

1 **FINANCE COMMITTEE – BUDGET HEARING**

2
3 Government Center
4 West Bend, WI

October 8, 2008
8:30 a.m.

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

7
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.

11
12 Chairperson Hensel reconvened the meeting at 8:30 a.m.

13
14 **Sheriff**

15 Moved by Mr. Meyers, seconded by Mr. Bertram to use \$25,000 from the Tower Rental Reserve
16 account to be applied to the 2009 Sheriff's department levy. Motion carried.

17
18 **Human Services**

19 Moved by Mr. Bertram, seconded by Mr. Borman to use \$30,000 from the W-2 account to be applied
20 to the 2009 Human Services levy. Motion carried.

21
22 **Culture Fund - Historical Society**

23 The Historical Society budget was presented by Executive Director Chip Beckford. Mr. Johnson
24 presented the total base level funding for the Historical Society portion of \$398,866 and the
25 recommended budget is \$413,866 (\$190,000 Historical Society Support, \$223,866 Facility
26 Maintenance).

27
28 In this difficult economy, the Historical Society is in need of increased support to continue a solid base
29 of operations and programming. In an attempt to reach the level of funding 50% of the Historical
30 Society annual operating budget, the County takes a second step in a three-year plan to move from levy
31 support of \$163,000 to \$200,000 in 2010.

32
33 **Decision item funded:**

- 34
 - Increased operations support for Historical Society @ \$15,000

35
36 The Committee recommends the 2009 Historical Society support remain the same as 2008 at \$175,000.

37
38 Moved by Mr. Bertram, seconded by Mr. Borman, to tentatively approve the Culture Fund-Historical
39 Society 2009 budget and levy in the amount of \$398,866 (\$175,000 Historical Society Support,
40 \$223,866 Facility Maintenance). Motion carried.

41
42 **Culture Fund - Convention and Visitors Bureau**

43 The Convention and Visitors Bureau budget was presented by Executive Director Roger Kist. Mr.
44 Johnson presented the base level budget of \$35,625 and the recommended budget is \$0.

45
46 **Not yet funded:**

- 47
 - County participation in the Convention and Visitors Bureau @ \$35,000

48
49 During each of the past five years, Washington County provided about half of the annual funding for
50 the Washington County Convention and Visitors Bureau, a private, non-profit organization. The

1 funding plan for this organization was to also secure minimal contributions from cities and villages
2 with hotel room tax revenues, with potential for this to increase based on the results. Communities
3 expect return on investment for their funding. Both West Bend and Hartford have concluded that their
4 room taxes are better used for tourism promotion through their respective Chambers of Commerce.
5 Since 2005 neither city has contributed to the CVB, and neither plans any funding for 2009. It is
6 recommended that the County also end its funding for the CVB in the 2009 Budget.

7
8 A new Partnership Plan was negotiated to try to define a formula for on-going contributions by all
9 municipalities with room taxes and by the County and a change in leadership for the CVB with an
10 emphasis on marketing and the ability to better plan a strategy that shows results for the funding
11 invested. The local municipalities were unable to reach an agreement on a 2009 plan.

12
13 Moved by Mr. Meyers, seconded by Mr. Bertram, to tentatively approve the Washington County
14 Convention and Visitor's Bureau 2009 recommended budget and county levy in the amount of \$0.
15 Motion carried.

16 UW-Extension

17 The UW-Extension budget was presented by the Community Development Educator/Department Head
18 Kandi O'Neil. Mr. Johnson presented the base level funding of \$575,732 and the recommended
19 budget is \$581,937 (+2.6%).
20

21
22 The Requested budget continues the current staffing plan and use of Fair Park facilities at next year's
23 costs.

24 **Decision item funded:**

- 25 • Requested level use of Fair Park for educational events @ \$ 6,205

26
27
28 **One more thing:** 2008 marked the sixth year that UW-Extension Family Living has co-sponsored
29 Youth Money Smart College. Over 300 teens and parents received interactive educational information
30 about personal financial education. Keynote addresses have included information on the importance of
31 a good education to becoming financially secure, giving back to the community through service, and
32 identity theft.

