



## **4th QUARTER ISSUES UPDATE** **December 14, 2009**

*The fourth quarter of 2009 presented many challenges and opportunities for Ingham County Government. The uncertainty of the fiscal stability of the State will continue to present challenges for us in 2010. It is important that we constantly look for opportunities to decrease expenses. With the cooperation of Department Heads and Elected Officials, the Ingham County Board of Commissioners approved the Budget for 2010.*

In addition to the work on the 2010 budget, much activity occurred to include the following:

- The Ingham County Board of Commissioners authorized the expenditure of funds to have Rayner Park appraised. The intent is to negotiate an agreement with the City of Mason to keep Rayner Park open. Discussions have occurred between the County and the City of Mason. Currently, the County Attorney is drafting a proposal to present to the City of Mason. During the first quarter of 2010 it is anticipated that we will reach an agreement to have Rayner Park under the operation and management of the City of Mason.
- The Board of Commissioners directed the Ingham County Economic Development Corporation to develop a process to evaluate proposals from municipalities and private companies who were interested in receiving Recovery Zone Bonds from the County. The Federal Government provided over \$34 million in Recovery Zone Bonds to Ingham County for allocation to various development projects. \$16.1 million in Facility Bonds were allocated to the Accident Fund project in the City of Lansing. \$9.0 million in Development Bonds and \$4.7 million in Facility Bonds were allocated to the Eastwood Phase II project. \$4.8 million in Development Bonds were reserved for Ingham County to build the new 911 Center, which will be located on Jolly Road, just east of Cedar Street.
- The Ingham County Board of Commissioners approved acceptance of a \$375,000 Block Grant from the Michigan State Housing Development Authority on behalf of the Ingham County Housing Commission.
- The Ingham County Board of Commissioners approved a new two year contract between Ingham County and the Law Firm of Cohl, Stoker, Toskey & McGlinchey. The new contract will run through December 31, 2011 with the option by the Board of Commissioners for an additional one year. Ingham County has contracted for legal services with the Cohl Law Firm for over 30 years.
- After a three month search, application and interview process, the Ingham County Board of Commissioners accepted the unanimous recommendation from

the Fair Board to hire Barb Hensinger as the Manager of the Fair. Barb previously was the Director for the State of Michigan Fair.

- The Ingham County Board of Commissioners approved the Resolution pledging the Full Faith and Credit for the Cook and Thorburn Drain Drainage District project that will begin during 2010 and will be managed by the Ingham County Drain Commissioner.
- On behalf of the County, the County Attorneys successfully negotiated a "Furlough Plan" with all of the labor units that represent County employees. Along with the managers and confidential employees, the furlough plan which will close the County between the Christmas and New Years Holidays of 2010 will save the County in excess of \$350,000. As a result of this savings, 11 employees who were scheduled to be laid off will continue their employment with Ingham County.
- The Ingham County Board of Commissioners announced the following assignments for 2010:

Debbie De Leon, Chairperson  
Victor Celentino, Chairperson Pro Tem  
Steve Dougan, Vice-Chairperson Pro Tem  
Dale Copedge, County Services Committee Chair  
Mark Grebner, Finance Committee Chair  
Brian McGrain, Human Services Committee Chair  
Deb Nolan, Judiciary Committee Chair  
Dianne Holman, Law Enforcement Committee Chair

- The H1N1 vaccine is now available to anyone six months and older. The Health Department urges those who have not yet received the H1N1 vaccine to consider doing so. Vaccination is the best protection for individuals and their loved ones against the H1N1 virus. The flu season is just beginning and it is still possible to see another surge in illnesses.
- To address ongoing efforts to support the Board of Commissioners' priority of "Meeting Basic Needs", the Ingham County Board of Commissioners allocated Community Agency funding for FY 2010 totaling over \$200,000; allocations were made to 32 successful applicants. Thirty six agencies made funding requests totaling more than \$300,000.
- The Board of Commissioners approved Permanent Conservation Easement Deed Option Agreements between Ingham County and three landowners, based on values established by Yankee Appraisal Associates. If the landowners accept the Option Agreements as stated, the Ingham County Agricultural Preservation Board will proceed to closing and recording a Permanent Conservation Easement Deed.
- In addition, the Board of Commissioners adopted the Ingham County Open Space Purchase of Development Rights Ordinance, which creates the Ingham

