

IOWA COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

September 30, 2010

The Transportation Committee met in the Iowa County Highway Department Conference Room in the City of Dodgeville on Thursday, September 30, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. and was called to order by Committee Chair John Meyers.

Roll call was taken:

Committee members present: Sups. Dave Bauer, Ron Benish, Bob Bunker, Dan Curran, John Meyers, Curt Peterson, Robert Pilling, and Ryan Walmer.

Committee members excused/absent: Robert Zinck

Also present: Highway Commissioner Craig E. Hardy, Business Manager Jeri Grabbert, County Administrator Curt Kephart, Finance Director Roxanne Hamilton, and County Board Sups. Jim Griffiths and Ed Weaver.

Airport Budget:

Kevin King distributed past history for reference. He clarified that per Iowa County Resolution #1-0502 the Airport Commission was established per Wisconsin State Statutes 114.14, therefore he has not been appearing in front of the Transportation Committee because of this Board action. Kevin reviewed various aspects of the operations of the airport. This included discussions of the fueling system, 2011-2020 proposed capital improvements, amount of the Bureau of Aeronautics funding match levels, other capital purchases made recently with assistance of the Bureau of Aeronautics funding (such as tractor, mower, snow blower, etc.).

Kevin referred to Form 5 – Capital Outlay. The capital request for 2011 includes a delayed project from 2010 for a new tee runway and hanger and a new generator. The maximum estimated cost would be \$64,625 and the minimum would be \$43,625, depending on the 2.5% or 5% airport portion of the cost-sharing with federal funds. He noted that there is a carryover amount of \$53,325, which reduces the capital budget request amount to either \$11,300 or \$9,700, respectively. The new 10-unit hanger could have 6 units filled immediately. Kevin then reviewed the Operating Budget by line item, which requested a tax levy of \$63,711.

County Administrator Curt Kephart indicated that he and Finance Director Roxie Hamilton reviewed the Airport proposed budget with Kevin King and they recommend it be approved as presented and passed on to the Board of Supervisors as proposed.

A motion was made by Sup. Robert Pilling and Seconded by Sup. Dan Curran to approve the Airport budget with a tax levy of \$63,711 and capital expenditures of \$11,300, for a total 2011 budget of \$75,011. Motion passed unanimously.

Highway Budget:

Craig Hardy identified some changes to the budget as presented at the previous meeting:

- 1) Local Bridge Aid applications with the townships were due September 30, and are now all in. The original amount of \$80,000 in both revenue and expenditures should be reduced to \$50,000 or less. This is illustrated on Lines 6 and 56 of the Departmental budget, with a net effect of zero to the Department budget. The 50-50 bridge aids is a separate tax levy to all of the townships for the program.
- 2) General Transportation Aids has been re-estimated by the DOT to be \$1,052,398; therefore Line 8 will increase Revenues by \$43,809.
- 3) The County Form 2A, Personnel Costs had 2 discrepancies.
 - a. The retirement rate was recalculated at 11.6% rather than 11%
 - b. The summary of all wages and benefits which occur as line items in the various detailed expense accounts was less than the total amount of wages and benefits presented in Form 2A, creating a shortfall of \$173,635.
 - c. The net shortfall between the previous submitted budget and these revisions is \$129,826.

Craig suggested that this most likely could be taken out of the capital equipment budget request, road construction, or maintenance projects of sealcoating and wedging. Discussion followed about the proposed capital items. Sup. Dave Bauer noted that the original budget request is already over the target increase of the 2010 budget and suggested a decrease in capital expenditures to \$35,300 from \$341,500. Sup. John Meyers noted that the average levy for the Highway Department over the last 10 years is \$2.4 million, which is what the 2011 request is. He commented he felt that no other departments have maintained this level of spending which the highway Department has undergone. Finance Director Roxie Hamilton noted that the GTA has also increased about \$300,000 over the last 10 years and that the whole picture had to be looked at. It was noted in 1999 the county-wide operating tax levy was \$5.4 million and the Highway share was 46% of that levy. However in 2011, the county-wide operating tax levy is proposed at \$9.2 million and the Highway request is 23% of that levy, half as much. Sup. John Meyers also felt the Highway Department costs are employee wage and benefit negotiations and fuel sensitive. Sup. Dave Bauer preferred to see the budget cut occur in the capital items rather than from road projects. Sup. Curt Peterson commented from his experience he would prefer to keep the capital equipment items and cut the construction and maintenance areas. Curt Kephart reminded the committee to define cutting the increase compared to cutting the budget. Sup. Robert Pilling asked if there were areas other than in the Highway budget that could be cut. He wondered if there could be a freeze on wages or hiring. Sup. Ron Benish noted that there would either have to be a cut in programs or a cut in costs. Sup. Dan Curran felt that the benefit package provided to the employees is very good. Craig Hardy noted that there were some changes in the last contract negotiations, increasing the employee contribution to health insurance. Sup. Dave Bauer noted that most departments can't absorb large cuts because they are too small and large cuts would close them down. Discussion returned to capital items, asking Craig what items he would remove to obtain the required decrease in the budget. Craig suggested some items, but noted that he would prefer to see the cuts come from the sealcoating budget. Curt Kephart asked if there would be an affect on the revenues. Craig indicated due to the GTA formulas, in the long-term the GTA would be affected but in the short-term it would not have a big impact. Discussion occurred with relation to how or where the decreases in the proposed budget would be made could be decided by the Department. Craig stated the Transportation Committee reviews and approves a Resolution as to the amount of expenditures

within the Construction, Maintenance, and Capital accounts upon adoption of the budget. So, ultimately the discussion will come back to committee in the Resolution. Curt Kephart indicated that a 1% increase over the 2010 budget would be about \$96,000.

A motion was made by Sup. Dave Bauer to recommend to the Administrative Services Committee that the Highway Department tax levy for the 2011 budget be increased to \$2,235,420. The motion was seconded by Sup. Bob Bunker. Roll call vote: No – Sups. Robert Pilling, Dan Curran, and Ron Benish. Yes – Sups. Dave Bauer, Bob Bunker, Ryan Walmer, and John Meyers. Sup. Curt Peterson left the meeting early and was not present for the motion or the vote. Motion passed.

The next regular Transportation Committee meeting will be on Monday, October 4, 2010 at 6:00 P.M.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Sup. Ryan Walmer and seconded by Sup. Dan Curran. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by Jeri Grabbert.