



FIRST QUARTER ISSUES UPDATE

April 5, 2010

The first quarter of 2010 presented significant challenges for the Commissioners. The need to balance the 2010 Budget due to a decline in property values created extensive deliberation and considerable discussion. With an eye toward the future, a “Work Group” was established to provide input on budget considerations for the next several years. Now more than ever, Department Heads will need to work cooperatively with the Board of Commissioners to solve the budget reductions that will impact Ingham County and the manner in which services will be delivered. Priorities will be evaluated and where possible, consolidation will be a focus of future budgets.

- Due to the continual decline in property values, which impact property tax revenues, the Board of Commissioners reduced the 2010 Budget by approximately 2.4 million dollars. Included in the reductions was a reorganization of Central Services that eliminated two positions and shifted several responsibilities within Central Services Departments. Also included in the reductions were the elimination of out-of-state travel, reductions in various line items, extended the hiring delay from six weeks to eight weeks, created a hiring freeze beginning in April, recognized additional revenue from the Drain Office and recognized a savings in the inmate prescription program at the Jail.
- The Ingham County Board of Commissioners accepted a “HOME” grant from the Michigan State Housing Development Authority, on behalf of the Ingham County Housing Commission, in the amount of \$400,000 for rental rehabilitation in the City of Mason.
- The Health Coalition has continued to meet to discuss Health Insurance Plans for 2011. Our consultant, AON, has been providing data related to several plans that could address our health insurance needs. Some concerns had been raised due to the possible sale of PHP to Blue Cross. However, with increased pressure from the investigation, the sale fell through. PHP, through AON, will be providing a quote for insurance to the Coalition during the April Coalition meeting.
- The County entered into a lease agreement for parking with a company who owns a parking lot across from the Veterans Memorial Courthouse Building. This allows the County to reduce the number of spaces rented from the City of Lansing, saving Ingham County over \$30,000 per year. The original contact came from Judge Collette who was able to make the introduction to the County and reach the agreement.
- Several contracts with various bargaining units were finalized during the first few months of 2010. Most of the County’s bargaining units had contracts that expired at the end of 2009. With the excellent work of our attorneys all but one of the contracts has been finalized. We should have an agreement with our final unit soon.

- Ingham County Controller/Administrator Matthew Myers announced his retirement, effective April 16, 2010. The Ingham County Board of Commissioners has adopted a schedule to hire a new Controller/Administrator. Final Interviews for a replacement will occur on April 16, 2010.
- Ingham County now has the authority to access grant funds for our 2009 COPS Technology Program Grant. The \$500,000 in grant funds will be used over the next two years to purchase new security cameras at the Youth Center and the Jail, and add those cameras along with existing cameras, to the IP Network. In addition, the remaining funds will be utilized to assist in the replacement of the County's core network infrastructure, and to better manage the inmate population at the Jail through increased use of the current electronic monitoring tether program. Ingham County has also been awarded \$100,000 through the 2010 COPS Technology Program for the purpose of purchasing and installing an IP based phone system at the 911 Center. A resolution to accept the funds will be placed on a future Board of Commissioners agenda, after all the paperwork has been cleared by the US Department of Justice COPS Office, and then the County is ready to move forward with the project.
- The Ingham County Board of Commissioners approved the Ingham County Controller/Administrator's recommendation to approve a Settlement Agreement reached through a mandatory mediation conference through the United States District Court with Infinity Networks, Inc. for a legal and financial dispute with a former vendor of inmate phone services at the Jail. Through the Agreement, Ingham County will recover \$360,000.
- Efforts continued by the Controller/Administrator's Office to provide information and facilitate dialogues between the Sheriff's Office, the Board of Commissioners and other affected units of government regarding the ongoing communications and debate on the future and restructuring of the funding of Primary Law Enforcement Services/Road Patrol in Ingham County. This process will continue in 2010.
- The Ingham County Board of Commissioners authorized a contract with Pharmacy Services, Inc., for pharmacy services at the Ingham County Jail for three years at a significant savings to the County.
- The Ingham County Board of Commissioners authorized participation by the Ingham County Sheriff's Office in the three year information sharing grant pilot program with Core Technology, for the time period of January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2013, as part of the region one Homeland Security Cooperative.
- The Ingham County Board of Commissioners approved acceptance of the 2010 Risk Avoidance Grant (RAP) from the Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority (MMRMA) to purchase new digital in-car cameras for patrol vehicles

used by the field services division. This enhances officer and public safety and provides accurate evidence in many cases.

