

2nd QUARTER ISSUES UPDATE
July 2009



The second quarter of 2009 presented many challenges and opportunities for Ingham County Government. The need to balance a budget for 2010 that presents a 5.5 million dollar shortfall in revenues will be extremely difficult; however, the cooperation of Elected Officials and Department Heads throughout the County will greatly assist the Commissioners. The Board of Commissioners has placed particular importance on providing uninsured residents with access to health care, improving the adult and juvenile justice systems and providing recreational opportunities.

- Ingham County has received a 1.3 million dollar federal assistance award (grant) from the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) for the Community Health Center Network's Cedar Community Health Center, Healthy Smiles Dental Clinic, St. Lawrence Community Health Center, and the Well Child Health Center. The direct federal assistance and the resultant associated program income will enable the Health Department to increase its services to an additional 4,766 unduplicated users by the end of year two. This increased capacity is projected to result in an additional 18,426 health care encounters per year by the end of year two. This grant award also provides funding for behavioral health services to be provided directly within the Health Department's Health Centers.
- The Board of Commissioners passed a resolution establishing areas of priority emphasis to guide the 2010 activities and budget development. The resolution was developed from recent discussions regarding the status of current (2009) areas of priority emphasis and departmental perspectives regarding areas of importance for 2010.

The adopted resolution was distributed to departments and offices for their information as they prepared their proposed budgets and activities for 2010, and will be used to guide the development of the Controller/Administrator's Recommended Budget.

- The Ingham County Board of Commissioners authorized the Ingham County Sheriff's Office to participate with the Lansing Police Department in the Project Safe Neighborhoods grant for the time period of January 1, 2009 through December 31, 2009.

The Lansing Police Department entered into a Project Safe Neighborhoods Grant Agreement with the US Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs for the purpose of providing enforcement action and problem solving strategies against gangs, guns, and drugs throughout Ingham County.

- The Ingham County Board of Commissioners authorized the Sheriff's Office to accept a grant from MMRMA for the Ingham County Safe Schools Initiative. This RAP grant provides the Ingham County Sheriff's Office dollar per dollar reimbursement for training materials for area police officers who attend the "Active Shooter" training in 2009.

Law enforcement officials in Ingham County and Ingham County School officials agreed to form a committee, whose task was to create a county-wide procedure and protocols for all Ingham County Schools, both private and public, concerning active violence in schools.

In addition, a second committee was formed, made up of Tri-County area police officers including Ingham County Deputies, to create a training curriculum for all Tri-County police officers on how to respond to an active violence situation in any school. The Ingham County Sheriff's Office hosted the Tri-County "Active Shooter Training" for area trainers in May and June of 2009. The two (2) day "train the trainers" provided training and training materials for each participant in the Tri-County Area.

- The Ingham County Board of Commissioners authorized the Ingham County Sheriff's Office to accept a grant from the Region One Homeland Security Planning Board for the Department of Homeland Security Grant funds through the Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Program (LETPP).

This grant authorizes the purchase of a new, state-of-the-art, outdoor digital camera system to improve security around the Sheriff's Office compound through the ability to monitor the grounds for any potential crimes, potential liability incidents, and for inmate escapes.

- The Ingham County Board of Commissioners authorized several projects and processes toward the goal of improving the 911 Emergency Telephone Dispatch Services in Ingham County including:

- 1) Upgrade of the Public Safety Radio Communications System in Ingham County.

- 2) The transfer of an unused FCC license to Lansing Community College (LCC).

- 3) Approval of the monthly county-based surcharge of 42 cents placed on all communications service providers beginning July 1, 2009.

- 4) Approval of the recommendation from the Architectural/Engineering Consultant, Landmark Design Group P. C. , the Controller/Administrator's Office and the 911 Advisory Steering Committee to select the Jolly Road Site, on vacant land west of the CMH Building on the Ingham County Human Services Building Campus, as the site to construct the proposed Ingham County Consolidated 911 Dispatch Center.