County Open Space Preservation Program, and authorizes the purchase of development rights and the placement of conservation easements on open space land by the County. The intent of this Ordinance is to provide a mechanism for the preservation of open space land in Ingham County through the purchase of conservation easements. The actual number of acres that will be protected through the purchasing of their development rights will remain the prerogative of the Ingham County Board of Commissioners.

- The Ingham County Board of Commissioners approved the recommendation from the Ingham County Animal Control Advisory Committee and adopted an Ordinance amending the Ingham County Animal Control Ordinance expressly permitting the keeping of up to five hens on one-or two-family residential properties, under certain conditions, commonly know as the Urban Chicken ordinance. Local units of government can still prohibit this if they choose and this can be prohibited through private land use restrictions.
- The Ingham County Board of Commissioners and the Ingham County Sheriff's Office agreed to participate with the Meridian Township Police Department in a number of cooperative ventures through shared grants including, Youth Alcohol Enforcement, Child Passenger Safety Enforcement, and Traffic Enforcement programs.
- The County has held several meetings with representatives from the City of East Lansing and City of Lansing to proceed on the proposed Ingham County Consolidated 911 Dispatch Center. DRAFT agreements have been provided to both Cities to clarify the distribution and responsibilities for legacy costs and other employment liabilities between the Cities and County. It is hoped that agreements can be reached in the next quarter in order to allow the project to proceed.
- The Ingham County Board of Commissioners authorized entering into the annual agreement with the Michigan Department of Corrections for Ingham County/City of Lansing Community Corrections for FY 2009-2010. The agreement funds a number of alternative sentencing programs in the County including, Drunk Driving Jail Reduction, Community Treatment Programs, Residential Treatment beds programs, Day Reporting and Cognitive Change Groups Employment Services programs, and Relapse Prevention and Recovery services.
- The Ingham County Board of Commissioners authorized an amendment to the original contract with ID Solutions to purchase and install additional digital cameras for the outdoor perimeter camera system at the Ingham County Jail. This will improve security and safety at the Ingham County Jail.
- The Ingham County Board of Commissioners authorized the Ingham County Sheriff's Office to participate and sign any reimbursement agreements for joint investigations with Federal Law Enforcement Agencies to promote local/federal cooperation through joint investigative task forces where appropriate.