33
34 Moved by Mr. Meyers, seconded by Mr. Borman, to tentatively approve the UW-Extension 2009
35 recommended budget and levy, including out of state travel in the amount of \$581,937. Motion
36 carried.

37 Fair Park

38 The Fair Park budget was presented by Director Nancy Justman. Mr. Johnson presented the base level
39 budget of \$205,000 and the recommended budget is \$205,000 (no increase).
40

41
42 The Requested budget is the same as last year. 2008 was a year of additional financial obligations
43 (Ziegler Family Exposition Center construction loan) and exceptional events (both 150th County Fair
44 and Harley H.O.G. Haven). County levy support at the same amount is appropriate for 2009 while Fair
45 Park manages the financial obligations of paying for the new building. There are no national events
46 booked for next year.

47
48 **One more thing:** Fair Park continues to be a venue for fund raisers for local community
49 organizations. Coming soon (October 3 – 19) is the White House Exhibit celebrating the Spirit of

1 America. This 60 ft. long authentic replica of the White House visits Wisconsin for the last time, on its
2 way from the Republican National Convention in the Twin Cities to a permanent location in
3 Washington, D.C.

4
5 The Committee discussed the funding level for Fair Park and concerns regarding the recommended
6 amount of \$205,000.

7
8 Moved by Ms. Russell to tentatively approve the Fair Park 2009 recommended budget and levy, in the
9 amount of \$205,000. Motion died for lack of a second. Moved by Mr. Borman, seconded by Mr.
10 Hensel to tentatively approve the Fair Park 2009 budget and levy in the amount of \$200,000. Motion
11 failed with Ms. Russell, Mr. Meyers, and Mr. Bertram voting no. Moved by Mr. Bertram, seconded by
12 Mr. Meyers to approve the Fair Park 2009 budget and levy in the amount of \$190,000. Motion carried
13 with Ms. Russell voting no.

14
15 **Planning & Parks, Highway, Medical Examiner**

16 Moved by Mr. Borman, seconded by Ms. Russell to reduce the Planning and Parks 2009 Outlay
17 account by \$12,400. Motion carried.

18
19 Moved by Mr. Borman, seconded by Mr. Meyers to reduce the Highway (Transit) Outlay account by
20 \$12,600, and to approve the change made by the Transportation Committee regarding 2009 user fees
21 for the elderly and disabled for the shared ride Taxi from a \$.50 increase to a \$.25 increase. Motion
22 carried.

23
24 Moved by Mr. Bertram seconded by Mr. Borman, to reduce the Medical Examiner 2009 Training
25 account \$2,000. Motion carried.

26
27 Moved by Mr. Bertram, seconded by Mr. Borman to reduce the County Board 2009 Travel account by
28 \$1,500, by eliminating the out of state travel, per the request of the County Board Chair. Motion
29 carried.

30
31 Moved by Ms. Russell, seconded by Mr. Bertram, to reduce the County Treasurer Delinquent Penalty
32 revenue account by \$14,000. Motion carried.

33
34 Mr. Hensel recessed the meeting at 12:05 p.m. and reconvened at 12:20 p.m.

35
36 **Review Budget/Set Levy**

37 Moved by Ms. Russell, seconded by Mr. Bertram to approve and forward to the County Board, the
38 2009 budget with total expenses in the amount of \$125,691,755 and total revenues in the amount of
39 \$87,348,605, for a total levy of \$38,343,150. Motion carried.

40
41 Moved by Mr. Meyers, seconded by Mr. Borman to approve the 2009 County tax rates as follows:
42 County - \$2.7102, County Bridge Aid - \$.0308, and County Library - \$.2283. Motion carried.

43
44 Moved by Ms. Russell, seconded by Mr. Borman, to adjourn at 12:36 a.m. Motion carried.