

Linda Forwerck

From: Charlie Renny <crenny@grandtraverse.org>
Sent: Friday, September 19, 2014 11:06 AM
To: Linda Forwerck
Subject: Fwd: County Board Report - September 2014

Hello Linda,
County Board Report for September 2014. If you see Judy, please give her our best regards.

Charlie Renny
GTBOC

Begin forwarded message:

From: Charlie Renny <crenny@grandtraverse.org>
Date: September 8, 2014 at 6:00:02 PM EDT
To: Charlie Renny <crenny@grandtraverse.org>
Subject: County Board Report - September 2014

COUNTY FINANCES

The 2015 Budget Process continues. County Departmental 2015 budget request submissions have been received by the Administration Office and the County Administrator / Controller will present a "2015 Recommended Budget" to the Board of Commissioners on September 17, 2014 for review and consideration. Final adoption of the 2015 General Appropriations Resolution and Budget is scheduled for October 29, 2014. Thus far, 2015 budget requests have increased an average of 4% to 5% over the 2014 Budget.

Looking to 2015 and beyond, the County's financial status appears somewhat improved. The County SEV has stabilized and is projected to slowly increase going forward. The SEV stabilization is a result of increasing residential property values offsetting commercial / industrial property values that continue to lag. A return to a full funding of Revenue Sharing has been recommended by the Governor and approved by the State Legislature, and legislation has been proposed to protect local units of government from potential funding losses due tax law changes in the Personal Property Tax, veteran's homestead property tax exemption, and other unfunded mandates placed on local units of government by State statute or regulation. Building and soil erosion permitting continues strong and is keeping pace with that experienced in 2013. County unfunded pension and retiree health care obligations, and contract negotiations for all represented county employees are critical issues that will be addressed in 2014 and have a major impact on the 2015 and subsequent year budgets.

ROADS

The 2014 Road Commission Project List focusing on the "Mix of Fixes" approach for the maintenance and repair of the main traffic corridors to and from Traverse City has essentially been completed. Funding for the 2014 Road Commission Project List was provided by the road repair and maintenance millage proposal passed in November, 2014.

The Board of Commissioners has approved a cost sharing agreement with the Grand Traverse County Road Commission and Garfield Township for the reconstruction of LaFranier Road from Hammond Road to South Airport Road. The "complete street" proposal will cost an estimated \$2.2M. Of that total, \$1.1M will come from State road at risk funding with the remaining \$1.1M in costs shared by the Road Commission, Garfield Township and the County.

COUNTY JAIL

A "Jail Advisory Committee" was formed to investigate the need, placement, design and financing for the potential construction of a new county jail facility. Representatives from the National Institute of Corrections were on site in June of 2014 to perform a local Jail and Justice System Review. Jail Advisory Committee members visited the National Institute of Corrections Offices in Aurora, Colorado the week of August 18, 2014 to study the results of the review and receive recommendations as to how best move forward. The review states the current facility has safety and maintenance issues, primarily due to age and an outdated design, but overall is very well maintained and operated. Specifically, the review ascertained that the County has not collected and analyzed sufficient data and information to conclude that a new jail facility is needed. The National Institute of Corrections' report suggested county officials form a new committee of local criminal justice officials that will be charged with making recommendations to improve the current county criminal justice system. The Board of Commissioners approved a resolution to create a "Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee" with selection of the committee members scheduled for later this month.

COUNTY 911 OPERATIONS

Currently, county residents pay an \$.80/month surcharge (all telephone devises) for 911 Operations funding. An additional surcharge request of \$.42/month to address department capital funding needs for worn and outdated equipment was rejected earlier this year by the State 911 Commission. As a means of addressing these critical needs, the Board of Commissioners approved an initiative for the November 5, 2014 ballot that would increase the surcharge to up to \$1.85/month, beginning July 1, 2015. Currently, 911Operations also receives approximately \$700K annually from the General Fund Budget.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Properly and safely dispose of unused or outdated prescription and over the counter medications at the "Prescription and Over the Counter Drug Drop Off Box" located in the Law Enforcement Center lobby at 851 Woodmere in Traverse City. Residents can dispose of unused or unwanted medications Monday through Friday, 8:00AM to 5:00PM.

Help 911 protect you and your family. Create a "Safety Profile" for your household that includes the vital personal and medical information response teams need in the event of an emergency. The website is private and secure. To create or update a "Safety Profile" go on line to Smart911.com.

Register for the Grand Traverse County CodeRED free emergency alerting system. Receive accurate local notices, emergency and community alerts instantly via your mobile devise. For more information and registration go online to grandtraverse.org, and click on the CodeRED logo.