- The Ingham County Board of Commissioners authorized the acceptance of the FY2007 Homeland Security Grant Program funds for several projects including:

Health Department:

Public Health ArcView Training Software

ECC Communications Upgrade

Pan-Ready Full-Scale Exercise Reimbursement

Exercise Food/Drink Reimbursement

Ingham County HazMat Team/Regional Response Team:

Flammable Liquid/Gas PPE
PPE, Level A Protective Suits
Atmospheric Monitoring Equipment

Ingham County Office of Homeland Security & Emergency

Management/ EOC:

Multimedia Upgrade
EOC Communication Equipment Re-location

- The Ingham County Board of Commissioners' Law Enforcement Committee have scheduled and held several meetings regarding the ongoing communications and debate on the future of Primary Law Enforcement Services/Road Patrol in Ingham County. These meetings are a follow-up to several meetings held by the Law Enforcement Committee over the past several years and the release of the Attorney/Client Privileged legal opinions from Cohl, Stoker, Toskey & McGlinchey, P.C., regarding the communications of October 30, 2007 for Road Patrol and the May 9, 2008 Township Special Assessment for Police Services.

At the June 11, 2009 Law Enforcement Committee meeting, Controller/ Administrator Dr. Matthew Myers presented a Restructuring of Law Enforcement Services Plan for review and comment by the Law Enforcement Committee, other members of the Board of Commissioners, the Public and other interested parties.

At the June 25, 2009 Law Enforcement Committee Special meeting, Sheriff Gene Wriggelsworth and the Sheriff's Office Administration presented information on the current level of Primary Law Enforcement Services/Road Patrol in Ingham County and how the proposed Restructuring of Law Enforcement Services Plan would affect those services.

The third scheduled Law Enforcement Committee meeting is slated to take place on July 16, 2009, to discuss this important topic and this information will be useful to other local units of government in Ingham County as they consider the level of primary law enforcement that they may be interested in providing, given the budget problems in Ingham County that are putting pressures on funding discretionary road patrol services through the County budget.

- The Ingham County Board of Commissioners approved the Prosecuting Attorney's request to reorganize the Prosecutor's Office to be better positioned to work effectively as the Office anticipates major transitions including going paperless and to migrate to a new Software Operating System (PACC/PAMM) in the near future.
- The Ingham County Board of Commissioners approved a budget transfer to balance the 2008 state wards account within the Child Care Fund. A budget transfer from the Juvenile Justice Millage covered this budget shortfall due to primarily significant cost increases by the State of Michigan to house Ingham County children in State-run residential programs.

- The Ingham County Board of Commissioners approved a reorganization that reassigned the duties and responsibilities from the MIS Department to the Thirtieth Judicial Circuit Court, as a more efficient method of fulfilling these functions and appointed the Circuit Court Administrator as the Ingham County Jury Administrator, with all the duties and responsibilities inherent in that position.
- The Ingham County Board of Commissioners approved a resolution to enter into a contract with a vendor to purchase additional hardware, for the purpose of supplying and installing an On-Base Imaging System for the Ingham County Friend of the Court and the Family Support Unit of the Ingham County Prosecutor's Office. This will allow the Friend of the Court and the Family Support Unit of the Prosecuting Attorney's Office to electronically scan and store documents that will lead to cost-savings and improved support enforcement through the efficient use of state-of-the-art document management.
- The Board of Commissioners adopted Resolution No. 09-194, Resolution Authorizing the Ingham County Project Labor Agreement Policy. A Project Labor Agreement (PLA) is a pre-hire collective bargaining agreement with one or more labor organizations that establishes the terms and conditions of employment for a specific construction project.

The decision to utilize PLAs will be determined on a project-by-project basis. PLAs will be used when in the opinion of staff a proposed construction project meets the definition of a "Major County Construction Project". A "Major County Construction Project" means a County construction project for a new building or buildings, or other real property improvement or renovation project, where the projected direct labor costs to the County exceeds \$100,000.

- Two DNR Trust Fund grants were approved for funding for the Parks Department. One for the Burchfield Park Fishing Dock Development and the other for purchase of land adjacent to Lake Lansing Park-North.

The project at Burchfield Park will provide for accessible fishing docks along the west side of the pond at the park and fish habitat under the dock. This will add to the existing boardwalk/dock on the pond and provide for more excellent fishing opportunities.

