

**APPROVED 04/20/09  
OPERATING BUDGET MINUTES**

DATE: April 20, 1009    TIME STARTED: 5:32 pm    TIME ADJOURNED: 6:44 pm  
 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Calvin Ball, Greg Fox, Mary Kay Sigaty, Jen Terrasa, Courtney Watson  
 COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: None  
 COUNCIL STAFF PRESENT: Stephen LeGendre, Jeff Meyers, Theo Wimbelry  
 ADMINISTRATION STAFF PRESENT: Jen Sager

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<a href="#">5:32:36 PM</a>			Chairperson Mary Kay Sigaty Welcomed everyone to a special session. Ken Ulman to speak about his proposed operating budget.  Please turn off cell phones, blackberries, other electronic devices
			Ken Ulman- excerpted from letter dated April 20, 2009 to MKS  Thank you for having me. It has been a difficult process. General Fund Budget is \$820,224,970. Includes \$14.5 million in cuts the County received from State of Maryland. A decrease of 4.0% from FY2009. It is the largest percentage decrease in seventeen years. Every area of the county budget is seeing a reduction, with Education being the only exception. Education will see an increase of 2.7 million dollars. Residential & Commerical building has slowed down. Income tax revenue has declined. In past years, more than 50 police officers have been added. Will not reduce the number of police. Fifty vacant positions will remain unfunded. County employees will receive no cost of living increase. County employees will be furloughed for 4 days. County will be closed from 12/25/09 – 01/03/10. Elected officials are being asked to to join Ken Ulman in voluntarily participating in a five-day furlough by returning the equivalent of five days worth of their salaries to the County. Libraries will remain open. Department heads will have an extra furlough day. Nine employees will be laid off. Two from Soil Conservation District (requested by Soil Conservation Board), four from Sheriff's Department, three from Health Department. By furloughing we have been able to reduce the number of layoffs. County has been seeing significant cost savings by seeking efficiencies wherever possible: through a decreased trash disposal costs, replacement vehicles and fuel costs based on dramatic reduction in County take-home vehicles.
<a href="#">5:42:38 PM</a>			Mary Kay thanked Ken Ulman for presenting his proposed Operating Budget to the Council.
			CW – Thanked Ken Ulman for making his staff available. With special thanks going to Mr. Wacks. Confirms budget does not include any increases in taxes.
<a href="#">5:44:40 PM</a>			Chief McMahon (Police Department) – Currently going through accreditation process. Already added 54 new officers. Wanting to add a total of 100 new officers over the next 4 to 5 years. Decrease of over 1 million from last year's budget. Use of resources in a manner that would not affect public safety is their center piece with this budget. Five positions identified handled by sworn officers identified for civilianization– helps put right people in right places. Incorporate 8 new dispatchers. Reductions in overtime, travel and training, equipment and supplies, and \$156,000.00 in contingent employees. Confident they will meet their mandate to keep public safety.
			CB – Talk about specifics on community policing initiative at the work session.
<a href="#">5:49:34 PM</a>			Robert Ensor (Soil Conservation) – Intention is to fund two positions on urban erosion control through fee for services.

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			CB –Work session can talk more in depth about consultants they are working with. Time frame for fee structure and how he came up with the costs associated in coming up with these two positions. Where he will get these fees from giving challenging times.
<a href="#">5:53:01 PM</a>			Jim Irvin (Public Works) – Cut by \$1.7 million. Thinks they can continue to provide basic services. Will see a reduction in response time. Tree trimming, stripping & lane markings not as frequently as they would like. Nineteen vacant positions that will not be filled. Water and Sewer rate increases with continuing annual rate increase from Baltimore City (6%). Solid waste side no increases for basic services. Two Capital Budget cuts. One is Rt. 29 from five lane road to six lane road. In going through the State review process it was determined that noise walls needed to be placed along the project, which then makes it an unaffordable project for the County. Faced with a dilemma on what to do with the money. Second project is traffic calming. Need to reevaluate the process in light of speed camera legislation.
			CW- Only able to use speed cameras within a certain distance from a school or within a half mile of a work zone. Please come to work session prepared with traffic calming projects they are impacted.
			GF – clarification of the section of Rte. 29.
			CB – Concerned with tree trimming. At work session can talk about how long we can hold off on some of these things. Time frame for plan for speed cameras?
			CW – Speed camera requires the Council’s approval of local legislation. Any idea when that legislation will be coming. Jim Irving stated, fairly soon.
			Marsha McLaughlin (Planning and Zoning)–Department has 5 vacancies they are not filling. \$260,000 reduction in professional services. Adding funds for additional grant money from Baltimore Metropolitan Council, large format printing and digitalized plan review. Transportation projects: CO320 FY2010 Bus /Vehicle acquisition for 2009 (prior appropriations), CO321 FY2010 Bus/Vehicle Acquisition (stimulus funds). No transit/paratransit changes (but no new services).
			Susan Rosenbaum (Citizen Services) – Staff are busier than ever. MAP line, CARE line and more people coming to them for assistance. Cuts do not impact direct services. Working to bring stimulus money into the department and non-profits. Homeless prevention money. Head start. General fund over 4% less than last year (\$327,000.00). Affects ability to purchase supplies and materials to allow people to age in place. Thirty fewer new families for services in schools. Current families will continue. Reduce health education for older residents. Elkridge Senior center will be reduced. Continue to provide quality services for residents. CSP grants: \$4.8 million with \$40,000 more for the neediest. Maryland Food Bank a new agency.
			CB – Can quantify reductions?
			CW – Can talk about reductions at Elkridge Senior Center at work session.
			MKS – talk about partners that are being reduced, in work session.
<a href="#">6:09:34 PM</a>			Dr. Beilenson (Health Department) – Budget \$21 million with \$907,000.00 cut. Reduced tobacco programs to 1.5 FTE. Lost 7 or 8 full time contractual people. Went from 207 to 200 employees. Programs to be cut are Tobacco cessation, drive through flu clinic, and lost a couple of policy people.
			GF– Status of Healthy Howard for work session.
<a href="#">6:13:46 PM</a>			Gary Arthur (Recreation & Parks) – 1.6% of entire county budget. Reduced general fund by about 7%. They have nine vacant full time and part time positions. Cancelling some contractual services by offering less special events. Cut Sunday In The Park. Reduced mowing for passive areas. Reduced number of trees removed from open space. Will let mother nature take course. Reduce number of take home vehicles. Taken away conferences

