

**FINANCE COMMITTEE SPECIAL BUDGET HEARING  
SEPTEMBER 19, 2012  
5:15 P.M.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Tim Dudley  
Jay Dunn, Vice Chair  
Kevin Greenfield  
Linda Little  
Mark Wicklund  
Susanna Zimmerman

**COUNTY PERSONNEL PRESENT**

Amy Stockwell, Auditor  
Bruce Bird, Highway Dept  
Rodney Forbes, Public Defenders  
Michael Day, Coroner  
Dennis Crowley, Mental Health Board  
Julie Aubert, Health Dept.  
Mary Eaton, Recorder

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Chair Keith Ashby

This meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Dunn at the Macon County Office Building.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion to approve minutes of prior meeting made by Mark Wicklund, seconded by Susanna Zimmerman, and motion carried (6-0).

**PROPOSED FY13 BUDGETS**

*Highway Dept*

Bruce Bird said the committee should have the handout that he had distributed and stated if they had any questions, he would be happy to answer them. He said he does have an extra handout. He mentioned he has previously shared this information with Vice Chair Dunn. He began by saying since 2006 to present day; their share of the motor fuel tax revenue is down \$900,000 a year. He and Mr. Dunn drafted a letter and sent it to IDOT, they sent back some information, but was not very detailed and stated they should figure it out themselves. On the front page of the handout shows that Macon County was down 7.34% from 2005 through 2009. He stated their overall amount from 2006-2011; it is almost a 30% decrease. He stated part of the money from MFT also comes from the increase of motor vehicle registration fees that everyone pays. On the next pages show the breakdown of revenue received from Motor Vehicle Registration fees. These are also broke down by counties from the period of 2005 through 2009; this indicate an increase for Macon County. He stated on the third page it shows a dramatic increase from 2008 to 2009 for all the counties excluding Chicago/Cook County. He mentioned this is not just happening in Macon County, a lot of counties are experiencing this, as well. He stated at least 90% of the counties had decreases. Most of the counties will be questioning IDOT why there is an increase in Motor Vehicle Registration and a decrease in the counties' MFT shares. He stated the County does get an annual payment of \$350,000 per year for 5 year from the Capital Bill passed several years ago. This helps in getting their roads paved. However, having a deficit of \$900,000 and then getting \$350,000 in revenue, there is still a deficit over \$600,000. If and when he gets an answer from IDOT, he will share this with the committee.

Kevin Greenfield asked what his 5 year plan since the dwindling of funds. Mr. Bird stated he always has a 5 year plan when it comes to construction expenses. They have already started to look at what they can and cannot do. He shared these ideas with Mr. Greenfield.

Mark Wicklund made the motion to approve and send onto display, seconded by Zimmerman, motion carried. (6-0).

#### *Public Defender*

Vice Chair Dunn stated before Rodney Forbes start, he wants to distribute handouts to the committee. Mr. Dunn requested the committee to refer to the packet titled Public Defender Clientele Report 2011. He highlighted areas that he would like the committee to look at. These figures that he highlighted indicate the number of felony, misdemeanors, and the projected total for 2012. He commented Macon County Public Defender attorneys are averaging 365 cases per year. The standard case for a Public Defender's attorney is 150 per year. This is more than double the standard amount. Vice Chair Dunn stated Mr. Forbes did not request an increase in salary for any of his staff members and attorneys when his budget was presented at the over site committee. Mr. Dunn has requested for Mr. Forbes to reflex an increase in salary on his budget. He stated last year they did get a raise, but the three years prior to that, no raises were given for staff or attorneys. In fact their salaries decreased due to health care cost increases. He had requested also for Mr. Forbes to increase his equipment line item \$3000 more for car maintenance. Vice Chair Dunn requested Mr. Forbes to give everyone of his staff members a \$3000 raise. This would cost approximately \$21,500. He asked Mr. Forbes to make an increase in his the salary lines and then do merit evaluations; because there is an extreme in the range of salaries for his attorneys. He believes raises should be based on merits.

