



## ISSUES UPDATE – DECEMBER 2007

*The fourth quarter of 2007 continued to present challenges for Ingham County Government. The need to balance a budget for 2008 that represented a 4.7 million dollar shortfall in revenues was difficult; however, the cooperation of Elected Officials and Department Heads throughout the County greatly assisted the Commissioners. Ingham County continues to provide a high quality of services to its residents. The Board of Commissioners has placed particular importance on providing expanding recreational opportunities; uninsured residents with access to health care; and improving the adult and juvenile justice systems.*

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

- The Board of Commissioners approved adding two vendors to provide Deferred Compensation options to 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 Board of Commissioners has approved a plan that had been recommended by the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority to restore the environmental and economic viability of tax foreclosed and underutilized properties that are held by the Land Bank Authority.
- The Board of Commissioners authorized the purchase of the Our Savior of Lutheran property. Upon completion of upgrades and remodeling, this property will serve as the “Continuum of Care” facility. The hard work of the Task Force assigned to assist the Board in securing this property was critical. The Juvenile Division of the Circuit Court, Facilities and Purchasing Departments are to be congratulated for their diligence in securing the property. While much work remains to be completed, it is anticipated that the property will be available to serve as the Ingham Academy this fall.
- Labor negotiations remain stable. The MAP/Law Enforcement contract and the Teamsters Zoo employees’ contract expired 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.
- Facilities and Purchasing have worked together to establish an office in the Human Resources Department for Ms. Bonnie Toskey. Ms. Toskey will

work full time from the Human Resources Department as a result in a change in the contract with the County Attorney.

- Discussions have begun to reorganize Central Services and transfer the Insurance Benefits section to the Human Resources Department.
- The Board of Commissioners adopted its budget for 2008. The 2008 budget will continue basic county services while minimizing any increased cost to taxpayers, with no increase to the general fund operating millage. Although some service reductions were necessary in order to balance the 4.7 million dollar shortfall identified at the beginning of the budget process, Ingham County will continue to focus on the Board of Commissioners' priorities. At the time of budget adoption in late October, there was still some uncertainty concerning how the State of Michigan's 2007-2008 budget would affect the county's 2008 budget. At this time, it appears that no major reductions will need to be made in 2008 as a result of the state's budget.
- The State authorized PA 164 fundamentally changing the way 911 services are funded. There will be a statewide 19 cent surcharge as well as a locally assessed surcharge (to be determined by the Board of Commissioners in January) on all devices/lines capable of accessing 911. This act takes effect July 1, 2008 and sunsets February 2009. Michigan Association of Counties is working to have the sunset date extended.
- The Ingham County Sanitary Code was amended in December to require restaurants to refer people complaining of food borne illness to the Health Department.
- Discussion continued regarding a possible amendment to the Ingham County Clean Air Regulation first approved by the Board of Commissioners in 2002, to regulate the air quality in restaurants, bars, and other food service establishments in order to minimize exposure of nonsmokers to secondhand smoke. Restaurants, bars, and other food service establishments were exempted in the initial Clean Air Regulation.
- The Regulation Requiring a License for the Retail Sale of Tobacco, to Prohibit the Sale of Tobacco to Minors, and Restricting the Location of Tobacco Vending machines was amended to enable compliance checks in hookah lounges, establish equity in license fees, and raise penalties for businesses who sell tobacco to minors.
- The Board of Commissioners approved an appropriation of \$13,690 to fund a one time request for the 2007/2008 fiscal year, allowing EVE, Inc. to fully operate a Personal Protection Order Office Program to serve Ingham County

residents by assisting victims of domestic violence, process and receive personal protection orders for the time period of October 1, 2007 through December 31, 2007.

