



3rd QUARTER ISSUES UPDATE **October 13, 2009**

The third quarter of 2009 presented many challenges and opportunities for Ingham County Government. With the cooperation of Department Heads and Elected Officials, the Finance Committee was able to complete the details of a balanced 2010 Budget, which now goes to the full Board of 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.

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

- In August, Tom Edman, Fair Manager, announced his retirement. The Controller's Office took on the day to day managerial duties of the Fair and in cooperation with the Fair Board; the Controller's Office is conducting a search for a new Fair Manager. It is anticipated that a new manager will be hired in November.
- The Controller/Administrator's Office is working with the Treasurer to provide information to the Board of Commissioners related to Recovery Zone Bonds. The Accident Fund is making a request to the Board of Commissioners and the City of Lansing for their project. The Lansing Township DDA is working with a Developer to request bonds for a project in Eastwood Towne Center. The City of Mason is making a request for Public Recovery Zone Bonds for a new City Hall Building and Police Department Building.
- The Facilities Department in cooperation with the Purchasing Department, worked with the Fair Board to contract to replace the asphalt parking lot at the Fairgrounds Office Building.
- The Clerk's Office presented a resolution to re-organize the office and to eliminate the Chief Deputy Clerk Position.
- The Board of Commissioners authorized the Housing Commission to accept a \$300,000 grant from the Michigan State Housing Development Authority to acquire and redevelop property in Ingham County.
- The Ingham County Land Bank Fast Track Authority remained very active in the acquisition and redevelopment of tax foreclosed property. Over the past several months numerous redeveloped houses have been sold to new buyers.
- The Ingham County Health Department has a multi-pronged strategy for communicating about H1N1 with the community. The strategy has three major parts:
 - Identification of and communication with key stakeholders;

- Creation and dissemination of core messages; and
- Identification of and development of critical media channels.

Key stakeholders include: people in the priority target group, the news media, public information officers in partner organizations, physicians, pharmacists, schools, employers, students, employees, day cares, etc.

The Health Department has identified critical media channels and has determined which channels are best suited for reaching various stakeholder groups. For example:

- Staff is in the final stages of developing a mass media campaign aimed at reaching members of the priority target group through commercial media. This campaign will include TV, radio, outdoor and print Public Service Announcements.
 - To work with the local news media, the Health Department has cultivated personal relationships with reporters who they feed information to which has resulted in numerous accurate stories in the local media. Contacts and stories are logged.
 - Email and conference calls are the best way to regularly network with partner public information officers. Emergency management from partner organizations is included in all briefings.
- While groups like physicians, pharmacists and employers are reached by mass media campaigns and blast faxes, the Health Department has also found it advisable to hold numerous face-to-face meetings with these groups because they are hungry for dialog about H1N1 issues. Staff works with their professional organizations wherever appropriate, e.g. the Medical Society, the Chamber of Commerce, etc. The Health Department plans to develop many of their communication systems in partnership with neighboring local health departments and the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) so that content can be shared. The Michigan Department of Public Health Information Officer has been invited to participate in the creation of content for public service announcements to ensure coordination of messages.
 - On August 25, 2009, Commissioner Marc Thomas resigned as the County Commissioner for District 8 which represents precincts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 in East Lansing.

The Ingham County Board of Commissioners appointed Shelby Bupp of East Lansing, to fill the vacant Commissioner seat. Commissioner Bupp was sworn in at the September 22, 2009 Ingham County Board of Commissioners' meeting. She will serve on the Board's Law Enforcement and Judiciary Committees and will also serve on the Tri-County Office on Aging Consortium.

Special elections have been scheduled for February 23, 2010 and May 4, 2010 to allow East Lansing voters an opportunity to elect a candidate to fill the remainder of the term which ends December 31, 2010.

- The first season of the Ingham County Fair Grounds Victory Garden has come to an end. The garden was established by a collaborative effort that included the Ingham County Fair Board, Community Corrections, MSU Extension and Future Farmers of America. The local recovery community and other valuable community volunteers also helped with planting, maintenance, and harvesting. This season, very substantial harvests were donated to the Mason Food Bank and the House of Commons Substance Abuse Treatment Program.

An expanded plot is being prepared for next spring based on a commitment of resident workers from the House of Commons. Participation of Ingham County Jail inmate workers is also being explored for next spring, along with a large part of the harvest going toward jail food services.