Chair Dunn asked the committee to refer to the second handout that he distributed. This handout indicates the raises that have occurred for the five years for the States Attorney's Office. He has placed an "x" by the attorneys would have received more than 15%. He figures at a 3% raise each year for 5 years would total 15%. He stated he doesn't attend all the Justice meeting, but he doesn't recall any conversation about people taking on extra duties, which would warrant these kind of increases. He feels he needs an explanation for some of these raises. He knows when Martha Eller retired, she was making \$76,000; and her replacement, Ruth Waller is making \$80,000. He has a hard time understanding these kinds of raises. He wants the committee to compare this to what is going on in the Public Defender's Office. He feels the Public Defender's Office is getting "short changed." The Public Defender's Office always does what they are asked to do. He would like for the Public Defender's budget to be amended for these reasons.

Rodney Forbes thanked Vice Chair Dunn for letting the committee know what is going on in the Public Defender's Office. He stated he would be happy of ask any questions about the budget or the inner working of his office.

Linda Little asked Mr. Forbes if the suggestion that Vice Chair Dunn just made, are these suggestions reflected in what she is looking at now. Mr. Forbes stated no. The proposed budget does not include salary increases, he just maintained approximately the same amount of money that he could.

Linda Little asked if he plans to do regular performance evaluation on his employees. Mr. Forbes stated if he is given the opportunity to give raises, he thinks they should be merit and evaluation based. He stated if they were to give 3% increases then that discrepancies/gap between salaries will continue to increase over the years. He feels some adjustments need to be made, because he has some very hardworking attorneys with low paying salaries who have merited an increase. Ms. Little commented she would like to see going forward in giving regular performance evaluations along with documentation of these evaluations. She feels it should be done semi-annually or annually. She is a firm believer in this. He agrees with Ms. Little.

Vice Chair Dunn stated he would entertain a motion to increase his budget by \$24,500, (\$3,000 in car maintenance line and \$21,500 for merit raises. Linda Little stated she will make that motion with the understanding the raises will be given meritorious on their evaluation. This was seconded by Mark Wicklund. Motion Carried (6-0).

Kevin Greenfield asked of all the cases handled, which are plea-bargained out. Mr. Forbes stated he does not know the exact number. He stated this is a rough estimate but feels approximately 20% are plea agreements that he works out. He informed the committee the process of plea agreements.

Kevin Greenfield asked if these cases do go to trial, what is the win/loss ratio? Mr. Forbes said he doesn't know if they have compiled these statistics, but he could try and present them to him.

Linda Little asked what sort of liabilities is the County at risk, based on the recommended number of caseload. Mr. Forbes said this is an epidemic nationwide; Public Defender's caseloads are extreme. The American Bar Assn. published an article on how the defendants can sue the counties based on a theory that they was not provided an attorney, because the caseloads where so high.

Linda Little asked how are the Public Defender's caseload compared to the caseloads of the States Attorney. He stated on felonies cases his office handles 98% of them. He believes 80% are misdemeanors. The States Attorney's and the Public Defender's office are really two very different offices. They work within the same criminal justice system and handle the same cases, but they are two completely different entities. As far as criminal cases, the major of these cases are handled by his office.

Linda Little made the motion to approve the budget as amended, seconded by Mark Wicklund. Motion Carried. (6-0).

Mark Wicklund wanted clarification that the equipment line was to be moved to \$2000 to \$5000, and would the \$21,500 go under expenditures. Vice Chair told Mr. Wicklund that he told Mr. Forbes to get with the Auditors and send it to the auditors.

