

1 **FINANCE COMMITTEE – BUDGET HEARING**

2
3 Government Center
4 West Bend, WI

October 2, 2008
8:30 a.m.

5
6 Present: Ralph R. Hensel, Joan A. Russell, Richard L. Bertram, Leslie J. Borman and Bill Meyers.

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8 Also Present: County Board Chair Herbert J. Tennes, Administrative Coordinator Douglas A.
9 Johnson, Finance Director Susan M. Haag, County Clerk Brenda J. Jaszewski, and Administrative
10 Assistant Judy Steinert.

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12 Chairperson Hensel reconvened the meeting at 8:30 a.m.

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14 **Highway**

15 The Highway Department budget was presented by Commissioner Ken Pesch, Assistant to the
16 Commissioner Barbara Villwock, and Transit Manager Joe Steier. Mr. Johnson presented the base
17 level funding of \$3,073,848 (includes Transit) and the recommended budget is \$3,343,365 (+10.4%).
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19 All funding requested for the Highway Department by the Transportation Committee except for the
20 Highway P reconstruction project is recommended. Increasing fuel and material costs stretch highway
21 services with a small levy increase. Fuel costs have had a major impact on taxi services, which are
22 essential to many who cannot or should not drive. Reductions in one vehicle purchase and in the State
23 Fair bus service were needed to trim the impact on county tax levy.
24

25 **Decision items funded:** (net county levy)

- 26 • Continue Railroad Consortium funding as member county @ \$25,000
 - 27 • Shared Ride Taxi Service Contract at Requested level @ \$190,167
 - 28 • 4 of 5 requested vehicle purchases for Taxi Service @ \$35,200
 - 29 • Routematch software and continued marketing levels @ \$19,150
- 30

31 **Not yet funded:**

- 32 • One added vehicle purchase for Taxi Service @ \$8,800
 - 33 • County subsidy for State Fair event busses @ \$5,850
 - 34 • Road reconstruction project CTH P from STH 60 N @ \$ 600,000
 - 35 • Road reconstruction project CTH P from Northwest Passage N @ \$400,000
- 36

37 **Outlay:** Highway vehicles and equipment @ \$770,000 funded by Highway Equipment Replacement
38 Fund; vehicles for taxi fleet @ \$176,000.

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40 **One more thing:** The change in status of Richfield from a town to a village has affected the rate for
41 County Bridge Aid. The County Bridge Aid portion of the tax levy is assessed only to the towns. The
42 purpose of the levy is help towns repair bridges in their municipalities. The levy for bridge aid has
43 increased by \$100,000 and the values that it is assessed to has been reduced by the amount of the
44 Village of Richfield. Richfield will no longer participate in this program.

45
46 Moved by Mr. Bertram, seconded by Mr. Borman, to tentatively approve the Highway Department
47 2009 recommended budget and levy, including outlay and user fees, in the amount of \$3,343,365.
48 Motion carried with Ms. Russell voting no.

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50 **Veterans Service**

1 The Veterans Service budget was presented by Veterans Service Officer Mark Baldwin. Mr. Johnson
2 presented the 2009 base level funding of \$147,532 and the recommended budget is \$172,710
3 (+18.8%).

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5 During 2008, a new staff person was hired into the full-time Administrative Secretary position. This
6 person is participating in the county health insurance plan, not previously budgeted. There was also an
7 error in calculating the correct I.S. charge for Veterans Service when the 2008 budget was prepared.
8 These items have been properly addressed in the 2009 budget and are responsible for the higher than
9 usual increase.

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11 **Decision items funded:**

- 12 • Continue Requested level of IS services @ \$3,609
- 13 • Continue part-time office staff position @ 14,669
- 14 • Flags and markers at recommended level @ \$4,000
- 15 • Outreach and training travel at recommended level @ \$ 1,400
- 16 • Veteran relief funds @ \$1,500

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18 **One more thing:** Positive cooperation has been evident between Veterans Service and the new Aging
19 and Disability Resource Center, assuring that veterans can use these services without gaps or barriers.
20 Direct outreach to returning Iraq/ Afghanistan Veterans will continue to be provided.

