

Budget Workshop
November 15, 2012 3:00 p.m.

Vice Chairman Grattidge called the meeting to order.

Roll call was taken: PRESENT: Patricia Southworth, Alan Grattidge, Philip C. Barrett, Anita Daly, Richard Lucia, Mary Ann Johnson, George Hargrave, Richard Rowland, Mindy Wormuth, Paul Sausville, Thomas Richardson, Preston L. Jenkins, Jr., Willard H. Peck, Thomas N. Wood, III, Matthew E. Veitch, Joanne Dittes Yepsen, Edward D. Kinowski, John Lawler, Arthur J. Johnson – 19. ABSENT: Jean Raymond, Arthur M. Wright, Daniel Lewza, John Collyer – 4.

Vice Chairman Grattidge welcomed those in attendance and stated that on October 31st the 2013 tentative budget was released. He highlighted that it reduced the overall spending, maintained low tax rates, and implemented a decisive program to restore the County's financial stability. The starting point was a good one this year. In the two weeks since, he is proud to report that there have been additional improvements to the budget made. Last Thursday the Law and Finance Committee was able to reduce the proposed property tax levy by more than half a million dollars. This means we will reduce the projected increase from a 2.7% to a 1.58%. This brings us below the property tax cap. We did this by recognizing savings associated with switching the health insurance provider and recognizing revenue that the County will receive from the Sewer District in exchange for County owned parcel that will serve as the future site of the northern Sewer Treatment Plant. Law and Finance also approved one position for next year at the Sewer District, that of a cleaner, which will have no cost to the General Fund. We also hope that this position can be filled with an employee that is presently working at Maplewood Manor.

Vice Chairman Grattidge went over the procedure for today's meeting. Mr. Grattidge said he will be accepting motions from the floor and all motions amending the 2013 Tentative Budget, as amended by the Law & Finance Committee, either by adding or deleting from the budget will require a majority of the weighted vote. The 2013 Tentative Budget along with the amendments made by Law & Finance and the ones made at today's workshop will be presented at the public hearing on December 3rd at 5:30pm in this room.

Vice Chairman Grattidge asked County Administrator Hellwig to give a brief overview of the 2013 budget so far.

Mr. Hellwig in the interest of not being too repetitive as the information has been provided through the budget message that was attached to the Tentative Budget, the Press Conference that was held a couple of weeks ago and the Law & Finance Budget Hearings, today he will just touch on some of the highlights. He said the tentative budget as amended by Law & Finance now totals \$300,321,486 in seven separate funds. Within that total, \$233,526,901 is General Fund expenses. That represents an increase of less than ½% over the amount that was adopted in 2012. He said the amendments that Law & Finance approved will lower the tax levy by over one half million dollars which represents a full ½% reduction. Some of the highlights leading up today are: the defunding of 95 positions (33 in the general fund; 15 in Public Works; 47 in Maplewood Manor), sales tax is currently budgeted at \$110.7M which is a 3% growth over 2012, property tax is budgeted at \$51,577, 684 which is an increase of 1.58%, next year's tax rate will be \$2.27 per thousand which represents a \$.04 increase and the total mandates in the 2013 budget are in excess of \$97M which represents 124% of the property tax levy. General Fund expenses are up by about ½%. The Highway fund has been reduced by \$5.6M. Maplewood Manor's budget is down \$1.1M. The total Capital costs are \$11.2 with a net cost of \$7.2M. The appropriations of \$300,321,486 are a decrease of 1.74% from the 2012 budget. The appropriated fund balance that will be needed to balance next

year's budget is \$1,900,000 and that is a decrease of \$5.3M from the \$7.2M that was appropriated in last year's budget.

Mr. Peck made a motion to amend the budget by \$168,000 for a Homeland Security Grant that went through Public Safety this month but because it is a 2013 grant it needs to be in this budget. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Southworth. The motion was unanimously passed.

Mr. Lawler asked about the outside agencies and if any of them received more money. Mr. Grattidge said no one received any more funding and the ones that were at 50% last year have been taken out of the 2013 budget and clarified that no one agency got any more funds in the 2013 budget than they got in 2012.

On a motion by Mr. Hargrave, seconded by Mrs. Wormuth the amendments made by the Law & Finance Committee were unanimously approved.

Vice Chairman Grattidge reminded everyone that the Public Hearing on the budget will be December 3rd at 5:30pm in the Board Rooms.

On a motion by Mr. Richardson, seconded by Mr. Lawler, the meeting was unanimously adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela A. Hargrave, Clerk