### *Coroner*

Mike Day stated on the Coroner budget he will be requesting of last year appropriation, \$212,414. There are a few minor adjustments. These adjustments will be in the Deputy Coroner \$41,463 which is a 2 ½ % increase. This matches the union raise percentage. Clerk Steno increased by \$562. This total increases for both this line items is \$1573.00. To offset that, he stated the Coroner's Fee was increased by this amount (\$1573). He stated the cremation fees have been raised from \$10 to \$50. He feels this is a reasonable estimation of income. He stated this office is a reactive office. He has no idea what will transpire tomorrow. He stated they try and be very frugal and responsible with these processes, especially those in the autopsy line; these lines continue to grow with each period. His office tries to obey the Statute as closely to the letter of the law as possible. There are some that are mandated by Statute; they are done that is for everybody's best interest. They make their decision based upon the necessity of the case. They try alternative, before they do these high price necessary resolutions.

Kevin Greenfield made the motion pass the Coroner's budget onto display, seconded by Tim Dudley. Motion Carried (6-0).

Amy Stockwell stated the Coroner runs a very tight, lean budget, he also provide any extraordinary degree of service to the citizens. Mr. Day thanked Ms. Stockwell for her kind remarks. Kevin Greenfield said to Mr. Day to keep up the good work.

### *Mental Health Board*

Dennis Crowley decided not do to his presentation that he prepared, because all but one committee member has heard 90% of it. He said he would handle any questions, they had for him. He said after his presentation at EEHW, and the questions and suggestions that this committee raised, he reevaluated his presentation. His new request is \$61,000 less than the request made to EEHW. This request is to increase the Mental Health Levy by \$150,000 or 6.4% with \$67,608 or 2.9% ;of that is basically related to the fact that for the last 2 yrs, they did not ask for an increase. In recognizing that, the CPI was about 5.5% for those two years. At the request of the group that is working on the Mental Health Court, they believe that if the County approves an increase of \$89,000 in the Mental Health Tax Levy, they will be able to sustain just on local funds. The Federal Grant ends Sept.30<sup>th</sup>; the funds unused have been approved by the feds to put used by April 1<sup>st</sup>. The Mental Health Board will use the funds by April 1<sup>st</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup>, because this levy request will go toward their next fiscal year which begins July 1<sup>st</sup>. He said if Mental Health Court is operating at full capacity of 25, those 25 individuals with a serious mental illness the average medicine cost for these individuals would be \$300- \$350 per month. If they are incarcerated in the Macon County jail, it is the County's responsibility to pay their medical bills and medicines. If these individuals are in Mental Health Court, and are deferred and they are in treatment; it is not the responsibility of the County to pay their medical bills and medicines. If an individual who is in incarcerated for a long period of time, because they cannot meet their bond; and is on medicine for their mental illness, could be quite costly for the County. Mr. Crowley stated there is a write up in the packet he provided them. This write up explains who and what is involved in this; the different sources of revenue that would come up, and how that would be paid. He reviewed the operational procedure with the committee. The goal of theirs is that Macon County has a

functioning Mental Health Court that is not dependent on federal or state funds, but will continue over time.

Vice Chair Dunn asked if his board has talked about getting other entities to put some skin into the game. Mr. Crowley said absolutely. He said if this is approved, he will contact both hospital's foundations and the City of Decatur for financial support. The economic benefits of a Mental Health Court are to the hospitals and multiple units of government. This is a community program and not a County program.

Mr. Crowley stated in the packet is the objectives; a comparison of their 2012 and 2013 FY budget; He stated in their long range financial planning, they have made some adjustments. They have laid-off the Associate Director Position (second highest paid position in the office). They have slightly cut services by 1%. The board has a policy of maintaining a 4 month unassigned fund balance, which meets the lower end of what the State promulgates as healthy for a unit of government. When they look at the long range, they need to put it in a little bit, so they may stay healthy over the long run. In their current fiscal year they have 2.3-2.4 million of annualize funding for locally supportive services. Their current tax levy is \$2,312.288. He said every dollar of the local tax dollar goes through their office and support services. It does not support the board operations or any other activity.

