



ISSUES UPDATE - SEPTEMBER 2007

The third quarter of 2007 continued to present challenges for Ingham County Government. Faced with a weak economy and the need to balance a budget for 2008 that represented a 4.7 million dollar shortfall in revenues, Ingham County continues to provide a high quality of services to its residents. The Board of Commissioners has placed particular importance on providing uninsured residents with access to health care; expanding recreational opportunities; and improving the adult and juvenile justice systems.

The third quarter of 2007 has seen much activity in areas of importance to the County Board, including the following:

- As a result of a lease and operational agreement between the City of Lansing and Ingham County, Potter Park and Potter Park Zoo are now fully managed by the County. Many improvements to buildings and the grounds of the Zoo have been realized. The work has been much more than a “face lift”. All aspects of the park and zoo are being inspected to provide citizens with a facility that will provide recreational and educational experiences at the highest level. As a result of the hard work and dedication of the staff at the Park, Zoo and Central Services, the Zoo received AZA accreditation, which will greatly enhance the Zoo’s ability grow and improve.
- The Board of Commissioners authorized the Drain Commissioner to establish a “Fast Track Permit Review System”, to provide expedited services to developers and builders.
- The Deferred Compensation Committee is reviewing additional vendors to provide employees options related to enhancing Deferred Compensation opportunities for all employees.
- The County Treasurer has continued the role of Foreclosure Agent for tax delinquent properties, and the Land Bank Authority continues to manage foreclosed properties. The Brownfield Redevelopment Authority has prepared and recommended a plan to restore the environmental and economic viability of tax foreclosed and underutilized properties that are held by the Land Bank Authority and has coordinated plans with ten jurisdictions with properties in the plan, to restore the environmental and economic viability of the properties.
- The Task Force assigned to assist the Board of Commissioners in identifying an appropriate facility for “Continuum of Care” remains active in its attempt to secure a location to meet the needs of the Circuit Court and various community partners. Through the efforts of the Juvenile Division of the Circuit Court, with support of Central Services, the Board of Commissioners authorized the establishment of the “Ingham Academy”, currently operating at the Grady Porter Building. This is a pilot

program aimed at providing educational services to a minimum of 15 youth, under the jurisdiction of the Court, for the 2007/2008 school year, in partnership with the Ingham Intermediate School District and Camp Highfields.

- MSU Extension continues to expand educational opportunities for youth. The 4-H staff and Lansing Parks and Recreation are working to expand the 4-H Peer Mentoring program into three Lansing Community Centers. This will increase the number of youth serving as a peer mentor and serving those being mentored. The Second Annual Greater Lansing Youth Festival experienced a 200% increase in participants. The 4-H staff taught financial literacy to youth who attended the Lansing Extended Summer Camp. 4-H worked with “The Power of We Consortium” in their Capacity Building Training Series to provide Volunteer Management Training. 1,190 4-H Members exhibited 7,692 projects at the 2007 Ingham County Fair.
- The Board authorized \$22,000 to be spent to support the Asset Independence Coalition, under the umbrella of the Power of We Consortium, to coordinate income tax preparation for low and moderate-income citizens. The Board also approved funding to the Greater Lansing Housing Coalition to support counseling efforts related to mortgage foreclosure prevention.
- Plante & Moran completed the study related to the consolidation of the two dispatch centers. The study concluded it would be operationally efficient to combine the Centers. The findings of the study have been shared with the Board. It is anticipated the Board will move forward with meetings involving East Lansing and Lansing to develop plans to consolidate the two Centers.
- The Task Force assigned to assist the Board of Commissioners in identifying an appropriate facility for the “Continuum of Care” remains active in its attempt to secure a location to meet the needs of Circuit Court and various community partners. The Task Force continues to review possible locations that will provide the needed space and allow for the programming to be provided by the “Continuum of Care Facility”, within the context of the budget limitations of the Juvenile Justice Millage/Child Care Funds available for this purpose.
- Labor negotiations remain stable. The MAP/Law Enforcement contract and the Teamsters Zoo employee’s contract will expire in December 2007 and negotiations toward new agreements have begun.
- Efforts to expand access to health care for the uninsured have continued through the promotion of the Ingham County Advantage program and the reorganization of the Ingham Health Plan Bureau.
- The Finance Committee has passed a Recommended Budget for 2008. While Ingham County will continue to provide excellent services for the residents, difficult decisions were necessary during the budget process. A 4.7 million dollar shortfall was identified as the 2008 budget process began. All Departments were carefully scrutinized for possible savings. It was imperative that all services were reviewed to determine if there were more efficient ways in which Ingham County could operate

