

Proceedings of the Ogle County Board  
Special Budget Hearing  
October 27, 2004

State of Illinois        )  
County of Ogle         ) ss  
City of Oregon         )

Call To Order

Chairman Gocken calls the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. Roll Call shows Bauer, Clayton, Hopkins\*, Huntley and Rice are absent. This is followed with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. (\*Hopkins enters at 7:15 p.m.)

Chairman Gocken states the purpose of this meeting is to review and discuss the Proposed Ogle County Budget and Appropriation for Fiscal Year 2005. Chairman Gocken asks Treasurer John Coffman to explain the \$470,000 Insurance Levy to the board. Coffman distributes updates to the budget since there were errors on the budget after it was sent to the board members. Coffman says historically the Insurance for Liability, Workman's Comp and Unemployment have been budgeted through the General Fund. Then there is a separate levy and the money has been transferred in to cover the expenditures. Coffman states that during the past year the Auditor has said it will be a clean paper trail if we no longer transfer money to the General Fund to cover the expenditure , budget for them out of the Insurance Premium Levy Fund and expending them out of there with no transfers. Coffman says they had left the numbers in the comparison for the Finance Committee, to give an apples to apples comparison from one year's budget to the next. The handout that went out with the Finance Committee minutes last month seems to have caused some confusion. Coffman states the \$470,000 of the \$555,699 should have been a decrease in the expenditures. We are no longer expending those out of the General Fund and will be expended out of the Insurance Premium Levy. He states \$85,000 of the figure is additional income that had been added in and it breaks down to \$50,000 for an increase in the EAV and \$35,000 assumed to be contributed from the Circuit Clerk to be transferred into the General Fund. The income figure was then used to calculate the bottom line numbers that were on the handouts from the minutes. Remhof asks if this is a one time transfer? Coffman states it is expending it from the Insurance Levy Fund instead of the General Fund. Coffman says there have been some changes to the budget since the last Finance Committee meeting and he will highlight this information for the board:

- \$17,000 less on the TB Levy
- \$10,000 less on the Veteran's Levy
- No money for Economic Development Department
- \$16,000 more for Assessment Office for mapping
- Ogle County Weed Commissioner has been taken out

Coffman says the income for the General Fund will be \$10,589,460 - Expenditures are currently \$10,541,283 with a net of \$48,177 more income over expenditures.

Chairman Gocken apologizes for leaving the Public Comment section off the agenda, but there will be a Public Comment section after we go through the budget. Chairman Gocken informs the board they can find recommendations from the auditor in the Auditor's Management Letter on page 2.

### **FY2005 Budget**

#### *Estimate of Probable Income*

The clerk reads the amounts for the estimate of probable income. The total is \$10,587,460. Saunders says the State's Attorney may need changes per a letter from the State:

- \$119,000 State's Attorney reimbursement for salary
- \$25,000 Victim Witness reimbursement for salary

This is an additional \$10,240 for these reimbursements and the new income amount will be \$10,610,000. There was discussion regarding the salary for the Victim Witness because they are on 3 different fiscal years and Coffman does a good job with figuring this amount to be.

#### *County Clerk/Recorder & Elections*

Department Total: \$382,659

Remhof asks if County Clerk Huntley if she feels there is enough money in this budget to conduct your office next year and how does this affect your employees as far as salary scales since Huntley has expressed concerns? Huntley states she is willing to live with the budget to be a team player and has talked to Chairman Gocken and Coffman about what amount to put in for salaries since there has been no direction. Huntley says she has been busy with the Election and has not reviewed her employees and made the decision as to the exact amount at this time. Huntley is hoping the non-union department heads will get together and come up with something that would be somewhat equal across the board. Saunders states she has done some work herself and would like to know when is the appropriate time to discuss this information? This brought up discussion regarding when the changes need to be made in order to have the budget lay on the counter for 15 days before adoption. Saunders reads a prepared statement and passes out a budget with the bottom line proposal of \$10,597,000 (placed on file) . This would address Huntley's problem with salary adjustments in her department as well as State's Attorney Office, Assessment Office, Zoning Office and make it appropriate to allow Solid Waste to adjust his salary adjustments as well. Saunders says that new employees hired within 6 months probably wouldn't be eligible for the salary adjustment because they were hired in at the new rate. Saunders eliminated the Weed Commissioner, Economic Development Department and lowered the levy amount for the TB and Veteran's Funds for sources of revenue and redistributed the funds. There was discussion regarding the change in the Circuit Clerk budget and money that was to be transferred into the General Fund.

