



DuPage Water Commission

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chairman Rathje and Commissioners

FROM: Robert L. Martin, P.E.
General Manager

DATE: December 12, 2006

SUBJECT: Supplemental Board Package Material

Attached is supplemental board information:

1. Memorandum dated December 12, 2006 from General Manager regarding Long Term Financial Plan
2. Memorandum dated December 12, 2006 from General Manager regarding 2007-2008 Capital Improvement Plan
3. Memorandum dated December 12, 2006 from Staff Attorney regarding Contract QRE-3/06: Quick Response Electrical Work
4. Media Article
 - Daily Herald, dated December 6, 2006 – Water, sewer rates might increase for county customers



DuPage Water Commission

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chairman Rathje and Commissioners

FROM: Robert L. Martin, P.E.
General Manager

DATE: December 12, 2006

SUBJECT: Long Term Financial Plan

As a result of an error in the fiscal year 2008-2009 forecast, I am providing the following:

1. Revised Summary of Revenues, Expenditures & Fund Balances.
2. Revised chart and spreadsheet with the combined rate of \$1.30 excluding the 30 million gallon reservoir. This chart represents unrestricted reserves equivalent to one year annual operating budget.
3. Revised chart and spreadsheet with the combined rate of \$1.30 including the 30 million gallon reservoir. This chart represents unrestricted reserves equivalent to one year annual operating budget.
4. Revised chart and spreadsheet with the combined rate of \$1.20 excluding the 30 million gallon reservoir. This chart includes a minimum of \$5 million annual capital and represents unrestricted reserves equivalent to six months annual operating budget.

