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**WASHINGTON COUNTY
FINANCE COMMITTEE BUDGET HEARING**

Government Center
West Bend, WI

October 7, 2013
8:00 a.m.

Present: Ralph Hensel, Leslie Borman, Raymond Heidtke, Robert Milich and Todd White.

Also Present: Administrative Coordinator Douglas Johnson, County Board Chairperson Herbert Tennes, Finance Director Susan Haag, County Clerk Brenda Jaszewski, Chief Deputy County Clerk Linda Doro, Assistant Finance Director Kathie Wild, Assistant Finance Director Dave Owens, and Supervisors Joseph Gonnering, Rick Gundrum, Philip Laubenheimer, Marilyn Merten, Dennis Myers, Thomas Niebler, and Gerald Schulz.

Chairperson Hensel reconvened the meeting at 8:00 a.m.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY

The District Attorney budget was presented by District Attorney Mark Bensen and Office Supervisor Jane Koepke. Mr. Johnson presented the base level funding of \$498,990 and the recommended budget is \$516,905 (+2.5% above 2013 levy). Health insurance costs for the same staffing plan increased by \$19,647 above the 2013 Budget. A Base level budget would have been possible at the 2013 level, except for this line item. A staffing reduction is not recommended, given the work expectations for this department.

Decision Items Funded:

1. Keep current staffing or reduce one full-time office position to 2/3-time @ \$17,915

One More Thing: Prosecuting crimes to protect the public continues to be more challenging than ever. Accomplishments in 2013 included criminal convictions obtained in felony physical abuse of a child, felony sexual abuse and felony domestic violence. Other notable cases involved possession of child pornography and drug overdose.

Moved by Mr. Heidtke, seconded by Mr. Milich to tentatively approve the District Attorney 2014 recommended budget and levy in the amount of \$516,905. Motion carried.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Historical Society budget was presented by Executive Director Patricia Lutz. Mr. Johnson presented the total base level funding for the Historical Society, including the cost of operating the Old Courthouse buildings, of \$343,399 and the recommended level of funding is \$343,399 (-1% below 2013 levy). Requested budget is at the Base level set by Finance Committee on May 29.

The \$144,520 from the County for the Historical Society covers 42% of their general operations costs. They are diligent in holding down expenses by requesting gift-in-kind work from the community and using volunteers to perform needed tasks such as data entry of the archives and collections and leading tours for school children and adults. The Society has improved its membership contributions and surpassed prior year totals. Through adhering to their mission and earning the respect of the community, the Society continues to receive support from local Foundations and the community. The \$198,879 from the County for Old Courthouse Buildings is a reduction of 1% for these facilities costs.

1 **One More Thing:** During the past year, the Historical Society has been creative in advancing new
2 approaches that are productive and collaborative. A dedicated classroom was completed in January,
3 supported by a matching grant from the West Bend Community Foundation, a WeEnergies Foundation
4 grant, and donations from members. They collaborated with the Schauer Center and libraries to acquire
5 a grant to present a Big Read program on Edgar Allan Poe, now underway. They spearheaded the
6 development of the Moraine History Network to link local groups; a first group outing, an introductory
7 bus tour is set for October. The Internship Program with UW-Washington County is growing. This
8 summer, the Society had five interns working in different areas of the Museums.

9
10 Moved by Mr. Milich, seconded by Mr. Borman to tentatively approve the Historical Society 2014
11 budget and levy in the amount of \$343,398 (\$144,519 Historical Society Support and \$198,879 Old
12 Courthouse Buildings-Facility Maintenance). Motion carried.

13 CLERK OF COURTS

14 The Clerk of Courts budget was presented by Clerk of Circuit and Juvenile Courts Theresa Russell. Mr.
15 Johnson presented the base level funding of \$1,838,157 and the recommended budget is \$1,853,740 (-
16 0.2% below 2013 levy). With increased collection of fines and fees, this department has reduced the
17 need for levy below the 2013 Budget. Through cooperation between the Sheriff's Dept. and the Courts,
18 an effective and cost-conscious security system continues to operate for the Justice Center. Costs are
19 going up for this service in 2014, but remain well below the \$646,424 amount budgeted in 2011.

20 **Decision Items Funded:**

- 21
22
23 1. Fund increased cost of court security services provided by the Sheriff's Dept. @ \$15,583
24

25 **One More Thing:** The Clerk of Circuit Court was also appointed Clerk of Juvenile Court in 2013.
26 Accomplishments realized include the creation of procedures and updated forms for the juvenile
27 division; reduction of overtime; and implementation of reimbursement of fees per State Statutes.

28
29 Moved by Mr. White, seconded by Mr. Heidtke to tentatively approve the Clerk of Courts 2014
30 recommended budget, including User Fees and Out of State Travel, which includes car rental, for a total
31 net levy in the amount of \$1,853,740. Motion carried.

32 MEDICAL EXAMINER

33 The Medical Examiner budget was presented by Medical Examiner Bob Posont. Mr. Johnson presented
34 the base level funding of \$282,808 and the recommended budget is \$282,365 (-1.2% below 2013 levy).
35 Requested budget is below the Base level set by Finance Committee on May 29.

