

**MINUTES
PUBLIC HEARING – 2015 BUDGET
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
HURON-CLINTON METROPOLITAN AUTHORITY
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2014**

The Budget Hearing of the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority's Board of Commissioners was held at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, November 13, 2014 at the Administrative Offices, 13000 High Ridge Drive, Brighton, MI 48114. The hearing convened in pursuance to a legal notice placed in the Detroit Free Press and Detroit News.

Commissioners Present:

John E. La Belle
Timothy J. McCarthy
John C. Hertel
Jaye Quadrozzi
Anthony V. Marrocco
Harry E. Lester
Robert W. Marans

Absent:

None

Staff Officers:

Deputy Director
Controller
Recording Secretary/Corporation Counsel

George Phifer
Rebecca Franchock
Joseph W. Colaianne

Other Attendees:

George Carr, Legislative Consultant
Greg Almas

Chairman La Belle called the November 13, 2014 Public Hearing for the 2015 Budget to order at 10:30 a.m.

1. Chairman's statement

Chairperson La Belle indicated that the proposed 2015 Budget shows a decrease in the Authority's net assets of about \$3 Million and the funding was reflected in the major maintenance of facilities. The funding was proposed after careful consideration to ensure the maintenance and quality of the Metropark facilities.

2. Review of 2015 Budget

Controller Franchock complimented staff and the team effort with the preparation of the 2015 budget. In addition, Controller Franchock indicated that she met individually with Board members to go over the proposed budget and to address their respective concerns. Ms. Franchock then provided a brief overview of the highlights of the 2015 budget. In particular, she noted that from 2014 to 2015 it is anticipated that tax revenue will be down by approximately \$300,000 from the amount estimated for 2015 in the Five-Year-Plan. She added that this was due to a continued trend in Wayne County where tax revenue will drop by about 2 percent; all the other counties should see a slight increase.

With regard to Expenses, Controller Franchock noted that in the Capital Improvement category there was a significant backlog of 2014 projects which were carried over to 2015 budget. Approximately \$4 Million in 2014 projects were carried over. With regard to fringe benefits, the budget reflects an additional \$1 Million contribution to the respective retiree pension fund and health care trust (\$500,000 to each fund).

Controller Franchock noted that with development of the Chart of Accounts, the new ERP system should allow further analysis. With the rolling Five-Year-Plan, the analysis will assist in

updating strategic plan. Chairperson La Belle noted that as we review the rolling five-year strategic plan, we will need to identify priorities.

Commissioner Marrocco inquired as to status of the fund balance. Controller Franchock indicated that the anticipated unrestricted fund balance with the proposed 2015 budget is about \$13.7 Million.

3. Public Participation

Toni Spears, Dexter, Michigan commented on the proposed 2015 Budget noting that this was an important document and reflects the policies and priorities of the Metroparks. She noted that the total expenditures are expected to exceed revenues by \$7.5 Million, and highlighted the significant increase in cost to the administrative office and made comparison to budgets of other departments. Ms. Spears questioned the justification for creation of a Volunteer Coordinator position, budgeted for \$130K/year. She stated that taxpayers expect the Board to act responsibly with tax dollars. See attached statement.

4. Motion to Close Public Hearing

It was moved by Commissioner Marrocco, supported by Commissioner Marans that the Board of Commissioners close the public hearing on the 2015 Budget.

Motion carried unanimously.

The public hearing on the 2015 Budget adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Joe Colaianne
Recording Secretary/Corporation Counsel