- Working with County Legal, seven (7) contracts are complete and available on the Web. The remaining collective bargaining agreements are in various stages of development.
- The Human Resources Department concluded the Annual Employee Service Awards Banquet. This year there were 172 awardees, 57 5-year, 39 10-year, 26 15-year, 28 20-year, 3 25-year, 8 30-year, 1 35-year, and 10 Retirees. Employees received awards and certificates. Those able to attend were recognized at the 34th Annual Service Awards Ceremony held again at the Charlar Place in Holt on September 3, 2009.
- New this year is the use of electronic reports to save time and paper in the delivery of the 2009 Union Quarterly Bargaining Reports. The Human Resources Department continues to provide service to the employees of 17 County unions as well as the six units of the Managers and Confidential group.
- The Ingham County Board of Commissioners honored, by Resolution, Sally Beebe as the 2008 recipient of the National Animal Control Volunteer of the Year Award. The Board sincerely appreciates the contributions she has made to the citizens of Ingham County and congratulates Sally Beebe on receiving such a prestigious award.
- The Ingham County Board of Commissioners authorized the Ingham County Sheriff's Office to accept a grant from the State of Michigan for a new Palm Live Scan.
- The Ingham County Board of Commissioners approved the Ingham County Sheriff's Office to participate in several inter-local agreements between Ingham County, City of Lansing, City of East Lansing, Lansing Township and Meridian Township to accept two 2009 Local JAG grants for equipment purchases. In addition, a major JAG grant award was received to fund a single booking system that would be integrated between each Ingham County Law Enforcement Agency

that has a holding cell/jail/lockup (Ingham County Sheriff's Office, Lansing Police Department, Meridian Township Police Department, East Lansing Police Department and Michigan State University Police Department) that would allow each agency to be paperless, allowing for great reduction in paper files for each agency as well as lowering the cost of storage for these records.

- The Ingham County Board of Commissioners authorized the Ingham County Sheriff's Office to accept two grants for 2009 Risk Avoidance Grants (RAP) from the Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority (MMRMA). The grants funded a command officer to attend Staff and Command School at Michigan State University and an equipment grant to assist in the purchase two (2) Automatic Emergency Defibrillators (A.E.D.s) used to restart the heart after cardiac arrest for the corrections division.

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

- 1) The assignment of all the pertinent Ingham County Public Safety Radio Communications System related Purchase Contracts and System Maintenance agreements to Harris Corporation as the Harris Corporation purchased the Tyco Electronics Ltd ("TE") Wireless Systems Business.
- 2) Approved amendments to two Radio Tower leases.
- 3) Approved HVAC and Site Alarm improvements as part of the upgrade of the Public Safety Radio Communications System.
- 4) Authorized full appropriations (up to 95% of operational costs) out of the 911 Emergency Telephone Dispatch Services Budget for East Lansing and Lansing Dispatch Centers.
- 5) Authorized the County Controller/Administrator to pursue an intergovernmental agreement with Eaton, Clinton and Livingston Counties in order to share in the cost of new phone technology and to develop virtual backup capabilities as a regional intergovernmental cooperation venture, for 911 Dispatch Center operations.

The County has held several meetings with representatives from the City of East Lansing and the 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' Law Enforcement Committee concluded several scheduled 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.

- The Ingham County Board of Commissioners did authorize extending the Village of Webberville Police Services contract for an additional one year at cost. The renewal will reduce coverage from 120 hours per week to 80 hours per week per the direction from the Village.
- 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/PAAM) in the near future.
- The Ingham County Board of Commissioners, in previous years, authorized the establishment of the Integrated Justice Information System's Group (IJIGS), consisting of the Chief Executive or designee of the Prosecutor's Office, Sheriff's Office, Probate, 55th District and 30th Circuit Courts, was established to oversee the IJIS Project. They also authorized funding to develop, enhance and maintain the Integrated Justice Information System (IJIS) through the integrated Courtview Software. After much discussion and planning, the Ingham County Board of Commissioners accepted the recommendations of the IJIGS Committee for the transition of the 55th District Court and Prosecuting Attorneys Office from Court view to the Justice Information System (JIS) and to the Prosecuting Attorneys Association (PACC/PAAM) systems

This will dramatically impact how information is exchanged within the Criminal Justice Systems in Ingham County. Although there is some concern about the county moving away from a County Integrated Justice System, the Prosecutor and District Court have made some compelling cases for making this transition for their operations and the administration of justice in Ingham County. This process and the results will be monitored and evaluated over the transition period.

