

INGHAM COUNTY
Quarterly Issues Update
October 2006



Ingham County continues to provide high quality services to its 280,000 residents despite the challenges of Michigan's evolving economy and declining state tax revenues. Health and human services, law enforcement, judicial administration, elections, record-keeping, equalization for assessments, delinquent property tax collection, economic development, and parks and recreation services are provided through various county offices. Over the past several years, the Board of Commissioners has strived to maintain current service levels with a continuing emphasis on improving access to healthcare; expanding recreational opportunities; improving the adult and juvenile justice systems; and promoting environmental protection and smart growth.

The third quarter of 2006 witnessed the following activities of interest to the County Board of Commissioners:

- Developed a 2007 Controller Recommended Budget that continued all current services, with the exception of those where funding sources had been decreased or eliminated. Incorporated the Board of Commissioners' budget guidelines as directed by Resolution #06-120, "Resolution Establishing Areas of Priority Guiding 2007 Activities and Budget Process."
- Prepared the 2007 Budget as recommended by the Finance Committee and 2007 Appropriations Resolution and passed by the Board of Commissioners on October 24. The 2007 budget continues current services and also includes limited funding to address initiatives in areas of priority emphasis. These areas include the continued expansion of the Ingham Health Plan in order to provide access to health care for all uninsured county residents by 2010 and continued funding of the Parks Trail Fund in order to connect all major county parks by non-motorized pathways by 2016. Through the use of Strategic Planning Initiative Funds, several new positions were added to the budget and funding was provided to continue the treatment and monitoring of drug dependency.
- Developed recommendations for the Finance Committee regarding the County's Financial Reserve Policy. The 2006 budget was amended to transfer funds to the Budget Stabilization Fund and the Public Improvements Fund in order to remain within the parameters of the policy. Funds were also reserved for unfunded retiree health insurance liabilities.

- ICEA/ASSISTANT PROSECUTING ATTORNEYS' CONTRACT: This contract expired July 1, 2005. A contract with the Union has been reached beginning July 1, 2005 and ending June 30, 2009, with wages of 3%, 2.5%, 2.5%, and 3%. Implementation of wages and other benefit changes is currently underway.
- MAP/LAW ENFORCEMENT CONTRACT: This contract covering 70 employees expired on December 31, 2002. We have just concluded 312 Arbitration and are waiting for the Arbitrator's decision. The decision is expected some time in November. This will be a five-year agreement beginning January 1, 2003 and ending December 31, 2008.
- On August 22, 2006, the Zoo Task Force submitted and the Board of Commissioners adopted a resolution to place a millage question on the November ballot which would increase the County's millage by up to 0.46 mills, for a period of three (3) years and by up to 0.41 mills for the following two (2) years. If approved and levied in full, this millage will generate approximately \$3.2 million in the first year. Once a lease and operational agreement have been successfully negotiated between the City of Lansing and County of Ingham, the County would then assume responsibility for operation and maintenance of both Potter Park and Potter Park Zoo. The funds generated through this millage would provide an increase in the level of service provided by the Zoo beyond what the City of Lansing can currently support through its budget. The increased level of service will include capital funding and maintenance projects necessary to keep Potter Park Zoo accredited and fully functional, an essential element for the Zoo.
- On August 30, 2006 the Board of Commissioners joined the Ingham County Parks and Recreation Commission for a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony to mark the completion of the new Splash Pad and Patio at Hawk Island Park. The Splash Pad was an Intergovernmental cooperative project with funding partnerships with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, National Park Service, City of Lansing, Capital Region Community Foundation and Ingham County.
- On October 24, 2006, the Board dedicated the Ingham County Public Safety Wireless Voice Communications System. This system enables all users to communicate with each other on the EDACS trunked simulcast system. Patches will be designed to enable communication with other public safety entities not on this system. The County entered into contract with MA/COM, Inc. as the General Contractor on the project after a Request for Proposal process and worked with MLJ Consulting, Inc., the 911 Advisory Committee and Ingham County to develop a Final System Design. This Final System Design was recommended to the Ingham County Board of Commissioners for adoption in 2003. The total budget is approximately \$12,500,000 and is funded from 911 Funds derived from the County 911 Emergency Dispatch Services millage (.85 mills), the Telephone Surcharge 4%, and the Cell Phone Surcharge.