#### *Buildings & Grounds*

Department Total: \$631,926

Zuehl says this department has given up \$40,000 in repairs to county buildings and asks Spencer if this amount will be set aside in another account? Spencer says the amount has been taken out completely. Zuehl makes the statement that last year they were budgeted \$90,000 and to date they have expended \$106,000 from that account. The proposed budget has them

budgeted at \$50,717 for FY2005 and they will do the best that they can. He says there might not be enough money to pay for electricity, fuel and so forth. There was discussion regarding the \$40,000 and having this money budgeted from the Capital Improvement Fund.

*County Treasurer*

Department Total: \$154,907

*H.E.W.*

Department Total: \$279,465

Chairman Gocken states the Weed Commissioner has been removed completely from this budget. Chairman Gocken has talked to Rick Graydon because he had asked that the county keep the Weed Commissioner. This was to help with problems regarding weedy CRP acres and now Graydon has the ability to take on this problem. Chairman Gocken states Rick Graydon is with the FSA/USDA Office. Chairman Gocken informs the board they have left in the requests from the Soil & Water and Regional Office of Education. There has been a reduction of \$25,000 in the Board of Health request because they have a Homeland Security Grant. Remhof asks if the current Weed Commissioner has been contacted? Chairman Gocken says No because it has not been approved at this time.

*Judiciary & Jury*

Department Total: \$283,925

*Circuit Clerk's Office*

Department Total: \$491,277

Conn states the jury supplies are at zero, does this mean there is a lot of supplies on hand or how are they going to serve the juries with no jury supply money? Typer responds that he started at the top of the budget and worked his way down and they ran out of money. He states he will go as far as he can with as much as he can. Remhof asks what are jury supplies? Typer responds it is primarily postage, envelopes and checks for the jurors. Conn states this item shouldn't be cut because they need the supplies to have jury trials. Saunders states he does have an increase of \$47,573 in his salary line item and one less employee. Typer states yes he is down one staff person and the salary line item is what the salaries are going to be.

*Probation Office*

Department Total: \$545,167

Kenney states there are a lot of zeroed out line items and asks if they will be able to operate with no money in these accounts? Don Kinn says yes, money will be used from Probation Service Fee account. This money is generated from the offenders that are in the court system.

*Focus House*

Department Total: \$755,094

Greg Martin addresses the board regarding the previous comments made at the October County Board meeting. He would like to talk some statistics regarding the operations at Focus House. Focus House has been in operation for thirty years and over the 30 years they have served 788 children from Ogle County for a total of 1,065 children including other counties. He says income is generated through taking in the children from other counties for a cost of \$90 - \$120 per day. If the county did not have Focus House it would leave the county in a tight place as to what to do with our kids. We are the only county in the

