

SEPTEMBER 9, 2010 SESSION  
OF THE  
WALWORTH COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

The Walworth County Board Committee of the Whole meeting was called to order by Chair Russell at 5:02 p.m. at the Government Center, 100 W. Walworth Street, Elkhorn, Wisconsin.

**Roll Call**

Roll call was conducted and the following Supervisors were present: Richard Brandl, Jerry A. Grant, Randy Hawkins, Kathy Ingersoll, Vice-Chair Daniel G. Kilkenny, Carl Redenius, Joe Schaefer, Rick Stacey, Russ Wardle, David A. Weber, and Chair Nancy Russell. Absent: 0. All members were present.

- **The purpose of the meeting will be for the Administrator to present his proposed 2011 budget and to hold a budget workshop**

David Bretl, County Administrator, presented an overview of the 2011 Administrator's Budget. A copy of the 2011 Administrator's Budget book was distributed to those present.

Bretl said that this Budget book is at a very high level narrative. He said that the Supervisors would get the budget in detail at whatever level they wanted to see it at. He said the purpose of this is to show a big picture and call out any change or differences from what we are doing now. He said the 2011 Administrator's Budget raises the levy by 2.88% and is consistent with the guidance provided by the County Board on July 13, 2010 to prepare a budget that limits the overall tax levy to an increase of 2.89% or less.

The 2011 Budget Themes the theme was the safety net of the charitable and non-profit organizations and they are highlighted in the budget.

Bretl said there are three or four factors that impact the 2011 Budget and played an important role in controlling spending this year: 0% increase in Health Insurance; experiencing a continuation of a decline in the CDEB levy; Federal Recovery funding which has kept the State of Wisconsin solvent and has helped keep our budget situation manageable through aids and grants, particularly Health and Human Services and the Highway operations. Also, declining debt service has played into the impact of the 2011 budget.

Bretl explained each of the Budget Themes: **Continuing effects of the national recession:** He said that he has implemented some new tools this year. He said he conducted a review of refilling positions and said he was implementing a countywide hiring freeze pursuant to the authority delegated to him by the Code of Ordinances. He said each frozen position may be released by the Human Resources Committee upon a thorough review of the request. Another tool: Sustainable jail practices: Bretl said he has revised the cost estimate for a jail addition and moved that expense out to the 2014 budget year and he has included the sum of \$150,000 in the

County Board budget to implement one or more alternatives to incarceration during the course of the budget year.

**Strengthening our financial position:** Bretl said that continuing to meet our OPEB obligations is important. He is also proposing changes to the severance commitment by allowing these funds to be carried over from year to year.

**Reinforcing the “safety net” in the County:** To help the volunteers and service agencies in this County, Bretl said he is proposing to increase the appropriations for both the Association for Prevention of Family Violence and the Walworth County Housing Authority and is proposing an appropriation to the Volunteer Connections group, formerly RSVP.

**Monitoring sensitive programs:** Bretl said this includes both the Lakeland Health Care Center and our special needs education program. He said both programs rely heavily on revenue sources outside of the County’s control. Both programs have undergone significant restructuring over the years and new facilities were recently constructed as part of that restructuring. He said promises were made to both clients of these services and taxpayers and we must ensure that we keep our word and keep these programs viable into the future. Both programs are on track.

**New initiatives:** Bretl explained each of the new initiatives, which were: Safety Program, Communications, Election Equipment Commitment, and Parks.

**Amendments at a glance:** Bretl said that he has identified a number of areas which he believes will be interest of Board members as far as amendments to the Budget: Capital Plan; Personnel; Economic Development and Tourism. He said he and other staff would be available to provide assistance with any proposed amendments.

In conclusion, Bretl expressed his gratitude to department heads and staff who worked on this budget. He also thanked the Board members and said that he would be available to assist them and to help with any appeals.

Supervisor Ingersoll asked if every position will be analyzed by the Human Resources Committee. Bretl said any positions that are not filled as of tonight’s meeting will be analyzed by the Human Resources Committee. Bretl said there is an ordinance on the books for the Administrator to implement a hiring freeze but that can be reversed by the Human Resources Committee. Supervisor Kilkenny had questions on OPEB and the debt service level. Regarding the debt service level, Nicki Andersen said that we are currently paying off principal of approximately \$5 million a year.

## **Adjournment**

On motion by Supervisor Grant, seconded by Supervisor Weber, the Committee of the Whole adjourned at 5:51 p.m.

Kimberly S. Bushey  
County Clerk

STATE OF WISCONSIN    )  
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COUNTY OF WALWORTH)

I, Kimberly S. Bushey, County Clerk in and for the County aforesaid, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the proceedings of the County Board of Supervisors Committee of the Whole for the September 9, 2010 meeting.