- The Ingham County Board of Commissioners passed a resolution to assign the task of reviewing the Plante & Moran Study and conclusions to the 911 Advisory Committee in order to develop recommendations for an action plan to pursue the goal of a consolidated 911 Center in Ingham County. The Board of Commissioners also formally requested the Cities of East Lansing and Lansing to review and comment on the Plante & Moran Study and its conclusions that Ingham County should develop an action plan to pursue the goal of a consolidated 911 Center.
- Lake Lansing Trail – Grant applications have been submitted to both the Michigan Department of Transportation and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to assist with the construction of the Lake Lansing segment of the Heart of Michigan Trail between Lake Lansing Park South and M43 and Park Lake Road. Negotiations for the final easement have nearly been concluded.
- River Trail South Segment of the Heart of Michigan Trail – Negotiations for the final necessary easement are nearing completion, and engineering is underway for the route between Potter Park and the intersection of Jolly and Aurelius Roads and slated for completion in 2007.
- Wireless Hotspots – Three public wireless hotspots are up and operational. They are located at the Human Services Building Conference Rooms A, B & C., Veterans Memorial Courthouse jury room and Mason Courthouse grounds. These provide free Internet access to any public that has a WiFi capable device.
- LEIN Software Replacement – In response to a Michigan State Police audit, we moved up the replacement of our LEIN software. This software is critical for the judicial and law enforcement departments in the County. The software took a lot of effort on a very short time table, but it is now up and operational.
- Preparation of communities for development included developing a public participation plan to solicit input on the proposed “Wireless Ingham”, an initiative to provide wireless communications county-wide. Facilitated 3 public meetings to collect feedback from the County’s municipalities and school districts. Developed a random survey of residents and businesses for further input on the possibility of the County becoming involved in a Wireless Ingham initiative.
- Regional Cooperation: The County Economic Development Educator was an active participant in regional planning for renewal of the Regional Economic Development (RED) Team to provide a forum and educational network for people involved in Lansing area economic development. Also, the Economic Development Educator participated in the guidance committee of a final regional economic development assessment. The M4 Economic Development Analysis by Pollina Corporate Real Estate,

Inc. final report was received October 17th and has been distributed to the County Commissioners.

- Community Corrections continues to work with MIS and the Sheriff's Office to increase access to jail data in order to assist in the process of evaluating and monitoring the jail population.

A report was completed that will provide, quarterly, the overall number of sentenced days and the average length of sentence by Court and by offense category (i.e., felonies, misdemeanors, ordinance violations, and FOC).

Beginning September 1, in addition to a list of current workers by Judge, Earned Early Release (EER) data was enhanced to include the potential number of bed days saved. EER credit is earned by inmates who are eligible and assigned inmate worker status by the Sheriff's Office. This information is distributed weekly.

- Community Corrections worked with the State Office of Community Corrections, Circuit Court Probation, and program staff to develop an intensive, community-based day reporting option for felony probation violators. The program design incorporates assessment, cognitive behavior therapy, and a monitoring and supervision component.

The program was developed and funding redirected in order to provide an appropriate alternative to be used in lieu of or in reduction of jail time for this population. The program is designed to have a direct impact on the jail population and overcrowding, provide effective treatment and support a more effective re-entry into the community pursuant to jail re-entry principles. Program implementation is currently pending.

- Zero Tolerance for dog fighters in Ingham County - Dog Fighting Conviction. In October, Judge Thomas Boyd sentenced a Lansing Township man who was convicted of dog fighting to one-year in jail based on a case investigated by our Ingham County Animal Control Officers. A dog fighting conviction is among the most difficult convictions to obtain. This case has been watched nationally and is being publicized in national publications because of the successful prosecution and conviction.
- The Equalization/Tax Mapping Department took delivery of the Tri-County Re-Flight of Ingham County in August. The Department is using this new digital orthophotography as the base layer for its digital parcel files to produce new tax maps. In addition, the Department has used its digital parcel data to produce maps for the Board of Commissioners, the Ingham County Housing Commission, Ingham County Animal Control, the Ingham County Land Bank, and the Ingham County Prosecutor's Office.

- The 2006 Apportionment Report was approved by the Board of Commissioners on October 10, 2006.
- In cooperation with the Ingham County Treasurer's Office, the Equalization Department co-hosted a lunch meeting in October for all assessors and treasurers within the county to discuss Apportionment and possible zoo millage issues.
- 2005 Supplier Diversity Report was created and submitted to the Equal Opportunity and County Services Committees, and community leaders.

Interior Projects and/or Improvements:

- The 55th District Court Probation area was remodeled by the Facilities staff. The Magistrate's office was re-located which opened up an office area for Probation.
- The Animal Control office area was remodeled in a joint-effort by the facilities staff and various contractors.
- The Youth Center floor tile and carpet was replaced throughout the facility and currently is being repainted.
- The Jail had some of the mechanical systems upgraded with Co2 sensors and new controls which have improved the air quality and control of the systems.

Security Enhancements:

- Duress buttons were installed in the Mason Courthouse which when used will dispatch Mason Police.
- A Card Access System has been installed at the Hilliard Building, 55th District Court, and the Sheriff's Office. This gives us better control of who can enter secured areas.

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