- The Ingham County Board of Commissioners authorized an amendment to a previously approved three year lease with L-3 Mobile Vision to a reduced out right purchase contract for twelve (12) in-car cameras plus the associated computer hardware for operation and storage. The L-3 Mobile Vision revised proposal reduced the number of cameras from 27 to 12 and eliminated finance charges from the original lease purchase agreement.
- The Ingham County Board of Commissioners approved acceptance of the Michigan State Police Grants Section subcontract with the City of Lansing in the amount of \$240,000.00 for the Sheriff's Office Metro Conspiracy Investigations Grant for the time period of January 1, 2010 through September 30, 2012. This will fund an additional Law Enforcement Officer Grant position for the duration of the grant program.
- The Ingham County Board of Commissioners authorized acceptance of a public safety technology grant from the U.S. Department of Justice Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, for the time period of December 21, 2009 through December 31, 2010. This grant will provide Ingham County with a total of up to \$500,000 for the implementation of public safety technology initiatives including tethers and video surveillance. An additional \$100,000 funding is anticipated in FY 2010 for a new IP-based 911 phone system.
- The Ingham County Board of Commissioners approved the Ingham County Sheriff's Office recommendation and authorized a contract with On The Run TV, LCC to install and manage a Detention Information and Communication System within the Sheriff's Office, for a three year pilot project, that will use slide impressions that can be run every 20 seconds, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week on flat screen televisions strategically placed at the Sheriff's Office. This project will allow the Sheriff's Office to broadcast information concerning Crime Stoppers, jail policies and procedures, health care, visitation procedures and legal assistance for inmates.
- The Ingham County Board of Commissioners approved the recommendation of the Ingham County Sheriff's Office, Emergency Operations Division, in cooperation with the Ingham County Local Planning Team, for the acquisition of some operational equipment from the Buffer Zone Protection Program (BZPP) Grant.
- The Ingham County Board of Commissioners authorized accepting a grant from the Michigan Drug Court Grant Program to the Ingham County Circuit Court's Family Dependency Treatment Court, for the time period of October 1, 2009 through September 30, 2010, for purposes of eliminating barriers to treatment, providing rewards and incentives, and participation in the annual Drug Court Conference to offer increased treatment options for the Court.
- The Ingham County Board of Commissioners authorized entering into a placement agreement with MSU Extension to oversee the AmeriCorps volunteers from November 9, 2009 through September 30, 2010, to provide on-site programming support to programs, at the Ingham Family Center that directly

relate to increasing community knowledge of and accessibility to healthy lifestyle options for youth and families served by the Ingham Family Center.

- The Ingham County Board of Commissioners authorized acceptance of two State Court Administrator's Office grants, in cooperation with the Ingham County 55th District Court, to continue operations of the Sobriety Court Program, for the time period of October 1, 2009 through September 30, 2010.
- The Ingham County Board of Commissioners authorized accepting a one year grant effective October 1, 2009 ending September 30, 2010, in the amount of \$8,100, from the State Court Administrative Office for purposes of facilitating non-custodial parents' access to visitation with their children through supervised parenting time and neutral drop-off and pick-up services. The program will be conducted through a one year sub-contract with Michigan State University Chance at Childhood Program.
- The Ingham County Board of Commissioners authorized some amendments to the three year grant from the Office on Violence Against Women, U. S. Department of Justice operated in cooperation with the Circuit Court/Friend of the Court program known as the Safe Havens Supervised Visitation and Safe Exchange Grant. During mandatory training provided by the Office on Violence Against Women, roles and responsibilities of the major subcontractors Eve, Inc. and Michigan State University Chance at Childhood Program were clarified and finalized. It was determined that Eve, Inc. should serve as Project Coordinator and the employer of record for the domestic violence representative of the visitation and exchange project; and that Michigan State University Chance at Childhood Program should serve as the Program Director for the visitation and exchange project. Budgetary and contract changes were made in accordance to these final determinations.
- The Purchasing Department with assistance from the Facilities Department and the Sheriff's Office, auctioned off thirty-two County-owned vehicles and various equipment (e.g. lawn tractors, street sweeper, utility trailer) totaling \$98,088.
- Visitation at Ingham County Parks is up nearly 5% from 2008. With the economic issues facing our local residents, people are choosing to stay close to home and this is reflected in the increased visitation to our parks.
- The Potter Park Zoo Board, Ingham County Parks Commission, Zoo and Park staff and Potter Park Zoo Society Staff have been working with Jones and Jones, an architectural and planning firm from Seattle, on developing a new master plan for the Zoo. Utilizing research done by staff and holding several workshops at the Zoo, Jones and Jones has developed a new, long term plan for the Zoo which includes a focus on Michigan, the Great Lakes and other great lake regions of the world. This is the first master plan for the Zoo in over 10 years and provides staff with direction to move Potter Park Zoo into the future.
- Visitation at the Zoo is up over 18% from 2008, with over 150,000 visitors enjoying the Zoo in 2009.