He stated in the packet is the current fund balances, with includes a fixed asset fund and operating fund balance; which includes assigned and unassigned. Also included in the packet is a list of the Mental Health Board. They are an independent unit of government. By State Statute, the County Board has two functions related to Mental Health Board; they approve the tax levy; and appointing its members. Also included is a list of the 30 full time and part-time employees' salaries and their potential raises for this coming year. Any raise is a merit base raise. He wanted to point out that their operational expenses are 8.3%. The state average is 14.7%. What this mean is if they were functioning as a typical 708 Board, \$250,000 that they put out to services would go to fund staff or function within their office. They are very proud of this.

Linda Little wanted to remind the committee or anyone that was on this committee in 2008-2009; when the States Attorney came to them with the idea of Mental Health and the grant from the federal. They made it very clear it was a onetime grant and the purpose of the grant was to initiate a Mental Health Court, and to use that time to figure out how to fund it themselves. She feels the States Attorney's Office has failed completely to do this; to plan ahead. In the last couple of years, it has been mentioned it was going to go away. They have been told that it will take anywhere from \$150,000 to \$200,000 to maintain Mental Health Court in Macon County at the level that it is being ran. She stated Denny and his staff has done a very job of really looking at it and talking to all the agencies and entities that are involved, and doing it on \$89,000. She feels this is a very wise investment and will save the County a lot of money in other General Funds expenses. It is good for citizens that need to use it.

Tim Dudley made the motion to approve to the levy increase and send on, seconded by Mark Wicklund. Motion Carried (5-1); with Kevin Greenfield voting no.

Mr. Crowley commented the County is extraordinary lucky to have a Coroner who understands the passion he gives the family with the grief they are experiencing. He put this as a priority and does what he can to lessen that and to care for them. Chair Dunn agreed with Mr. Crowley comment.

#### *Health Dept*

Julie Aubert stated this budget has been through the Board of Health Finance Committee, as well as their full Board of Health, and was passed with the changes noted. They are proposing a positive budget over \$98,000. Revenue is increasing from last year's budget by \$83,000; decreasing their expenses by \$529,000. The big decrease has a lot to do with their building project. She presented a three page packet. She wanted to point out to the committee that they are consistently trying to work on being more efficient without compromising their productivity and their quality. This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> year that they have decreased expenses, which are their overhead expenses. It is approximately \$100,000 that they have done for this year. That leaves them with a 16% overhead cost. This is down from last year. They have lost about 6 grants, but have gain 3 which 2 of them are pretty large. This budget does include a 3% increase for the staff. They have done performance merit raises since 2001. Currently their health fund is about \$1.6 million; that is pretty much and is where they need to be on their budget and monthly expenses. It is a little over, however both EEHW and Finance is aware of the continuous building issues that they have. Phase I of the building is complete, Phase II and III which includes some more big ticket items. There are approximately 104 staff members. There are a lot of funding sources including federal, state and local. The staff has been going an extra job and she is really proud to work for the County and the Health Dept.

Chair Dunn commented she had decreased her staff from 124 to 104. Mr. Dunn commends her for this and stated she is going a great job. Mr. Dudley commented the Phase I of the building project is already paid for; that is amazing that her department has been able to do this, in such a short amount of time. Mr. Dudley stated she has done a great job.

Tim Dudley made the motion to send the budget onto display, seconded by Kevin Greenfield. Motion Carried (6-0).

Ms. Aubert stated she has 21 bosses and of course, the Board of Health is her immediate boss, it has sometime been a challenge, but it has been so great working for this County. She has spoken to other people, in other counties, and they have trouble working for their boards, and she just wanted to say it is a pleasure working for this County.

#### *Recorder*

Mary Eaton stated she also agrees with Julie on her comment regarding working with these County board members.

Ms. Eaton stated she will start with the 5000 lines where you will see her increase, which has been spoken for the year. Also she has her two chief deputies, their lines are increased with 2 ½ %; Union contract. The 6000 lines are the hospitalization, which this total is for the 3 full time employees. The 7000 and 8000 lines are the same as the previous year, no increase in

these lines. She feels comfortable with these lines. Her total expenditures would be \$193,651 out of General Fund.

