

CLACKAMAS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Staff Presentation Worksheet

Presentation Date: August 9, 2011 Time: 2:00 PM Length: 45 Minutes

Presentation Title: Public Safety Local Option Levy Continued Review

Department: County Administration

Presenters: Steve Wheeler, County Administrator, Nancy Newton, Deputy County Administrator, Stephen Madkour, County Counsel

POLICY QUESTION

Review of the 2006 Clackamas County Public Safety Levy Proposed Renewal on November 8, 2011 ballot. Does the Board support a renewal, redrafting or a new local option levy?

Consider request for Children's Safety Support Funding – local option levy and "bridge" funding.

ISSUE & BACKGROUND

On July 12, 2011 and July 26, 2011 the Board of County Commissioners heard presentations and had considerable discussion on opportunities to continue the existing public safety local option levy, reconfigure the levy, expand the levy or let the levy lapse. The lapsing option has been discarded. Discussion is now focusing on the following options:

- * Renew the existing levy (language is the same as the original levy)
- * Redraft the existing levy (language is substantially the same)
- * Create a new levy (content on purpose of the levy changed)

To briefly recap, the present levy is \$0.248/\$1,000 of assessed property value. This Countywide levy produces approximately \$8.8 million per year of revenue. Future revenue estimates range from \$9.7 million in 2012/2013 to \$10.9 million in fiscal year 2016/2017.

On July 26th the Board of County Commissioners requested staff to prepare agenda materials for the August 11, 2011 Board Business Meeting placing a resolution for Commission consideration that would result in a renewal of the existing \$0.248/\$1,000 levy for the November 8, 2011 ballot. That resolution, accompanied by the "Notice of County Measure Election" is on the August 11, 2011 Business Meeting agenda. It is also attached to this report. In summary the renewal would parallel the existing levy by:

- Maintaining 84 jail beds opened since the passage of the 2006 levy. Funds generated by the renewal levy would cover Personal Services and Operations and Maintenance costs to support the jail beds.
- Retaining Sheriff Patrol deputies that were unfunded prior to the passage of the levy.
- Continuing enhanced drug enforcement programs to deter drug traffickers and those involved in related crimes.
- Continuing enhanced enforcement to protect children endangered by drug crimes and at risk for sexual exploitation abuse and neglect.

Also on July 26th the Board considered testimony from representatives of the Children's Center and Clackamas Women's Services regarding funding child abuse and domestic violence, both prevention and victim assistance. As requested they have submitted the attached request for children's safety support funding. The request is that:

- The Board of Commissioners refer to the May 2012 ballot a levy to raise in excess of \$1.2 million which would be approximately \$0.035/\$1,000 assessed value.
- The Board of County Commissioners establish a "bridge" funding of \$550,000 to address immediate needs in these areas covering the time frame between now and when the May 2012 levy proceeds would become available in November 2012. Representatives of the Children's Center and Clackamas Women's Services would seek to secure private grant support to match this amount.

As stated in the July 12th Study Session Worksheet, a levy proposal must be general in description and application, allowing competition and evaluation among a variety of providers. The attached request from the Children's Center and Clackamas Women's Services provides more information and should be referred to for details.

QUESTION(S) PRESENTED FOR CONSIDERATION

I. Public Safety Local Option Levy

1. Is the Board satisfied to continue with its direction to consider the resolution referring a \$0.248 renewal levy to the November 2011 ballot at the August 11, 2011 Business Meeting? Is there additional information desired by the Board?
2. If the Board wishes to modify the resolution and Notice of Measure Election as prepared for the August 11th Business Meeting, it is recommended that the current items be withdrawn from the August 11th agenda; direction for modification be given and it will be placed on the August 18, 2011 Business Meeting agenda.

II. Children's Safety Support Funding

1. What information and process would the Board request to review and evaluate the request for a \$1.2 million local option levy to address child abuse and domestic violence against women being placed on the May 2012 ballot?
2. Consider request for \$550,000 in interim bridge funding to address needs identified above. If direction is received to appropriate all or a portion of the funding request the appropriation would be made using General Fund contingency funds. At the budget adoption in June approximately \$4.1 million in General Fund contingency funds were available. Because of continuing uncertainty over State and Federal revenue streams we are being prudent and cautious with General Fund contingency and reserve funds.

Non-restricted General Funds provides significant funding for a variety of County purposes. By category, public safety (Sheriff, District Attorney, etc.) receives the largest (approximately \$61,000,000) share of General Funds. Other significant General Fund expenditure categories include:

- General Government (including Parks, and Internal Services) - \$15,400,000
- Transportation and Development - \$8,200,000
- Human Services - \$7,000,000
- Debt - \$4,800,000

These are listed to give a general indication of where General Fund revenues are applied throughout the County.

OPTIONS AVAILABLE

I. Public Safety Local Option Levy

1. Keep renewal resolution as proposed on August 11, 2011 Business Meeting.
2. Make modifications to public safety option levy. If modifications are made, suggest withdrawal of the current resolution and Notice of Measure Election on the August 8, 2011 Business Meeting agenda.
 - A "redrafting" of the local option levy that modifies the levy but is substantially the same in amount and purpose of the levy can still be considered for "renewal".
 - A "new" version of the local option levy would be one that would change the amount and purpose of the local option levy and could not be considered a "renewal".

II. Children's Safety Support Funding

Consider further dialogue and review on the needs assessment for these services. The Children's Center and Clackamas Women's Services have submitted detailed and refined background information on their need for additional support to protect families and children from abuse.

The attachments include materials on outcomes, staffing, services, existing funding sources and an overarching rationale for increased support. They have clearly stated the merits of their proposal. Keeping vulnerable residents safe and healthy is a core Board principle. Should the Board consider additional related but non-specified needs for a (small?) expansion of the proposed \$0.035/\$1,000 levy, or bridge funding?

1. Regarding the \$1.2 million request for local option levy funding, the deadline for submitting to the County Clerk for the May 2012 ballot is March 15, 2012. As early as later this month (August) or no later than March, 2012, the Board could direct staff to draw up the appropriate resolution and Notice of Measure Election for Board consideration at a Business Meeting.
2. Regarding the request for \$550,000 bridge funding the Board should consider supporting documentation developed by the proponents and also consider:
 - Directing an appropriation from contingency funds for all or a portion of the request.

RECOMMENDATIONS

I. Public Safety Local Option Levy

1. Keep renewal language as proposed on the August 11, 2011 agenda.

II. Children's Safety Support Funding

1. Board to evaluate and refine local option levy request.
2. Board to evaluate and refine bridge funding request before establishing County appropriation level.

SUBMITTED BY:

Division Director/Head Approval _____

Department Director/Head Approval _____

County Administrator Approval _____

For information on this issue or copies of attachments, please contact Steve Wheeler @ 503 655-8581