



ROCK ISLAND COUNTY

Budget Committee Minutes
October 12th, 2023 4:00 PM

The Budget Committee met on October 12th, 2023 in the Administration Office on the second floor of the County Office Building

The budget committee was called to order by Mr. D Adams at 4:00 PM. A roll call was taken

Present: D. Adams, K. Swanson, R. Simmer, L. Burns, Chairman R. Brunk

Absent: E. Dewith, L Moreno

Others present: R. Berger, A. Palmer, J. Grafton, K. Davis, N. Camlin, C. Przybyla

There were no requests for public comment

Review of FY24 Budget Requests

Chairman Brunk asked for Mr. Berger and Mr. Grafton to provide an overview of the overall budget, expenses and any other relevant information.

Mr. Berger stated the budget was getting close to completion with the year being interesting noting election expenses, insurance for the sheriff's office he deemed as "uncontrollable" and American Rescue Plan Act. He noted good investments and the highest recommended those same numbers be entered in the budget. He stated wanting to pay off some of the last internal debts for Hope Creek, helping with coming year numbers and some liability funds and decrease the levy.

ARPA funds were mentioned noting 10 million allocated for provisions of government services and about 4 million. He categorized expenses and looked at the ARPA regulations for covid specific money, freeing up some money and finalizing ARPA obligations. He mentioned multiple projects in the sheriff's office being covid specific.

Overall, he stated the budget was in a good position but noted the corporate levy that was capped. He noted wanting to have sometime similar to a capital improvement plan for recurring expenses for elections etc.

Mr. Swanson asked about the Hope Creek Internal debts specifically the three-quarters of a million to the employee health benefits fund. Mr. Berger stated this would be tackled in the fiscal year (2.4 million) and the debt for liability insurance as well. He stated it would be addressed in the levy along with principle and interest.

Mr. Swanson stated this would decrease the need for an increase in the health insurance plan, proposed at 5 percent. He asked about how long the County would continue to pay on the debt; Mr. Berger stated he had a schedule for payoff. Ms. Palmer stated at least through 2027.

Dr. Simmer asked about how it would help getting Hope Creek as a liability off the rolls; a levy sheet was presented as trending down.



ROCK ISLAND COUNTY

Budget Committee Minutes

October 12th, 2023 4:00 PM

Mr. Swanson asked if it adequately addressed the needs for infrastructure and bridges; Mr. Berger stated it was decreasing as employees were being paid from motor fuel taxes. Dr. Simmer asked if a constant capital improvement fund was there as well.

Chairman Brunk stated the capital improvement plan was there but not updated. He stated it needed to be updated and funded and was looking at that with Mr. Grafton. Chairman Brunk stated it included roofs, and the monuments on the courthouse lawn, and budgeting maintenance for the maintenance on a schedule and not allow them to fall into disrepair.

Mr. Berger stated Mr. Massa's funds come in at different time and with a capital improvement plan, the funds would be able to be seen as they are received.

Review of 23 levees payable 2024

Mr. Grafton provided an overview of the levees and started with speaking on the taxes. He stated the numbers identified in the 2023 levee column were the ones required to balance the budget. He noted the 2023 levee value of the County—the number used as rate setting EAV, being up 7 percent; the increase in the value of the County and apply the percentage for the levee amount. He stated the number was up 15% in the last year; this year 7%. The value of the County times the current rate would be with 100 million in reserves collecting 2.5 million. He stated collecting 5% more without a truth in taxation hearing. He recommended \$260,000 dropping 6.3%. He stated the County was in good shape, a balanced budget and good reserves. He mentioned coming out of FY2022 and were 9 million dollars ahead as a cushion.

The corporate tax levee was maxed out at .25 percent rate. He mentioned collecting 7.4 million with the new levee at 8 million increasing as much of the corporate line item as possible.

He continued, as an example if someone owned an average home in the County at \$150,000; the calculation was as follows for property taxes : the value of the home divided by three for the assessed value of the home ex. (\$50,000) With a tax rate of 9.75% (example Hampton Township) total taxes would be close to \$5,000. Mr. Grafton stated if the 1.11 multiplier was used, the property taxes being \$555, and Rock Island County's portion being 14 townships with each supervisor determining the values based on the past three years of trends with the multiplier being 1. He stated the average increase was 4.95% as a multiplier.

Mr. Swanson stated it would increase the value; Mr. Grafton stated the increase would be \$583, increasing \$27.

Chairman Brunk stated reducing the levee based on the \$150,000 scenario with the levee rate at 1. And would offset the multiplier as an average of the townships. He asked if it would offset the increase by about \$37. Mr. Grafton agreed.

Mr. Swanson stated the County's tax rate had gone down 21% in two years. He stated the Board was able to budget for the increase. Mr. Adams stated the County was beginning to lower the taxes and doing their part for their constituents



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Mr. Berger stated some resolutions would be forthcoming for 3. Million in general funds with about 6 million being unspent. He mentioned a few funds; court automation and some did not balance but due to the safety act, he cautions any amendments as they were not perfectly balanced. The safety act would be a determinate.

No items for closed session review; no action necessary

Motion to approve the levees and 1.04 percent K. Swanson

Second R. Simmer

Voice vote

Motion carried

Dr. Simmer stated being on t he committee for 14 years and noted how nice it was to have everyone watching the funds as closely as they were being monitored. Chairman Brunk stated wanting to send out a press release and some bullet points for members.

No further business the committee adjourned at 4:32 PM K. Swanson second R. Simmer

Motion carried