

County Administrator's Digest

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BOARD APPROVES PAY INCREASE

The Board of Commissioners approved a 1 percent salary increase effective January 1, 2012 for Unclassified and Group T employees. We began the fiscal year with a projected \$5.2 million deficit as we began planning for the FY 2013 budget. Property taxes are still going down but at a much slower pace than anticipated and with the exception of state revenue sharing other revenues stabilized throughout the year. Departments, offices and agencies are doing a great job spending less than their budgeted amount and thus we are projecting a more positive year-end balance than previously anticipated. While many things went our way this year and the \$5.2 million was reduced to a half-million throughout the budget process, next year will bring its own challenges in this down economic time. We are approaching each year at a time and thought it prudent to budget for the increase now because we may or not be able to do so next year. All 8 labor contracts are up this year and negotiations have begun in earnest with several groups.

OTTAWA COUNTY MEDICATION COLLECTION (Lisa Stefanovsky)

On Saturday September 24, the Ottawa County Health Department, in collaboration with the Ottawa County Sheriff's Office, Skips Pharmacy, Holland Board of Public Works, and the Ottawa County Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition, collected unused medication from community residents. It is important to dispose of unused medications properly to protect the environment and prevent prescription drug abuse. Medicines found in the home are highly susceptible to diversion, misuse, and abuse. Prescription drug use in the US continues to be very high, in fact, according to the 2009 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, more Americans abuse prescription drugs than those abusing cocaine, hallucinogens, and heroin combined. Studies also show that teens who abuse prescription drugs often get them from family and friends, including from the home medicine cabinet.

During the collection, 142 families were served and 231.4 pounds of medications were collected; 215 pounds of non-controlled substances and 16 pounds of controlled substances which were taken by the Sheriff's Office. Special thanks to all of our partners who made this collection possible.



ERP UPDATE (Bob Spaman)

The Board of Commissioners approved the implementation of a new financial and human resources software system commonly referred to as an Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system at their September 27 meeting. Our current system is 20 years old and needed improvements to become more like today's contemporary ERP software on the market. Today's software operates in a Windows environment while our current system is an AS/400 environment, commonly referred to as "green screen/green bar." Our current system has served the County well over the years but now is the time to upgrade and use the efficiencies of the new technologies on the market.

After a year-long search and several demonstrations from vendors competing to develop the new system, the ERP Steering Team and ERP Project Committee selected Munis Systems as our new ERP system. Munis Systems is a division of Tyler Technologies with 1600 clients across the United States. All of their clients are in the government or school sectors. Their client base includes several cities and counties in Michigan and appears to be growing more as they have been selected in Bay and Muskegon counties as well. Assistant Fiscal Services Director Mary Hinga will serve as project manager.

The 18 – 24 month implementation will begin very soon with the IT Department being the first department affected by this implementation. They will prepare the servers for the software and establish security on our system as well as other technical aspects of the implementation.

The new system will have several new features such as employee self-service for making various changes in benefit plans, family changes as well as other abilities. Vendor self-service will allow our vendors to track their invoices from submission to payment. Dashboards will be available for people to get an immediate snapshot of the information that is important to them.

Business work flow will be streamlined and electronic workflow as opposed to paperwork moving through the system will speed up processes. The technology is very up to date and will provide real time information as well as many other upgrades that we do not have currently.

We want to thank everyone for the cooperation we have received so far in this process and look forward to continued cooperation in the future for a successful implementation.

QUADRANT MEETINGS

The first fall quadrant meeting was held Monday at Zeeland City Hall. Representatives from the City of Zeeland, Zeeland, Blendon, Georgetown, and Jamestown townships were in attendance.

We also had a quadrant meeting scheduled for Holland Township yesterday and that has always been a good location to generate a good turnout. We got skunked. Apparently the Holland Chamber of Commerce had their annual meeting until 1:30 and this likely drew attendance from the quadrant and the heavy rain didn't likely help either.

The two remaining quadrant meetings are scheduled for **Tuesday, October 4, 10:00 a.m. at the Grand Haven Township building;** and the final meeting for **Thursday, October 20, 2:00 p.m. at Coopersville City Hall.**

We will evaluate whether to hold quadrant meetings once per year instead of twice and whether the forum is valuable to continue at all once this fall's set of meetings has concluded.

BROWN BAG LUNCHESES

Brown bag lunches will be held at Holland District Court on Wednesday, October 5 and at the Ottawa County Courthouse in Grand Haven on Friday, October 7, in the Jury Assembly/Community Room.