



County Board Finance & Audit Committee

Supervisor Elizabeth M. Coggs, Chair

Supervisor Johnny L. Thomas, Vice-Chair
Supervisor James “Luigi” Schmitt
Supervisor Peggy A. West

Supervisor Michael Mayo, Sr.
Supervisor Willie Johnson, Jr.
Supervisor Patricia Jursik

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FINANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE ADOPTS AMENDED 2011 COUNTY BUDGET

Milwaukee, WI – This afternoon, the County Board’s Finance & Audit Committee voted 6-1 to approve an amended 2011 County Budget, including a property tax levy of \$268,894,605, an increase of \$5,629,865 (2.1%) from 2010. The Committee will consider additional amendments next week before sending the Budget to the full Board.

“I thank the public and County staff for their input, hard work and dedication during these fiscal turbulent times,” Committee Chairwoman Coggs said. “We have made some tough decisions, and I compliment the entire Finance and Audit Committee, as well as the other Supervisors who have participated, for their leadership and integrity as we continue through this 2011 Budget process.”

The Committee’s amended version of the Budget includes a scaled down wage and benefit package that includes employee contributions to the County’s pension fund, reduces the County’s cost for retiree health care and moves the County into a better position in bargaining with labor unions. The Budget restores funding for the Youth Sports Authority, Detoxification programming, Farm and Fish Hatchery, Criminal Justice Resource Center, Task Force on Work Reform for Men and Milwaukee County Transit System bus services that were cut in the County Executive’s budget proposal. The amended Budget also includes funding for a pilot Universal Screening Program within the Courts and a study of the possible relocation of South Shore Beach.

“In my seven years on the Finance & Audit Committee, this has been the most difficult budget to wrestle with,” Supervisor Peggy West said. “Our amended version is not the best case scenario – it still includes layoffs and furloughs for represented employees – but it’s a reasonable compromise compared to what we were handed.”

“My constituents have asked me to preserve desired services while remaining sensitive to the ongoing difficulties for homeowners,” Supervisor Jursik said. “I weighed these concerns with the many furlough days and employee concessions included in this budget.”

Supervisor Jim “Luigi” Schmitt, who voted against the budget and tax levy, said, “While I could not support every amendment that came before us, I did vote to approve a number of changes in this budget. Make no mistake; this Committee was given an extremely difficult task, and we did our very best in developing a more reasonable – and more achievable – package of concessions for our employees. We also went a long way in addressing our retiree health care costs. With these actions, we are making a big dent in our long-term structural deficit.”

The County Board’s Public Hearing on the 2011 Budget is 7 p.m. Monday, November 1 at the Washington Park Senior Center. The County Board of Supervisors, under the leadership of Chairman Lee Holloway, will adopt the County’s 2011 Budget on Monday, November 8 at 8:30 a.m. in Room 200 of the Milwaukee County Courthouse.

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