state that has a shelter care facility that is county owned and operated other probation departments have to send their children elsewhere. Martin contacted another program that is similar to Focus House (which is co-ed) and this program only serves girls. This facility is in Freeport and it is called Norman-Sleezer Home and there daily per diem is \$116 per day. If there were girls from Ogle County that needed placement, they would use Sleezer to take care of the Ogle County girls. They are also able to continue to secure their school funding, which comes from a special grant from the state. Martin says there is no other program that he knows of that deals with kids residentially that now secures that funding. If we had to send a girl to the Sleezer Home, there would be 2 bills generated each month - County of Ogle would have to pay \$116 per day and the local school district would also receive a bill. This information is for boys; we have 5 boys from the Oregon School District and if we had those 5 boys in a special education program for \$50 per day for education, the Oregon School District would receive a bill for \$7,500 a month for those kids. Focus House is able to provide free education to our children because of the grant. If we did not have a placement budget and had to look at the Department of Corrections, right now the average cost per child in the Department of Corrections is \$65,000 per year - special treatment unit in Kewanee the cost is \$96,000 per year and down to \$52,000 per year. Martin says to the board members to forget about the dollars spent and keep our children in our county and get them back to their families. Kenney asks about the line items that do not have any money budgeted for them? Martin states in order to meet the recommendations of the Finance Committee, they are able to pay for these expenditures from the out of county care that generates money into the Ogle County Dependent Children's Fund. These expenditures are needed to be approved through Judge Pemberton before money is spent.

*Supervisor of Assessments*

Department Total: \$260,100

Conn asks why the bottom line is \$16,000 more than what the Finance Committee had approved? Chairman Gocken states the Finance Committee had left out the \$35,000 for mapping that is mandated and therefore, this figure has been added back in. Supervisor of Assessments Jim Harrison says there is only \$20,000 in the budget for 2005 and \$15,000 in the budget for 2006. Conn asks how the figure was changed between meetings without a meeting? Harrison states he submitted his budget to the Treasurer with the amount of \$260,000 because this is what he felt he needed. Scholl asks if the \$55,000 for mapping is this also mandated? Harrison replies that every year for a number of years they have budgeted \$35,000 per year for mapping. Harrison says this mapping is a one time state mandated change for assessing farmland and all counties have to change the way they do things. This will require more work to implement. Kenney states there was \$12,000 budgeted for Official Publications and there has only been \$150.30 expended so far? Harrison states there will be a large bill for the annual assessment publication that is done every October.

*Zoning Office*

Department Total: \$164,149

Steve Rypkema says Mike Reibel is at a conference this evening and he asked that Rypkema speak on his behalf. Rypkema states the Zoning Department did not include any salary increases for that department.

*Sheriff's Department*

Department Total: \$2,963,945

Brooks states Sheriff Messer is in Springfield and he will ask that Chief Deputy Beitel explain to the board what will need to be done to live within this proposed budget. Beitel informs the board there could be possible lay-offs in the corrections, court security and deputy/investigations areas of the Sheriff's Department. This means the Sheriff's Department will no longer be available to hold non-Ogle County detainees which is a source of income for the county. Beitel also says this budget does not include any salary increases for when the Union contract is negotiated and states this budget will not work for the Sheriff's or Corrections Departments. There was discussion regarding the housing of out of county prisoners and US Marshall prisoners as well as the discontinued housing of the INS detainees. These changes have affected the Sheriff's income to the county because these prisoners are going to other facilities.

*Coroner's Office*

Department Total: \$141,634

There is a change per John - the Coroner has asked for the following:

- \$21,000 - autopsy line
- \$6,245 - vehicle maintenance

Coffman states the bottom dollar remains the same just different allocations.

*State's Attorney Office*

Department Total: \$581,690

Zuehl asks if the new State's Attorney has seen the budget? Ben Roe says yes he has seen the budget and thinks he can work with it. Deb Ellis states there are several line items that fluctuate year to year depending on the type of cases that are handled. Ellis states this department will be returning money back to the General Fund this year and she has done the best that she can for the incoming State's Attorney.

*Insurance Committee*

Department Total: \$1,250,000

*Finance Committee*

Department Total: \$519,750

Remhof asks who is the "Salaries Departmental"? Chairman Gocken states this is the County Board. Remhof asks why the contingencies is at \$300,000 which is higher than previous years? Spencer states it will be more than the \$300,000 due to 4 lawsuits and 2 - 3 years of Union arbitration that are pending. Chairman Gocken says the travel expenses for the County Board has been cut considerably. Remhof says the \$77,500 for the County Board could be better spent. Spencer says we have taxed the taxpayers enough and there is only a \$58,000 surplus.