- The Board of Commissioners approved the acceptance of a grant for the Domestic Assault Response Team (DART), from the office of the United States Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs for \$384,490 for July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2009. This renewal grant will allow the continuation of the DART program with our partner – the City of Lansing, to provide for a full-time probation officer to work in the Lansing 54-A District Court and End Violent Encounters, Inc. (EVE Inc.) to provide for a full-time DART Advocate position to team with the grant-funded Assistant Prosecuting Attorney to focus on the swift and effective prosecution of Domestic Violence cases.
- The Board of Commissioners authorized the renewal of a jail bed rental agreement with the Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC) and the Sheriff's Office. The agreement with MDOC is to rent 190 beds to MDOC at a cost of \$35.00 per day, per bed, effective October 1, 2007 through September 30, 2008.
- The Board of Commissioners approved the recommendations of the IJIGS Committee for further improvement of the county justice system through the implementation of an Integrated Justice Information System (IJIS)WEB site. This WEB site will allow the public, both citizens and businesses, along with local area courts and law enforcement agencies to remotely access CourtView data following IJIGS established secure access guidelines. To accomplish this, a contract with WEBTecs, Inc. to develop an IJIS WEB site at a cost not to exceed \$146,940, for the time period of October 1, 2007 through September 30, 2008 along with annual support agreements were approved.
- The Board of Commissioners authorized funding through Juvenile Justice Millage dollars and contracts with our partners Highfields Inc. and the Intermediate School District for the Samuel D. Ingham Academy pilot program. Serving a minimum of 15 youth under the jurisdiction of the court, for the balance of the 2007/2008 school year. This alternative day school will provide educational and behavioral support to youth who have intense educational needs and have not been successful in their home district.
- The Board of Commissioners selected a number of agencies to provide important services that are consistent with the County's Strategic Planning Objective to Ingham County residents. The County Attorney will draft contracts for the period of January 1, 2008 through December 31, 2008, for the Community Agencies in accordance with the dollar amounts allocated in

the amended 2008 Budget as stated below and for the services to residents previously approved by the liaison committees:

<u>Liaison Committee</u>	<u>2008 Amended Budget Allocation</u>
County Services	\$ 28,000.00
Human Services	\$131,635.00
Judiciary	\$ 39,000.00
Law Enforcement	<u>\$ 15,525.00</u>
TOTAL	\$214,160.00

- The Board of Commissioners approved the “Ingham County Public Safety Radio System Cost Participation Policy”, as recommended by the 911 Advisory Committee with respect to participating entities in the Ingham County Public Safety Radio System, effective October 1, 2007. This policy will serve as a guideline for public safety agencies and other entities, to clarify their responsibilities financially and programmatically for participation in the Ingham County Public Safety Radio System. A copy of the resolution and policy has been sent to all clerks of governmental units in Ingham County as well as all current participating entities, to alert them to this policy.
- In response to communications problems with the Ingham County 911 Public Safety Radio System, the Board of Commissioners approved the expenditure of funds to address the issues of concern. The Controller’s Office has been working with MA/Com Inc., the 911 Advisory Committee and the City of Lansing to resolve these issues as quickly as possible. The vendor MA/Com Inc. has been working on the “dropped calls” issue and a pricing proposal to make the Lansing Radio Lab site a simulcast site to improve the communications to a satisfactory level. It is expected that progress will be made to resolve the “dropped calls” issue and pricing proposals will be received and negotiated for a new simulcast site by the first quarter of 2008.
- The Fire Alarm Upgrade at the Ingham County Jail was completed for \$181,331. All additions and change orders have been done including changing the smoke detectors in the shower rooms to heat detectors to eliminate false alarms.

- Over 100 4-H members and leaders representing 10 4-H clubs in Ingham County were recognized for their increased knowledge, skills and techniques in equine projects at the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Ingham County 4-H Horse & Pony Banquet.
- In response to the increase of bullying behaviors among youth, Ingham County 4-H hosted a workshop entitled “Mean Girls and Real Boys” which addressed bullying through the lens of gender and other differences.
- Ingham County 4-H is partnering with 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers to provide after-school programs to four Lansing sites this school year; Dwight Rich Middle School, Eastern High School, Everett High School and Sexton High School.
- MSU Extension Food and Nutrition programs have partnered with Work First to offer nutrition education to their clients. 42 participants have successfully graduated from the Expanded Food and Nutrition program since October, 2007.
- MSU Extension Food and Nutrition programs are working with Holt Junior High and Pleasant View Elementary School to present information and education on healthy lifestyles to their families. MSUE is also working with two public housing sites, three community centers and four local churches in Lansing to help increase healthy food and physical activity choices among these faith-based and community organizations.

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