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22 Moved by Mr. Borman, seconded by Ms. Russell to tentatively approve the Veterans Service 2009
23 recommended budget and levy in the amount of \$172,710. Motion carried.

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25 **Health Department**

26 The Health Department budget was presented by Director Linda Walter. Mr. Johnson presented the
27 2009 base level funding of \$1,146,129 and the recommended budget is \$1,226,369 (+8.6%).

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29 Each year it is more challenging for the Health Dept. to provide services at the level expected by the
30 public. Any anticipated surge (e.g. spring flooding or a communicable disease outbreak) quickly
31 reveals the limits of current resources. The Board of Health is being proactive and using the 2006-2010
32 Strategic Plans to request realistic staffing increases to increase capacity.

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34 **Decision items funded:**

- 35 • Continue all current staff hours without reduction @ \$46,731
- 36 • New Environmental Health Specialist ¾ time to begin April 1 @ \$33,509

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38 **Not yet funded:**

- 39 • Requested start date of January for Environmental Health Specialist @ \$11,170

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41 **One more thing:** RN's will be one position specifically reviewed when the County updates the Pay
42 Plan, proposed for 2009. During the past year, one full-time and one ¾ time public health nurse were
43 recruited by other agencies that paid more. Three other professional staff have either resigned, given
44 notice, or reduced hours. Public health nurse positions are required by State law to be filled by four-
45 year degreed nurses (BSN).

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47 Moved by Mr. Bertram, seconded by Mr. Borman, to tentatively approve the Health Department 2009
48 recommended budget and levy, including the position request, out of state travel and user fees, in the
49 amount of \$1,226,369. Motion carried.

Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC)

The ADRC budget was presented by Director Linda Olson. Mr. Johnson reported the base level funding is \$414,377 and the recommended budget is \$345,175 (-16.7%).

Family Care participation has brought a significant amount of State and Federal revenue to this department, since becoming a State designated ADRC as of February 1. These revenues have allowed county levy to adequately cover usual cost increases and to be reduced below 2008 levels.

Outlay: Refrigerators @ \$5,000, and Storage/Work space at \$5,000.

One more thing: Additional funding generated by the ADRC from Federal Medicaid match must be used to further expand and enhance the ADRC. In 2009, the intent is to establish a satellite office in the southern part of the county as funds become available.

Moved by Mr. Meyers, seconded by Mr. Bertram to tentatively approve the Aging and Disability Resource Center 2009 recommended budget and levy, including outlay and out of state travel, in the amount of \$345,175 and Indirect Costs of \$75,202 for a total levy of \$420,377. Motion carried.

Human Services

The Human Services budget was presented by Program Director Jim Strachota. Mr. Johnson presented the 2009 base level funding of \$9,338,560 and the recommended budget is \$9,558,333 (+3.9%).

This budget is the first one for the newly merged departments. At the same time it includes full implementation of Family Care. The needs of individuals supported by the department can be met with increased levy at the pace county government as a whole. Budget problems identified during the merger have been addressed, including lay-offs of three staff in a unit eliminated as a result of Family Care.

Decision items funded:

- Continue Acute Care Services staffing at current levels @ \$82,735
- Supplement and continue current Economic Support staffing @ \$102,038
- Mental health inpatient placement costs above Base budget @ \$40,000

Outlay: Youth Treatment Center appliance @ \$800

One more thing: "Emergency Human Services 24/7 – No program area has more potential for improved operations in the HSD than the opportunity to consolidate and implement a comprehensive, integrated system of emergency human services." (From Washington County Human Services Study Report, March 2008) This budget calls on the HSD to include a new approach to Juvenile Intake in these services by April 2009.

Moved by Mr. Borman, seconded by Mr. Meyers, to tentatively approve the Human Services 2009 recommended budget and levy, including position requests, outlay, and user fees, in the amount of \$9,558,333, and Indirect Costs of \$674,180, for a total levy of \$10,232,513. Motion carried.

Moved by Ms Russell, seconded by Mr. Bertram to recess the meeting at 11:22 a.m. until Monday October 6, 2008, at 8:30 a.m. Motion carried.