

APPROVED
PROCEEDINGS OF THE OTTAWA COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
AUGUST SESSION – WORK SESSION

The Ottawa County Board of Commissioners Work Session met on Tuesday, August 12, 2008, at 2:07 p.m. and was called to order by the Chair.

Present at roll call: Mrs. Kortman, Messrs. Kuyers, Swartout, Mrs. Ruiter, Messrs. Hehl, Rycenga, Schrotenboer, Disselkoen, Berghorst, Holtrop, Holtvluwer. (11)

Work Session Items:

- A. MERS Military Service Credit Purchase Policy – The Administrator presented a brief background on the Purchase of Military Service Credits Policy. Marie Waalkes, Human Resources Director, reviewed the current policy, options and recommendations with the Board.

The following recommendations were made by Human Resources:

- A. Existing employees who are eligible on or before January 1, 2009 (22 potential employees) – Option 2: Current plan with a date they must purchase credits by. Purchase up to four (4) years for active military duty which occurred prior to January 1, 1999 for eligible benefited employees who are vested. Must purchase by January 1, 2014 (5 years).
- B. Existing employees who have military experience that have not met vesting requirements as of January 1, 2009 (31 Potential Employees) – Option 3: Reduce purchase by 2 years. Purchase up to two (2) years for active military duty which occurred prior to January 1, 1999 for eligible benefited employees who are vested.
- C. Employees hired after January 1, 2009 – Option 4: Reduce contribution amount to 50%. County will pay 50% of the purchase of years up to two (2) for active military duty which occurred prior to January 1, 1999* for eligible benefited employees who are vested.

Human Resources have already started receiving calls from employees hearing this policy may change. Two of the 22 existing employees who are eligible have applied and will be on the next Finance and Administration agenda.

General consensus of the Board is to go with the Human Resources recommendation with Option A and B but for employees hired after January 1, 2009, to eliminate County contributions to purchase.

Administration will draft a Resolution and forward it to the Planning and Policy Committee. A notice will be going out to employees informing them of the possible changes.

- B. 2009 Budget Principles – Alan Vanderberg summarized the 2009 budget principles that will be utilized in order to prepare the 2009 budget. The Administrative staff will be testing the tool used in ranking the mandated services this Thursday. The results of the testing will be discussed at the next Finance and Administration Committee meeting. Dr. Harvey will be brought back in if all goes well with the testing. Ranking of the discretionary services will be done again as part of the budget process.

Mr. Rycenga left at 3:10 p.m.

Public Comments

The Administrator reminded the Board of the tours Wednesday morning of the new Grand Haven Courthouse.

- B/C 08-189 Mr. Hehl moved to adjourn at 3:15 p.m. subject to the call of the chair. The motion passed.

DANIEL C. KRUEGER, Clerk
Of the Board of Commissioners

DONALD DISSELKOEN, Chairman
Of the Board of Commissioners