- The Ingham County Board of Commissioners approved the acceptance of the 2010 Active Violence Incident Training Grant from the Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards. The purpose of the training is to improve tactical formations, searches, and shooting skills for area police in the event of an act of violence in a school or public place so as to reduce risks/injuries to students/civilians.
- The Ingham County Board of Commissioners authorized Ingham County and the Ingham County Sheriff's Office to extend the contract with the Michigan Department of Corrections to rent 190 beds. These funds were anticipated in the 2010 Budget and are an integral revenue source to support the fixed costs of operating the Ingham County Jail. In addition to this contract for Jail beds, the Board of Commissioners approved a reduction in the amount of jail beds available for local use effective January 1, 2011. This reduction is necessary due to a worsening of the County's financial picture since the adoption of the budget for 2010. To help mitigate the impact of closing this Jail Post and reducing the availability of local Jail beds, the Ingham County Board of Commissioners authorized a contract with Luminosity Solutions, for a three-day period within a three-month overall time-frame, for the purpose of reviewing certain aspects of the Ingham County Criminal Justice System and providing recommendations to responsibly manage the jail population while maintaining public safety and the integrity of the judicial process. The Ingham County Board of Commissioners intends to partner with Ingham County criminal justice agencies and the Courts within Ingham County to find collaborative alternatives of what can be accomplished.
- The Ingham County Board of Commissioners adopted an ordinance amending the Ingham County Animal Control Ordinance by deleting the provision in the Animal Control Ordinance that previously required the Department to respond to barking dog complaints. This provision was a low priority of the Department due to limited resources and is now handled by local law enforcement agencies which already had the authority and ability to address noise and nuisance complaints.
- The Ingham County Board of Commissioners authorized the acceptance of a large donation (\$10,000) to the Animal Care Fund from the family of Rosalee Soltow. This bequest will be used to provide care and treatment to lost and abandoned animals that come into the Shelter. The Ingham County Board of Commissioners and the Ingham County Animal Control's staff and volunteers expressed their appreciation to the family of Mrs. Rosalee Soltow for her generous contribution to the betterment of animals at the Ingham County Animal Control.

- The Ingham County Board of Commissioners approved funding from donations to contract with Donovan & Smith Marketing and Media Incorporated, for the cost of a media fundraising campaign. The fundraising efforts are to increase funding to the Animal Care Fund to assist in expenses associated with veterinary care, surgeries, supplies, medicines and equipment.
- The Ingham County Board of Commissioners approved the Legacy Cost Agreements between Ingham County and the Cities of East Lansing and Lansing, as negotiated by the County Controller/Administrator, as a major step to develop the new Ingham County 911 Consolidated Dispatch Center Facility. The Controller/Administrator is now proceeding to conduct an RFP process to select an Architect/Engineering (A/E) and Construction Management (CM) firms to begin the design process for the proposed Ingham County Consolidated 911 Dispatch Center and anticipates signing the legacy cost agreements during the second quarter of 2010.

In addition, the Ingham County Board of Commissioners authorized funding for a Battery Replacement Project for the purchase of up to 630 replacement batteries from Batteries Plus for the 911 Public Safety Wireless Voice Communication System.

- The Ingham County Board of Commissioners authorized entering into a contract with the City of Lansing to be the fiduciary agent for the FY2008 Department of Homeland Security, Homeland Security Grant Program for the Ingham County equipment and training grant projects at the Health Department, the Ingham County HazMat Team / Regional Response Team, and the Ingham County Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Management.
- The Board of Commissioners approved a three year contract after the recommendation of various Ingham County criminal justice agencies (Sheriff, Prosecutor, 55th District, 30th Circuit Court and Probate Court) to centralize contractual automated Law Library access. The agencies collectively looked at various vendors that provide this service to determine the most cost effective and efficient way to obtain this service at significant savings to the County.
- The Ingham County Board of Commissioners approved Probate Court's recommendations to contract for legal counsel services to represent respondents in involuntary mental illness matters, as well as in guardianship, conservatorship, and other matters in Ingham County at significant cost savings.
- The Ingham County Board of Commissioners authorized two year extensions of two Family Court contracts for two residential group homes in the community. Both Sequel Youth Services for the Clarinda Transitional Living and the Peckham, Inc. - Footprints Group Home are extended through September of 2012, with costs being held at the current rates.