36
37
38 **One More Thing:** Both here and across the state, there are demographic and cultural changes that are
39 placing pressures on the workload of county Medical Examiner departments. As our population grows
40 older and Washington County becomes an attractive destination for senior living, the number of deaths
41 of individuals age 80 and older is rapidly increasing. In 2006, there were 221 deaths in this group; for
42 2013 the number is projected to reach 540. More families are also choosing cremation. In 2006, there
43 were 300 cremations processed; for 2013 the number is projected to reach 500.

44
45 Ms. Haag noted discrepancies in the 2014 amounts budgeted for employee benefits and requested more
46 time to investigate this issue. The Committee requested the Medical Examiner return to this Committee
47 on Wednesday, October 9, 2013, for final consideration of the 2014 Medical Examiner budget.

1 Mr. Hensel recessed the meeting at 9:20 a.m. and reconvened at 9:30 a.m.

2
3 **SHERIFF**

4 The Sheriff's Department budget was presented by Sheriff Dale Schmidt, Captain Steve Gonwa,
5 Corrections Administrator Shirley Miller, and Accounting Supervisor Jennifer Rindt. Mr. Johnson
6 presented the base level funding of \$14,958,415 and the recommended budget is \$15,221,550 (+0.7%
7 above 2013 levy). 2013 Ordinance 2 added needed supervisory positions to the Sheriff's Dept. This was
8 approved by the County Board May 14, with a projected 2014 fiscal impact of +\$75,000. In addition,
9 health insurance costs for this department are up \$171,914 from the 2013 Budget. For continuation of
10 current and planned service levels, the Requested budget is recommended by Administration.

11
12 **Decision Items Funded:**

- 13 1. Delay planned purchase of all squad cars until 2015 @ \$213,236
- 14 2. Reduce Jail and Patrol overtime budget @ \$28,299
- 15 3. Cyanosafe Fuming Chamber @ \$6,200
- 16 4. Training Room mats @ \$15,400

17
18 **Outlay:** Nine Impala Squad cars, and other equipment @ \$234,836

19
20 Captain Gonwa discussed the proposed purchase of the nine squad cars for 2014 and explained that after
21 next year, the Chevy Impala will be unavailable for purchase. The cost for vehicle replacements in 2015
22 will be significantly higher because the vehicle to replace the Impala is approximately \$5,000 more per
23 vehicle. In addition, we may not be able to retrofit the cages and other vehicle equipment currently in
24 our Impalas to the new style vehicle. The Committee discussed the funds in the Radio Tower Rent
25 account that are normally non-lapsed each year and are not considered as a part of the budget process.
26 Ms. Haag stated that currently, the balance is \$267,271; however, Sheriff Schmidt indicated there are
27 planned expenses in the amount of approximately \$6,500 for that account for 2013. Mr. White
28 recommends using the balance in this fund to offset the 2014 Sheriff's Department levy.

29
30 Moved by Mr. White, seconded by Mr. Milich to add one Impala squad in 2014, in the amount of
31 \$20,906, bringing the total 2014 Impala squad purchase to ten, and tentatively approve the Sheriff's
32 Department 2014 budget by using the funds in the Radio Tower Rent account, less anticipated 2013
33 expenses, to offset the 2014 levy. Motion defeated.

34
35 Mr. Johnson expressed concern about offsetting levy by using one-time available funds and the impact it
36 will have in future years with the statutory levy limits. Ms. Haag recommends not using these funds to
37 offset the levy, but allow the balance in the account to close to the General Fund at the end of 2013. The
38 Committee discussed using these Radio Tower Rent funds to purchase additional Impala squad cars for
39 the anticipated 2015 vehicle fleet, while the Chevy Impala is still available.

40
41 Moved by Mr. White, seconded by Mr. Milich to add one Impala squad in 2014, in the amount of
42 \$20,906, bringing the total 2014 Impala squad purchase to ten, and increase both the Sheriff's
43 Department revenues and expenses in the amount of \$11,000 for associated radio communications
44 annual costs, and tentatively approve the Sheriff's Department 2014 budget and levy, including Outlay,
45 User Fees, and Jail Assessment requests, for a total net levy in the amount of \$15,242,456, and as of
46 December 31, 2013, the balance in the Radio Tower Rent account is to be closed to the General Fund.
47 Motion carried with Mr. Heidtke voting no.

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1 **VETERANS SERVICE**

2 The Veterans Service budget was presented by Veterans Service Officer Mark Baldwin. Mr. Johnson
3 presented the 2014 base level funding of \$192,969 and the recommended budget is \$213,795 (+9.7%
4 above 2013 levy).

5
6 Health insurance costs for the same staffing plan increased by \$16,970 above 2013 Budget. With this
7 line item at the 2013 level, a 1% budget increase would have resulted.

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9 A staffing reduction is not recommended, given the work expectations for this department.

10
11 **Decision Items Funded:**

- 12 1. Keep current staffing or reduce one full-time office position to part-time @ \$20,826
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14 **One More Thing:** This year, the Administrative Secretary in the department attended and successfully
15 completed accreditation training. This leads to the approval process for on-line access, ahead of the plan
16 to accomplish this in 2015. This capability will increase the ability to serve the local veteran community.

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18 Moved by Mr. Milich, seconded by Mr. White to tentatively approve the Veterans Service 2014
19 recommended budget and levy in the amount of \$213,795. Motion carried.

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21 The Finance Committee was recessed at 11:12 a.m. until Tuesday, October 8, 2013, at 8:00 a.m.
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Brenda Jaszewski, County Clerk