- Tax and mortgage foreclosures have driven Land Bank activities. 2009 has been a year of growth to respond to the circumstances. With the help of federal tax policy, six home sale agreements were signed in the span of six weeks this fall. Thirteen sales to homeowners closed this year, and 30 in the last three years, and more are pending! The latest property listings can be viewed at <http://www.inghamlandbank.org/inghamlb1745128.asp>.
- November 2nd was a historic day for the Land Bank in several ways. It was the four year anniversary of formation. Much has happened in that short time. The Land Bank also unveiled to the media the first two homes being renovated with federal housing recovery dollars, awarded to the City of Lansing and utilized by the Land Bank Authority. Mayor Bernero led the event, joining County Treasurer and Land Bank Chair Schertzing in front of 3118 Risdale, near Wainwright Elementary School. Both homes will be available for families in late January.
- The first closing on a commercial property occurred. The Land Bank acquired the former Superintendent's house at the School for the Blind from the Lansing Housing Commission in December 2008. After investing \$150,000 to restore and renovate the property it sold to Rizzi Designs for their growing business ([www.rizzidesigns.com](http://www.rizzidesigns.com)). An Open House on December 3rd at this beautiful property at 1141 North Pine in Lansing brought out 200 visitors. The vision for linking Old Town to the western Old Town neighborhood is shaping up.
- In December, Ingham County MSUE hosted its annual 'TelFarm Check-in' program. Ingham County growers brought their 2009 cash-flow statement, depreciation schedules, and other business documents to local and regional MSU Extension educators who used a sophisticated analysis to help them make decisions related to their 2009 returns. This process is expected to result in local farmers investing over \$344,000 of capital inputs and investments prior to January 1 of 2010. Much of this money is expected to be spent locally on seed, fertilizer, fuel, grain bins, shop supplies, farm equipment, and other inputs, causing the economic impact of this program to be multiplied within our community.
- During the third quarter, the Power of We Consortium's VISTA Project generated over \$61,000 in non-cash and \$7,000 in cash resources for the Capital Area and recruited almost 1,000 new volunteers to help fight poverty. The Project also received American Recovery and Reinvestment Act support from the Corporation for National and Community Service for six new members. The AmeriCorps State Program got off the ground in September, with a new coordinator and 10 new members working on projects that improve health and the environment in the Capital Area.
- MSU Extension has posted a new horticulture website which integrates MSU, county, USDA and other Land Grant University information. The site is found at: <http://www.ingham.org/ce/hort/home.htm> and includes instructional garden videos, links to "eXtension", a national extension resource, fact sheets, area farmers' markets, plant societies, associations, and garden clubs, community

supported agriculture, and gardening supply sources. In 2010, it is planned for selected classes to be made available to residents on-line for 24 hour access.

- The day after Thanksgiving, Ingham County Youth Commissioners solicited donations and volunteered as servers to provide twenty homeless people with breakfast at Gone Wired Cafe. Because food bank donations are down and the need for food is on the rise, Ingham County Youth Commissioners helped fill the gap by coordinating a successful Thanksgiving can goods drive at J.W. Sexton High School for the Lansing area food bank.
- The Land Use and Health Committee, a partnership of the Ingham County Health Department, Tri-county Regional Planning Commission and MSU Extension has formed an ad hoc regional food group. The group, comprised of professionals, community organizers, civic officials, producers, school lunch officials and other interested parties, has adopted the goal, “Everyone has access to safe, healthy and affordable food.” To this end, the group has met twice and created a logic model to drive programming to meet this goal. Additional investigation has begun into the formation of a food policy council which would undertake the study of current policies and make recommendations designed to reduce food insecurity in Ingham County.
- In its quest to reach out to diverse audiences in Ingham County, the MSU Extension food and nutrition staff presented a Thanksgiving meal to sixty refugees who have newly arrived to the Lansing area. Staff provided healthy, culturally appropriate foods for families from six different countries to enjoy. Through the Expanded Food and Nutrition Program (EFNEP), these families will continue to learn about healthy meal planning, food safety and smart shopping.

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