*Economic Development*

Department Total: \$-0-

Colson knows the position is eliminated for the county government, but with the line items at zero it removes any possibility for the county to participate in a public/private corporation. Hopkins says he has caught more flack over eliminating this department and people have asked him what was the County Board thinking about? The comments have been how far back does the county want to step with economic development and economic development brings businesses to the county to help generate revenue for taxes. Hoekstra

says why not make this at least a part-time position? Horner asks if this subject is on the agenda? Kenney says no. Chairman Gocken states this is discussion regarding the county budget and that is on the agenda.

*Correction's Department*

Department Total: \$1,135,595

Spencer says this budget is too low, but there is no money.

Grand Total: \$10,541,283

*General Fund Levy:* \$3,409,000

Spencer states this is the max. Kenney asks Spencer what is the percentage of the tax increase that this figure represents? Spencer says it is at \$.27 which is the max and we were at .268 last year.

|                                              |                            |                   |
|----------------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|
| <i>County Highway Fund:</i>                  | Appropriation: \$1,850,922 | Levy: \$1,143,000 |
| <i>Federal Aid Matching Fund:</i>            | Appropriation: \$1,011,842 | Levy: \$ 635,100  |
| <i>County Bridge Fund:</i>                   | Appropriation: \$1,337,200 | Levy: \$ 635,100  |
| <i>Motor Fuel Tax Fund:</i>                  | Appropriation: \$1,611,458 |                   |
| <i>Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund:</i>   | Appropriation: \$1,695,000 | Levy: \$ 900,000  |
| <i>Social Security Fund:</i>                 | Appropriation: \$1,008,500 | Levy: \$ 580,000  |
| <i>Ogle County Cooperative Ext. Service:</i> | Appropriation: \$ 132,000  | Levy:\$ 132,000   |
| <i>War Veterans Assistance Fund:</i>         | Appropriation: \$ 45,000   | Levy:\$ 35,000    |
| <i>TB Care &amp; Treatment Fund:</i>         | Appropriation: \$ 36,000   | Levy:\$ 17,000    |
| <i>Ogle County Mental Health Fund:</i>       | Appropriation: \$ 787,327  | Levy:\$ 771,890   |
| <i>GIS Committee</i>                         | Appropriation: \$ 227,783  |                   |
| <i>Senior Citizens Services Fund:</i>        | Appropriation: \$ 196,350  | Levy:\$ 196,350   |
| <i>Insurance Premium Levy:</i>               | Appropriation: \$ 470,500  |                   |
| <i>Animal Control Fund</i>                   | Appropriation: \$ 98,050   |                   |

*Solid Waste Fund:* Appropriation: \$ 300,736

Rypkema repeats his submitted budget does not have salary increases for the Solid Waste Staff, he kept this at the same level as last year. He was waiting until the Finance Committee determined the percentage increase for the non-union employees. Rypkema also says the Solid Waste Department pays all of the fringe benefits and there was no increase there either. Rypkema asks that his department be treated equitably even though it is coming from separate funds. Scholl asks Saunders how she determined the salary adjustments in her proposal? Saunders says she was looking at the possibility of \$1,500 for a department head, \$2,000 for a full-time employee and \$1,000 for a part-time employee, this is a one-time salary adjustment not a raise. Saunders says not every department would work out this way because there may be changes. Saunders would like for the Personnel and Salary Committee to work with the departments heads since they are the sounding board for the non-union employees and keep this on a level basis. Rypkema informs

the board he has himself and 1 full-time, 1 half-time employee and he uses the bookkeeper from the Health Department. Based on this he is looking at a \$4,615 increase in the salary line item. Rypkema hands out information to the board members regarding the Solid Waste and Zoning Departments proposal for FY2005 Salary Adjustments (see handout on file).