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			and training. Cutting supplies and materials for recreation programs. Use supplies they have. Capital Budget– reduced \$9 million, from 16 to 7 projects. Highlights: design of Troy Regional Park, ground breakings of Blandair Regional Park and North Laurel Community Center and Park. Capital budget is \$10 million with \$7.9 million in bonds, \$1.2 million in grants, \$413,000 in transfer tax, other.
			CB- Work session bring details which areas will have reduced mowing and how you plan on communicating that to the public. Also fee for services programs and impact to independent programs.
<a href="#">6:21:07 PM</a>			Lonnie Robins (County Administration) – County Administration oversees day to day operation of County Government: Purchasing, Office of Budget, HR, Fleet Division, Office of Environmental Sustainability, Office of Human Rights, Office of Work Force Development, Risk Management, Public Information Office. Budget of \$7.6 million reflects 4% reduction from last year. No new positions – 3 unfunded positions. Drop in number of miles driven by county cars due to reducing take home cars. Other savings: labor negotiator as a result of two-year agreements, advertising and professional services in HR due to downturn and NEO Government.
<a href="#">6:24:50 PM</a>			Ira Levy (Technology) – Responsibilities are cable, telecommunications, network security, information systems and records management. A 4% decrease, from \$17.0 to \$16.34 million. Outsourcing will be minimized. Maintain larger systems such as ERP, telecommunications. Training will be biggest focus to use tools. Scale back number of computers being put out each year from 700 to 400, which extends the refresh from 3 to 5 years. Offset by utilizing computers with higher capacity.
			MKS – Talk about decreasing telecommunications at the work session.
<a href="#">6:28:39 PM</a>			Chief Goddard (Fire Department) – Identify efficiencies without compromising services. Deferred replacement apparatus for a year. Reduced vehicle purchases. Differed uniforms. Reduced travel. Consolidated purchasing. Alternate financing from State and federal governments. Recent grant \$1.3million for response time. Hire 12 new positions for busiest stations. Able personnel to complete critical tasks. Strategic planning for future funding.
			CW- Talk about fire tax between west and east at work session.
			GF–More on grant for 12 positions - is this renewable.
<a href="#">6:34:58 PM</a>			Stacy Spann (Housing and Community Development) – Funded by transfer taxes which are down. Seen an increase in inquires about housing. Lobby is filled with families seeking housing vouchers or additional assistance. Many clients are also serviced by Citizen Services and Community Action Council. Not receiving additional funding. Housing vouchers: 2,500 - 3,000 on wait list for housing (5 year wait). As housing ages, maintenance and rents increase, which means fewer families will be serviced. People are holding onto vouchers much longer. Expect overutilization to continue into this year.
			CB – Talk about attempts at federal funding and stimulus dollars in the work session.
<a href="#">6:39:41 PM</a>			Betty Nordaas (Board of Elections) –Paper trail and early voting bills. Looking into requirements for paper trail system, which may require an additional \$100,000 in FY10. Early voting will impact training of election judges and staff overtime. Significant cost (\$750,000.00) for two elections in FY2011 (equipment and six days of staffing). Estimate could be low- need three Ballot on Demand machines (total \$600,000). .
<a href="#">6:43:08 PM</a>			MKS – Ray Wacks anything to add. Answer: new format for budget book.

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			GF: Discuss capital reserves, OPEG.
<a href="#">6:44:25 PM</a>			MKS – thanks for your efforts.
<a href="#">6:44:47 PM</a>			Adjourn