Vice Chair Dunn stated don't they usually ask her to transfer that increase over to Automation; the \$76,264. He asked if there was a reason that is not in Automation so that her budget would be equal to last year of \$117,387. Ms. Eaton stated last year they took the money out of the 5000 lines; she took it out of Automation. Vice Chair Dunn stated he would like to see that done again this year. Vice Chair Dunn asked how much they had in their fund balance. Ms. Eaton directed that question to Amy Stockwell. Ms. Stockwell stated it is \$108,000 at the end of August and it looks like the budget has them taking more out, than what is being brought in. But revenue looks like it is running a little higher than budget. They have taken in \$92,000 and are expecting to bring in \$100,000; so you would expect that the year will be over \$100,000. There is still another \$50,000 in expenditures. It will be tighter, but there still should be fund balance at the end of the year. Ms. Eaton stated the only thing with this situation; she is looking into archiving all their records. She explained once this process is complete, then individuals will be able to purchase this information on line, which in turn will bring revenue back to the County. She does not know the exact cost; she is just now getting proposals. She stated maybe they can work something out here, maybe not such a large increase; maybe she can work out another employee taken out of Automation. She would be willing.

Linda Little asked how many employees are currently working in her office. Ms. Eaton stated seven. She has 4 full-time that is being taken out of Automation and one part-time.

Ms. Little asked if this was the 5500 line number. Ms. Eaton stated yes. Mr. Dunn feels they are going to have reserves; they have always had reserves at the end of the year in Automation. Mr. Dunn stated they will be looking into her fee structure, a preliminary study. It will probably tell them they need to raise some fees. Vice Chair Dunn stated he is not going to vote for this until they get it down to \$117,387; which is what it was last year.

Kevin Greenfield asked Mr. Dunn to explain this. Vice Chair Dunn stated some of these costs can be transferred over to the second budget; on Page 1 of this budget is General Fund and on Page 2 is Automation Fund. Ms. Stockwell stated they have \$108,000 in fund balance at present time, and if they keep revenue coming in at the same rate, that is another \$30,000 and then she (Ms. Eaton) has spending authority of \$51,000; and that would make it approximately \$88,000 at the end of 11/30/12. Vice Chair Dunn stated so you are talking about taking \$76,264 out of the General Fund budget and transferring it to Automation Fund. Ms. Stockwell stated the problem is that she (Ms. Eaton) has already got expenses out of Automation. Vice Chair stated she always had expenses out of Automation. A discussion was exchanged between Ms. Stockwell and Vice Chair Dunn regarding these accounts.

Ms. Stockwell stated she is willing to look into this further.

Linda Little made the motion to hold this budget until the 10<sup>th</sup> of October, seconded by Mark Wicklund, and motion carried (6-0).

*Treasurer*

Ed Yoder was absent due to a death in the family. Mr. Dunn asked Amy S. if Mr. Yoder got the Treasurer's budget changed. Ms. Stockwell stated she will need to check her notes, she does not remember where she is at on this. Vice Chair Dunn asked for a motion to put Treasurer's budget onto the 10<sup>th</sup> of October Finance Special Budget Hearing . Ms. Little made the motion, seconded by Kevin Greenfield. Motion Carried (6-0).

**CITIZEN REMARKS – PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

Vice Chair Dunn requested committee members to bring the States Attorney's pay sheets with them on Monday. They will be reviewing these and will be talking about something that is going on in this office. He believes this is the year to discuss this, since there is a General Election, and a new States Attorney will be coming in. He will be bringing more information or he will email and scan it to them before the meeting. He stated there is a whole bunch of stuff going on there; that needs to be discussed at the meeting and get it taken care of.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**NEXT MEETING**

September 24, 2012

**ADJOURNMENT**

Linda Little made the motion to adjournment, seconded by Tim Dudley, and motion carried (6-0).

*Minutes submitted by  
Angie Sarver, Macon County Planning & Zoning Dept*