

AMENDED
WALWORTH COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING
NOVEMBER 1, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m. by Chair Russell at the Walworth County Government Center, 100 W. Walworth St., Elkhorn, Wisconsin.

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, David A. Weber, and Chair Nancy Russell. Absent: 1 – Russ Wardle. A quorum was established.

Approval of the Agenda

On motion by Supervisor Brandl, seconded by Supervisor Grant, the agenda was approved by voice vote.

Motion to Convene as “Committee of the Whole”

On motion by Supervisor Schaefer, seconded by Supervisor Grant, the Board convened as a “Committee of the Whole.”

Finance Committee Chair to Conduct Public Budget Hearing

Chair Russell turned the meeting over to Administrator Bretl.

Presentation of the Executive Summary:

Administrator Bretl welcomed everyone to the Public Budget Hearing. He said this is an opportunity for Supervisors to hear comments from the public and formulate budget amendments. He also said Supervisors have been given a deadline for when to submit their budget amendments. The budget adoption is scheduled for Tuesday, November 8, 2011. Administrator Bretl turned the hearing over to Deputy County Administrator-Finance Nicki Andersen for the presentation of the preliminary budget.

Deputy County Administrator-Finance Andersen thanked everyone for coming to this presentation. She introduced Jessica Lanser, Comptroller of Walworth County, to present the 2012 Preliminary Budget Presentation.

Ms. Lanser began the presentation by stating that the County achieves a budget with a 0.14% increase from the 2010 total tax levy, which is the lowest increase since 1996. She explained the different parts that make up the Property Tax Bill, which are: State of Wisconsin; County of Walworth; City, town, or village; Gateway Technical College; School District(s); and Special taxing districts. The county portion of the tax bill is approximately 21% of the total tax bill; however, depending on the municipality in which you reside, the county portion of the property

tax bill can be as low as 8.5% or as high as 31% of the total tax bill. The county portion of the property tax bill is broken down further into four parts: Library Levy, Debt Service, Children with Disabilities Education Board (CDEB), and Other Operating Levy. Without the library portion, the total levy decreased .2% from last year. The library levy will see an increase of 6.57% from last year. Townships are the primary source of ~~funding for county libraries~~ county library funds.

Ms. Lanser discussed the main points that have driven the 2012 budget, which are the poor economy, state legislature and budget changes, and strategy and future planning. She continued with an explanation of the 2012 preliminary revenues and expenses.

Ms. Lanser concluded the presentation by stating the 2012 Preliminary Budget is available for review in the County Clerk and Finance offices as well as on the county website (www.co.walworth.wi.us).

Chair Russell thanked Ms. Lanser for the presentation.

Public Comments and Questions

Mike Van Den Bosch, 300 S. Edwards Blvd., Lake Geneva. Mr. Van Den Bosch said it has been a pleasure to serve Walworth County as the Executive Director of Walworth County Economic Development Alliance (WCEDA). He also said they have made a lot of progress in the organization over the last year. Over the last year, he has visited with 40 of the county's largest employers to discuss any issues, plans, and their projections for the future. Over the next year, he plans on continuing to work with their partners, such as UW-Extension and Workforce Development Board, to address some of the issues and concerns that employers have. He also said there are many encouraging things happening in the state and we can benefit from these changes.

Bruce Kepner, 6 North Strathfield Circle, Madison. Mr. Kepner said it has been a pleasure to serve as President of WCEDA. He appreciates the support for economic development. He stated Walworth County has done a tremendous job in managing its finances. He also stated the county has WCEDA's commitment to work in partnership with the county in 2012.

Lori Glas, LPN at Health & Human Services. Ms. Glas spoke to the board regarding positions that are being eliminated at Health and Human Services. She is an LPN that works with the mentally ill as well as the underinsured and the indigent. She said that the current procedures in place are not working. She stated that management wants to reduce to one registered nurse and add one part-time LPN. She expressed concern how this is going to work if hours are being cut. She said a clerical person is not able to do the work that they do and a part-time LPN will not be able to handle all the phone calls and paperwork. She asked the board to consider this.

Kim Peterson, W768 Dixon Drive, Burlington. Ms. Peterson is a Walworth County resident and is employed at Racine County as a registered nurse. Ms. Peterson referenced to those that spoke from WCEDA and stated she does not see jobs being created. She said the county is balancing

its budget based on the wages and benefits of employees and that is not fair. She expressed concern regarding tax codes and the need to close loopholes in the code. Hearing no other requests for public comment Chair Russell asked for a motion to close the Public Hearing.

Motion to Close Public Hearing

On motion by Supervisor Weber, seconded by Supervisor Schaefer, the Public Budget Hearing was closed.

Chairperson’s Report

Chair Russell reminded Supervisors of the next County Board Meeting, which is Tuesday, November 8, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.

Adjournment

On motion by Supervisor Brandl, seconded by Supervisor Weber, the meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

Kimberly S. Bushey
County Clerk

STATE OF WISCONSIN)
)SS
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 for the November 1, 2011 Public Budget Hearing.