

Chairman Reetz called a Committee of the Whole meeting of the Ogemaw County Board of Commissioners to order at 6:00 p.m. on this date in the Commissioner's Chambers, Ogemaw County Building, West Branch, Michigan.

Roll call: Present – Scott, Reetz, Vaughn, Neubecker, and David.

Chairman Reetz declared a moment of silence to honor the fallen of the 9/11/2001 event.

Chairman Reetz provided a summary of the budgetary recommendations from the last meeting. That is, the possibility of borrowing from the revolving fund for payment of delinquent taxes to the local units, countywide millage proposals, hiring of a county administrator, etc.

Brief discussion about the rules governing public comment took place.

Vice-chairman Scott stated the board needed to start someplace in the attempt to balance the county general fund. He suggested cutting 1 full-time deputy, one Sheriff Department secretary, one patrol vehicle, and on corrections officers. He does not want to take the full amount of the projected deficit from the delinquent tax revolving fund (DTRF).

Sheriff Hanft stated you cannot dictate positions; rather, a stipulated dollar amount must be directed to his department budget. He indicated if his budget is reduced the traffic car will be the first thing to go. That will reduce ticket revenue approximately \$600,000 per year. A seniority based layoff would proceed. Chairman Reetz stated the Sheriff department budget increased +\$192,000 over the previous year's budget.

The board discussed corrections facility staffing, number of housed inmates, revenue projections, etc.

Commissioner David stated balancing a projected general fund budget of approximately (-\$736,00) with DTRF funds is not acceptable. Chairman Reetz enumerated cuts to the FY 2016 budget. Vice-Chairman Scott asked about collecting housing costs from inmates. Sheriff Hanft stated that is very hard to do. Commissioner David said the commissioners job is to balance the county budget to the best of their ability. Commissioner Neubecker suggested the board try to get a ballot proposal passed.

County Treasurer McIntyre explained how revenues come into the DTRF. County Clerk Klacking was asked his opinion about how to balance the county general fund budget. He shared his historical perspective and what could be considered as the way forward.

Dave Ryan suggested some expenditure cuts need to be made and withdraw money from the DTRF to balance the proposed county general fund budget. Ms. Piglowski, Administrative Assistant, suggested various line items from the Sheriff Department budget that could be reduced. Vice-Chairman Scott recommended cutting \$200,000 from the Sheriff Department budget.

Pete Hennard shared items to consider: Review 34th Circuit Court Central Services budget; Negotiate with the unions related to pension costs; curtail all mandated appropriations; evaluate township assessing practices; and carefully review road patrol costs. Due to the lateness balancing the proposed county general fund budget, he suggested taking money from the DTRF to balance the proposed budget.

Ongoing discussion followed regarding corrections department transport officers, overtime in the department, guarding the inmates, etc.

Motion by David, second by Scott, the meeting be adjourned. Voice vote. Nays – Reetz, Vaughn, and Neubecker. Ayes – Scott and David. Motion failed. [9-2-#1]

Discussion followed regarding scheduling another meeting to consider budget options.

Motion by Reetz, second by Scott the meeting be adjourned. Ayes – Reetz, Vaughn, and Neubecker. Nays – Scott and David. Motion carried. [9-2-#2]

Chairman Reetz adjourned the meeting at 8:11 p.m.

Minutes by Gary R. Klacking, Ogemaw County Clerk.
Attest: Gary R. Klacking, Ogemaw County Clerk.