineering of bridges and culverts. Blue budgeted \$900,000 for this fund in FY2011. He reviewed a number of county bridge projects coming up in the future.

Ammons exited the hearing at 6:38 p.m.

Blue is working with IDOT to determine whether some of the \$2.5 million road improvement project for County Road 11 can be funded with federal aid. This would lessen the County's burden for the project. The Motor Fuel Tax Fund will have an unbalanced budget in FY2011. Blue is trying to stay on top of road maintenance to keep the pavement condition index in a good place. The Motor Fuel Tax Fund source is the distribution of taxes on gas. Nineteen cents per gallon goes to the state's Motor Fuel Tax Fund. The state's portion is 45.6%. The local portion

is 54.4%, of which counties with populations under of one million (like Champaign County) receive 18.27% of that amount. The report from the 2010 pavement management analysis by Applied Research Associates was included. Blue described how the reconstruction costs can escalate if maintenance is not performed on schedule.

Ammons returned to the hearing at 6:44 p.m.

Weibel asked why no work was planned on County Road 22 until after 2014 when the pavement management study shows the road has differing conditions. Blue explained it is the last seal coat road on the County system. This road is rougher with more cracking, but does not have much traffic.

Knott asked whether Blue had a total figure on Olympian Drive and how that would impact the fund balance. Blue said there would be a presentation during the Committee of the Whole meeting about Olympian Drive. Blue answered questions from other Board members about the increased maintenance being done on the County's roads in concurrence with the pavement management study.

Wysocki inquired how the program of having the Highway Department maintain the County's fleet of vehicles was working. Blue said the program was working out beautifully. He thought it was saving the other departments both time and money. There are two mechanics on staff now. The General Corporate Fund transfers money to Highway to pay for the mechanic positions and the individual departments are billed for the parts.

Jay asked the Board members to look at the Motor Fuel Tax Fund flowchart Blue provided to notice that the municipalities receive a larger portion of the funding than counties do.

Moser entered the hearing at 6:53 p.m.

MOTION by Beckett to receive and place on file the Champaign County Highway Department budget presentation; seconded by Weibel. **Motion carried with unanimous support.**

ADJOURNMENT

The hearing was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kat Bork
Administrative Assistant

Secy's note: The minutes reflect the order of the agenda and may not necessarily reflect the order of business conducted at the meeting.