- The Parks Department closed out 2009 with the highest visitation in our history; over 1,500,000 people visited our parks. With snowy weather, visitation throughout the winter was good and thousands of guests enjoyed our ski trails and sledding hills. Parking revenue at Hawk Island generated over \$25,000 in the just the first 90 days of the 2009/2010 winter season.
- The Rhino Exhibit renovations are moving forward, engineering has been completed and the RFP for construction will be sent out shortly. Construction is anticipated to begin during the summer of 2010. Zoo staff are excited to have this exhibit renovated and the Black Rhino Species Survival Plan (SSP) has identified two Black Rhinos (one female and one male) that will be moved to Potter Park Zoo.
- The new Eagle Owl Exhibit construction will begin in May with a sixty (60) day construction plan. This exhibit will mirror the Bald Eagle Exhibit design, which provides excellent visitor viewing and appropriate habitat for the Eagle Owls.
- The Wings from Down Under Exhibit is scheduled to open for the year in late May. A favorite of Zoo visitors, this exhibit provides for a unique experience, allowing guests to walk through the exhibit and feed the birds while having the opportunity to learn more about the life of the birds.
- A new Master Plan for the Zoo was finished and approved by the Board of Commissioners. This new plan will give focus and goals for the future of the Zoo. The Great Lakes of Michigan and Native Animals from our Region will be one of major attraction of the “new” Zoo. Great Lakes of Asia, Africa and South America will be the theme of the balance of the Zoo and allowing exhibits to display the various animals in more natural settings. Year round attractions, more educational opportunities and better customer service will all come from this new plan.
- VISTA members’ efforts continue to improve personal and economic health of our community. The Refugee Development Center has created a group therapy session for refugee children; they are practicing listening while sitting in a circle and sharing how they came to be in Michigan. The NorthWest Initiative Center has created a letter writing program for children of incarcerated parents to learn literacy through photography and to connect with their relatives; youth are learning literacy and art and a way to deal with their emotions. The South Lansing Community Development Association is working to bring Google Fiber to Lansing.
- In honor of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service, the Power of We Consortium’s AmeriCorps and VISTA projects collaborated with AmeriCorps members at Lansing's American Red Cross to gather donations for the Mid-Michigan Food Bank's Weekend Survival Kits. These are for schoolchildren whose primary source of healthy and consistent meals is provided during regular

school days. The backpacks contain kid-friendly, easy-to-prepare foods and are distributed to 480 local elementary school children to help sustain them over weekends and long school breaks.

- Students at Lansing's Sexton High School are learning how to start their own business through their participation in a 4-H after school program. These students have opened a snack bar during after school hours for one day a week in the school's spirit shop. They wrote a business plan to guide their venture.
- Encouraging kids to eat their vegetables is just one benefit that results from engaging youth in gardening activities. Ingham County 4-H, in partnership with the Greater Lansing Youth Gardening Coalition, sponsored a Youth Gardening Workshop on February 20th. Sixty-eight residents gathered at the Holt Jr. High School on March 18th to learn how growing a vegetable garden can supplement their family's diet and increase their consumption of fresh vegetables. The Ingham County Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP-Ed) conducted by MSU Extension, recently completed a series at Attwood Elementary School in Lansing.
- On March 5th, Ingham County MSU Extension held a backyard poultry program attended by 38 urban/suburban residents. It was held in response to recent ordinance changes that now permit the housing of up to five chickens in residential areas.
- Four senior undergraduate students in the Applied Engineering Sciences program at MSU are working this semester with MSU Extension to better connect mid-Michigan growers with emergency food providers such as food pantries and shelters. The students have expertise in logistics and supply chain management and are developing solutions to obstacles identified in their research. The goal of this project is to remove barriers and increase fresh food donations and/or sales to food banks in the region.
- Human Resources assisted the Ingham County Diversity Committee with the 2010 Diversity Luncheon and Program bringing over 100 employees together. The Diversity Luncheon has continued to bring employees together to experience the variety of cultural backgrounds of our employees. This annual event was held at the Human Services Building and will continue next year at the Veterans Memorial Courthouse Building.

For further information, please contact the
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