and yet still provide the services that were most important to the citizens. The recommended budget provides a formula to allow Departments to operate efficiently and yet continues to meet the objectives of the Commissioners.

- The jail continues to be overcrowded. The Law Enforcement and the Judiciary Committees continue to review strategies aimed at reducing the inmate population. The Committees have also committed to work with an organization to focus on prisoner reentry. CCAB and CMH have also committed to assist with this project.
- Mr. Tony Lindsey was appointed as the Interim Human Resources Director, due to Mr. Hailey's retirement. As a result of a reorganization in Human Resources for 2008, Mr. Lindsey has been appointed as the Human Resources Director beginning January 1, 2008.
- The contract with our attorney has been renegotiated and several significant changes will occur beginning January 1, 2008. Ms. Bonnie Toskey will be working out of the Human Services Building. Ms. Toskey will have an office in the Human Resources area of the building. Ms. Toskey will focus on Labor Relations issues. As time permits, Ms. Toskey will be available to assist in other legal issues. Other services delivered by our attorneys will be handled as they have been in the past. Ms. Toskey will have the ability to request additional legal assistance from her office as necessary.
- Through the assistance of the Treasurer, the Board approved funding to assist low-income families with tax preparation. The Treasurer also provided information to the Board that was the impetus to begin a partnership with the City of Lansing to provide funding to develop a "Mortgage Foreclosure Prevention Program" to assist our citizens.
- The Health Department was able to secure funding through Ryan White Part B grant revenues to implement a new HIV/AIDS clinical operation in collaboration with Michigan State University. This operation is located within the Health Department's Cedar Community Health Center, effective October 1, 2007.
- The 911 Advisory Committee is working on recommendations to present to the Board regarding the "Ingham County Public Safety Radio System Cost Participation Policy" with respect to Public Safety Agencies and other agencies costs and other responsibilities as members of the Ingham County Public Safety Radio System. The policy will propose a cost sharing arrangement whereby local units of government will pay a portion of the annual maintenance contracts for the Radio Systems infrastructure. Currently the recommendation is each entity will pay \$100 per radio that operates on the system and 911 funds will supplement the entities, by paying an additional \$40 per radio that operates on the system. A final recommendation will be presented to the Board this fall.
- M/A-COM, Inc. has completed the installation of the enhancement to the radio system to improve the coverage for the southwest area of Lansing. The first coverage test has been completed and adjustments are being made to the direction of the antenna to redirect the coverage to make further enhancements to southwest Lansing.

It is anticipated that all testing will be completed at this site and it will be fully operational by the end of October.

- The Board accepted a recommendation from the 911 Advisory Committee and approved a contract with Tusa, Inc. Consulting Services, regarding an independent review of the dropped calls issue for the 911 Ingham County Public Safety Radio System. Tusa Inc. is working closely with M/A-COM, Inc., the Public Safety community and the City of Lansing Police Department and Radio Lab on this project. It is anticipated that a report will be completed by the end of October.
- The Board accepted the recommendation of the Ingham County 911 Advisory Committee and approved entering into a three-year maintenance Agreement for the public safety radio system infrastructure, with M/A-COM, Inc. The contract will be effective from October 1, 2007 through September 30, 2010.

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