The land purchase was generously supported by the community, providing over \$100,000 as match for the grant. The Meridian Township Land Preservation Board also provided \$625,000 for the match, approving this donation, the Board indicated the importance of preserving natural and untouched lands.

- The new "Birds from Down Under" exhibit opened in May. This interactive exhibit allows for visitors to enter the exhibit and enjoy the birds close up. Seed sticks are available so guests can have the birds actually land on their hand and eat a snack. This exhibit has been a great success with thousands of visitors enjoying the birds and learning about the various species at the same time.
- The Rhino Exhibit renovation is moving forward. The engineering firm is working on the plans for the exhibit and are expecting to break ground this fall.

- Another new exhibit for the Eurasian Eagle Owl is underway at the zoo. The design will be similar to the recently completed Eagle Exhibit. The plan is to complete the project before the end of 2009.
- The Economic Development Department, which administers the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority, was awarded a 3- year \$300,000 grant by the U.S. EPA to inventory and do environmental assessments of properties contaminated with petroleum and other hazardous substances.
- The Ingham Brownfield Redevelopment Authority submitted work plans to the Michigan Economic Development Corporation to fund Land Bank Brownfield site redevelopments listed in a county-wide plan and in a plan for only City of Lansing sites.
- The County Commissioners passed the final resolutions and the EDC finished paperwork to accept a \$250,000 Community Development Block Grant. Project work began to improve electric infrastructure at the Alaiedon-Meridian Townships border and create new jobs at the Jackson National Life Corporate Headquarters off of Okemos Road.
- The County's Economic Development Educator worked with LEAP (Lansing Economic Area Partnership) to identify and profile sites and respond to five searches for locations to expand or relocate businesses to our region.
- The County's Economic Development Educator assisted with a project to develop a cultural economic development plan for the Lansing-East Lansing area.
- 4-H staff has assisted with planting gardens at four locations with youth including the Foster Community Garden, Footprints, Ingham Family Center, and Foster Community Center. A majority of the youth participating are involved in juvenile court. Some are doing it for community service hours and others are doing it as a recreational activity. The youth have expressed feelings of ownership and pride.
- Youth who previously spent their summer riding bikes around in the parking lot of a Lansing townhouse complex now look forward to their 4-H Global Pride club meetings. Twice a week, immigrant and refugee youth are learning a new cultural art form and are getting closer to being ready for their performance of the Lion King. To prepare, they went on a field trip to see a performance done by the Mid Michigan Family Theater. The youth were given a tour and interviewed the play director.
- Working with the County attorneys, three (3) contracts are complete and available on the Web. Fourteen (14) other collective agreements are in various stages of development. <http://www.ingham.org/pe/webemqps.htm>
- The Human Resource section of the County Web Site continues to receive accolades from other counties, the State, municipalities, and the public for accessibility of contracts and job descriptions, forms (FMLA, tax forms, etc.). Other counties find this information on the County's site particularly helpful during their respective contract negotiations and/or in the creation/elimination of positions.

- Concluded the 63rd Annual MERS Delegate Election and the Employee Delegate this year is Rod Villarreal of MIS. This is the second year the election was entirely electronic making the process more efficient while saving money. Mr. Villarreal will attend the MERS Annual Meeting on September 15 through September 17, 2009 at the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel in Grand Rapids.
- The Human Resources Department is now electronically distributing CARES and MERS newsletters to save time and money.
- The Human Resources Department is awaiting approval of the 2009 Ingham County Fair tickets that are distributed annually through Human Resources for employees. They provide one free gate admission and discounted ride tickets. The Fair will be held in August.
- New this year, the Human Resources Department has implemented the use of electronic reports to save time and paper in the delivery of the 2009 Union Quarterly Bargaining Reports.
- The Human Resources Department coordinated training to develop and facilitate customer service training for the Zoo, arrange leadership training for County supervisory staff and participated in FMLA training with Attorney Bonnie Toskey.
- The Insurance and Benefits section transitioned from the Human Resources Department to the Financial Services Department; two employees were relocated to the Financial Services Department.

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