*Long Range Planning Committee*

Appropriation: \$10,719,222

The clerk reads the summary for appropriations and levies as follows:

S U M M A R Y

| FUND                           | APPROPRIATION       | LEVY         |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|--------------|
| COUNTY GENERAL FUND            | \$ 10,541,283       | \$ 3,409,000 |
| COUNTY HIGHWAY FUND            | \$ 1,850,922        | \$ 1,143,000 |
| FEDERAL AID MATCHING FUND      | \$ 1,011,984        | \$ 635,100   |
| COUNTY BRIDGE FUND             | \$ 1,337,200        | \$ 635,100   |
| MOTOR FUEL TAX FUND            | \$ 1,611,458        | -0-          |
| IMRF FUND                      | \$ 1,695,000        | \$ 900,000   |
| SOCIAL SECURITY FUND           | \$ 1,008,500        | \$ 580,000   |
| INSURANCE PREMIUM LEVY         | \$ 470,500          | \$ 50,000    |
| COOPERATIVE EXTENSION          | \$ 132,000          | \$ 132,000   |
| WAR VETERANS ASSIST COMMISSION | \$ 45,000           | \$ 35,000    |
| TB CARE & TREATMENT FUND       | \$ 36,000           | \$ 17,000    |
| GIS COMMITTEE FUND             | \$ 227,783          | \$ -0-       |
| MENTAL HEALTH FUND             | \$ 787,327          | \$ 771,890   |
| SENIOR SOCIAL SERVICES         | \$ 196,350          | \$ 196,350   |
| SOLID WASTE FUND               | \$ 300,736          | -0-          |
| ANIMAL CONTROL FUND            | \$ 98,050           | -0-          |
| LONG RANGE PLANNING            | \$ 10,719,222       | -0-          |
|                                | TOTAL \$ 32,069,173 | \$ 8,504,440 |

Chairman Gocken asks the board members if there is any further discussion regarding the proposed FY2005 Budget.

Brooks asks Beitel if it is still a State Law that there needs to be so many correctional officers per so many inmates? Beitel says no that the number of correctional officers ratio is based on so many inmates per floor and our facility has 2 floors. Brooks asks Deb Ellis if she researched the possibility of reducing the county board salaries? County Clerk Huntley states the County Board salaries are set every 10 years prior to the election after the census. Ellis states the motion was made last month regarding county board salaries and it was withdrawn and no research needed to be done. Horner says he is against using Solid Waste Funds for any operating of the county, but he wouldn't be opposed to using some of the funds to use in the Sheriff's budget to save the \$600,000. Kenney says to cut the travel expenses, dues and seminar line items from the budget. Remhof agrees with Kenney and he has a question to the department heads. Are there any organization dues to where the county can get a discount? Ellis comments that from her prospective as the State's Attorney the law changes on a regular basis and this is criminal and civil law. When the committee members ask questions regarding what you are and aren't able to do, the department heads rely on the professional organizations to find out the information on the changes and updates. Ellis states that other department heads will feel the same way because these organizations hold seminars with the leading experts to keep up with constantly changing information.

Chairman Gocken says there will need to be a meeting of the Solid Waste and Finance Committees. Chairman Gocken says some departments submitted raises in with their budget and some departments did not. County Clerk Huntley states she was told or heard that if she wanted to give her staff a salary adjustment then she needed to find the money within her budget. Huntley took money out of essential line items so that her staff will get an adjustment. If Huntley receives the money Saunders is referring to, then Huntley could put back some of the money she has taken out. Spencer asks Huntley how is she going to get by with the money that was taken out? Huntley says she doesn't know but that with what has been going on she felt that her priority was to her staff since her office is primarily responsible for service. Kenney asks why are we using an appropriation budget and not a zero based budget? There was no answer for Kenney's question. Huntley also states her office was in the process of micro-filming the Vital Records and she has put this project on hold in order to find the money to use for salary adjustments.

