

**MINUTES**  
**Ways & Means Committee**  
**November 16, 2006**  
**Meeting 6:00 PM**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Hon. David A. Pappert, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 6:04 PM

**PRESENT:** David Pappert, Michele Sedor, George Fearon, Ann Petrus, Francis Mitchell, Dan Schuster, Steve Cuddeback, Bernie Smith, Linda Murphy, Ray Lockwood, Chris Palermo, Wayne Allen, Andrea Seamans, Steve Johnson, Stefan Bandas, Christina Martino (Citizen), Beth Cuddy (Post Standard), Jim Orman, Lynn Marinelli, Fred Westphal, and Alan Kozlowski

Mr. Pappert thanked everyone for all their help and input with the 2007 budget.

Mr. Fearon thanked everyone also and explained the significant changes in the 2007 budget. Mr. Fearon explained some of the increases, in particular, the increase in the union contract and non-bargaining salaries for 2007. He also mentioned the increase of a \$2.5 million fund balance. Our long term goal is to keep taxes down, Mr. Fearon added. We have met with several departments regarding their budgets to try to figure out where we can take money out to help the taxpayers. Some of the major deductions were \$282,000 for equipment requests and we have eliminated \$215,000 out of the salary requests. Plus several smaller items were cut from the 2007 requests.

Mr. Schuster explained how the gas tax break doesn't benefit the intended parties right now and the sales tax is less erroneous than the property taxes. He also added if we were to take every .01 of the dollar then we wouldn't have to touch the fund balance.

Mr. Fearon explained the expenditure increases, involving equipment, upgrades to software and hardware throughout the County Departments, space changes for County Departments, and staffing.

Mr. Pappert added that all Department Heads are to attend the next Budget Hearing on Monday, November 20, at 6PM to explain any increases in their budgets. The Ways & Means Committee will then vote on amendments at this time and hopefully if need be, the final preliminary budget hearing will be, Tuesday, November 21, if further questions need to be answered before the budget is brought to the full Legislature.

Mr. Pappert made a motion to adjourn at 7:40PM, seconded by Steve Cuddeback.