- The Ingham County Board of Commissioners authorized accepting a grant from the Michigan Department of Education to the Ingham County Youth Center for purposes of purchasing replacement kitchen equipment.
- 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 primarily to significant cost increases by the State of Michigan to house County children in State-run residential programs. The Circuit Court Family Division is carefully reviewing placements of County children in State-run facilities and utilizing other more costs efficient placements when appropriate for year end Child Care Fund budget implications.

- The Ingham County Board of Commissioners approved some changes in existing positions and established the position of Jury/Pretrial Specialist in the Thirtieth Judicial Circuit Court as part of the previous approval of 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 authorized renewal agreements with the primary vendors Highfields, Inc. and Ingham Intermediate School District for the operation of the Ingham Academy. The Ingham Academy is a day treatment program that provides educational support to court adjudicated youth who have not been successful in traditional school settings. In addition, the Board of Commissioners approved a pilot project to extend these educational services to eighth graders. This expansion of programming is being done even though the entire Juvenile Justice Millage (JJM) allocation is now being used for operational costs. Therefore, it is incumbent on the Court to live within the current JJM revenue stream and matching Child Care Funds to operate this program during the 2009 – 2010 budgets.
- The Ingham County Board of Commissioners authorized the purchase of replacement computers to enhance the educational services at the Ingham Academy. These new PC's will allow credit recovery in order to meet the goal of graduation with a high school diploma. The new PC's are powerful enough to run the software necessary to implement Education 2020, which offers on-line courses that are aligned to the Michigan Merit Curriculum as well as other video instruction enhancements.
- The Ingham County Board of Commissioners approved a resolution to further quantify the statement of work on the contract 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 Ingham County Board of Commissioners adopted a Resolution to establish the contracts and appropriations for the 2010 Juvenile Justice Community Agencies through Juvenile Justice Millage Funds.
- In cooperation with the Circuit Court/Friend of the Court, the Board of Commissioners authorized a change of office hours at the Friend of the Court Office from 7:30 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. This change will better serve the Court and the public that use the office. The new hours would be effective January 1, 2010.
- MSU Extension has expanded its nutrition programming to include the Work First site at Cristo Rey Community Center. This monthly program provides information

and education about healthy eating, portion sizes and physical activity, food safety and label reading. Additionally, efforts have expanded to educate and promote weight management and healthy lifestyles to youth at the Ingham County Youth Center.

- Members of the Power of We Consortium's VISTA project wrapped up their "Summer of Service" with some physical labor at Project Homeless Connect. They helped out with daycare as over 700 people received care and/or service at the former National Guard Armory.
- MSU Extension's Economic Development and 4-H Youth Development programs partnered with the Meridian Area Business Association, MSU Federal Credit Union and Parkwood YMCA to create and support youth entrepreneurs. "Be Your Own Boss" was an elective session held at YMCA Camp PaWaPi. Youth ages 10-13 were enthusiastically engaged in interactive activities where entrepreneurship concepts were taught.
- The Community Coalition for Youth and its affiliate, the Ingham Change Initiative, launched "Power of 9," an edutainment series for Ingham County youth. It provided fun, safe and educational activities throughout the entire summer, utilizing entertainment as a platform for message delivery, advocacy and to connect young people ages 12-17 to resources and services in Ingham County.
- MSU Extension's 4-H staff led the 4-H Jump into Foods and Fitness program at South Side Community Coalition, Summer Place Town homes, and Footprints Residential Home over the summer.
- Hundreds of pounds of produce harvested from the Ingham Family Center Youth Garden were served in meals prepared at the center during the summer months. MSU Extension youth development and horticulture staff assisted with the garden and helped educate youth and staff about harvesting and preparing the food.
- 4-H members, volunteer leaders, and parents participated in the Reality Farm program this summer. Through the program, members identified some of the entrepreneurship and business skills they have learned through their projects—including decision making, financial management, business planning, risk management, and record keeping—that will help them in their future career pursuits.

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