Chairman Gocken asks for direction as to what needs to be done next. It was decided that the Solid Waste Committee and Finance Committee will need to meet. Conn comments he hopes the Finance Committee and Executive Committee review the budget with a fine tooth comb because he doesn't think taking money from Solid Waste is a good idea. Conn feels this will set a bad precedence. There was discussion as to the last day the budget needs to be completed to lay on the counter for the public to view. Chairman Gocken reads from the auditor's report regarding the budget approval. There was discussion to hold a special meeting before November 30<sup>th</sup> to approve the budget since the budget will not be ready for approval at the November 16<sup>th</sup> Ogle County Board meeting. There was discussion to hold a special Public Hearing to review the budget on Wednesday, November 10<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. Discussion ensued as to when the meeting will be held to approve the budget and if the regular County Board meeting should be postponed. There was discussion regarding how the zoning issues and bills would be paid. Hopkins moves to hold a Special Ogle County Board meeting on Monday, November 29<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. to review the FY2005 Ogle County Budget, Colbert seconds and the motion carries on a voice vote. Spencer asks when the Finance Committee will meet? It was decided to hold the Finance Committee on November 5<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Diane McNeilly states she attended this meeting assuming it was going to be a Public Hearing and gives the definition of Public Hearing as: Having a document ahead of time that is accurate so when the hearing is held, you have time to reflect on it. When she came into the meeting tonight she states it was a moving budget so you cannot consider the items before you come in. Public Hearings are required for all governmental bodies so that the public can come in and make comments for the board to take into consideration. She says this was a workshop for the County Board and not a Public Hearing the way it is supposed to be. She hopes the next time there is an accurate document to look at before attending the meeting. McNeilly says she came last year and talked to Chairman Gocken and the Finance Committee to discuss the irregularities in the process and the document that the county has. She states the document is still not following the law (5-61001002) and the document is still an incomplete document for the budget. McNeilly says we need a County Administrator who will run the process, get the budget done according to the law and for managing the budget throughout the year.

Village of Forreston President Doug Elder addresses the board regarding the elimination of the Ogle County Economic Development Department. He is here tonight with an outsiders perspective about economic development and hopes it will be useful to the county board. Elder reads a prepared statement regarding the working of an economic development director and the different hats Kilker must wear. He states Kilker has been a real estate agent, banker, cheerleader, tour director, regional planner, who's who encyclopedia, school marm and preacher, all are better descriptions than a used car salesman. He states economic development does not happen by itself, someone has to work and develop it.

Bev Binkley of Dixon-Meyers also speaks about the elimination of the Ogle County Economic Development Office. Binkley says Lynne helped them decide to stay within Ogle County. Binkley said they could have moved to DeKalb County and accomplished the same thing. She said there are a lot of small communities that need help with economic development and says that a part-time position would be better than no position.

Ron Hagemann says Lynne Kilker is one of the most respected Economic Development people in this part of the state. He says it is incomprehensible that a county that wants to grow drops this position. He has read every letter in the paper and it refers to economic development - he has read it and heard it, but he does not see it. He states we need business in the communities and not excuses.

Darrell Ropp the Treasurer from the Village of Stillman Valley addresses the board and states they have just begun a relationship with Lynne Kilker. Kilker has helped put the finishes on the Carpenter's Training Center which is located in Rockford. Now it will be in this area to start an Industrial Park. They have not been able to put this together themselves over the years. This Industrial Park will add to the assessed value of this county and will help this county grow. The newspaper articles have commended Kilker on her work as the Economic Development Director. Ropp says they need her to help them relocate businesses in this area.

Lori Wood, the President of the Oregon Area Chamber of Commerce states they do not have the funding or the staffing to provide economic development to this area. The Chamber wants to serve their members and with Lynne's expertise, Marcia Heuer is able to ask for help with getting contacts and help our members stay in this county. If you stop the position you also stop the growth of the county.

### **Motion to Adjourn**

At 9:45 p.m., there being no further budget questions, Hopkins moves to adjourn, Johnson seconds and the motion carries on a voice vote.

Betty K. Gocken  
Chairman, Ogle County Board

Attest: Rebecca Huntley, Ogle County Clerk  
& Ex-officio Clerk of the Ogle County Board