DUPAGE WATER COMMISSION
SUMMARY OF REVENUES , EXPENDITURES & FUND BALANCES
50% REVENUE BOND SUBSIDY - \$1.30 RATE

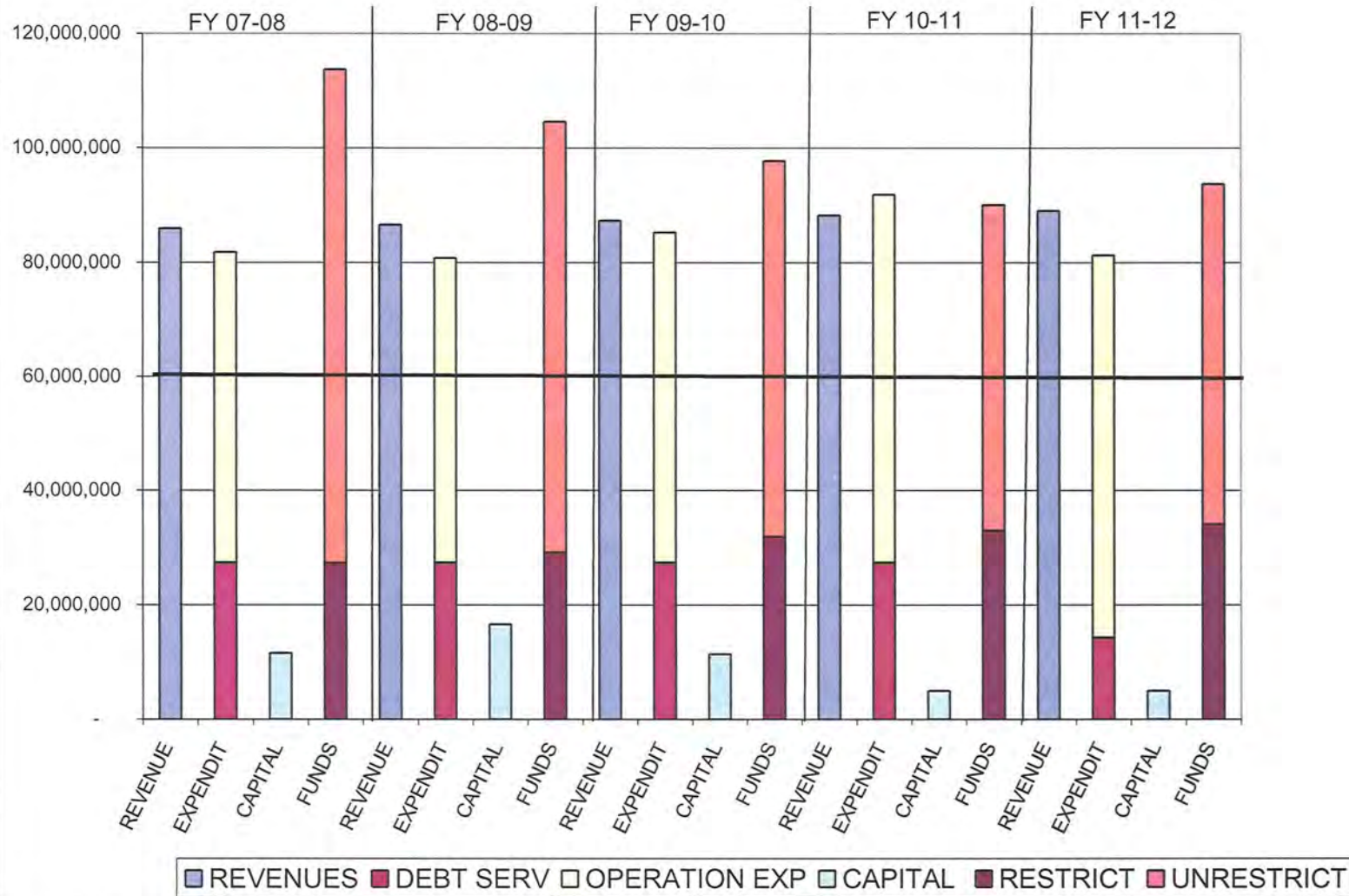
	ACTUAL FY 05-06	PROJECTED FY 06-07	ASSUMPTIONS OR % CHANGE	FORECAST FY 07-08	FORECAST FY 08-09	FORECAST FY 09-10	FORECAST FY 10-11	FORECAST FY 11-12
REVENUES:								
FIXED RATE	7,144,469	7,145,094	50.0%	7,145,344	7,144,719	7,145,219	7,146,219	7,144,594
O & M REVENUE	40,848,001	41,593,077	CALCULATED	36,691,444	37,193,021	37,376,333	37,590,465	37,922,157
SALES TAX	34,894,007	35,677,396	2.0%	36,390,944	37,118,763	37,861,138	38,618,361	39,390,728
INVESTMENT INCOME	5,429,133	5,237,712	CALCULATED	5,050,378	4,446,791	4,211,295	4,181,984	3,821,108
SUBSEQUENT CUSTOMER	572,790	714,437	1.0%	721,581	728,797	736,085	743,446	750,880
EMERGENCY SUPPLY	9,854	10,051	2.0%	10,252	10,457	10,666	10,879	11,097
OTHER INCOME	1,236	2,500	0.0%	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500
TOTAL REVENUES	88,899,490	90,380,267		86,012,443	86,645,048	87,343,236	88,293,854	89,043,064
EXPENDITURES:								
WATER PURCHASE	46,058,449	45,187,726	3.0%	46,920,176	48,706,282	50,580,904	52,505,924	54,484,220
CREDIT FORM CHICAGO		(868,166)		(2,790,000)	(6,118,000)	(4,037,000)	-	-
OPERATING EXPENSES	9,346,198	9,813,508	5.0%	10,304,183	10,819,392	11,360,362	11,928,380	12,524,799
MINOR CAPITAL	397,056	200,000	5.0%	200,000	210,000	220,500	231,525	243,101
MAJOR REPAIRS		2,938,000		-	-	-	-	-
REV BOND P & I	14,288,937	14,290,188	CALCULATED	14,290,688	14,289,438	14,290,438	14,292,438	14,289,188
GO BOND P & I	13,124,150	13,117,900	CALCULATED	13,117,650	13,116,900	13,121,275	13,119,413	-
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	83,214,790	84,679,156		82,042,697	81,024,012	85,536,479	92,077,680	81,541,308
5 YEAR CONSTRUCTION PLAN	5,356,901	1,902,000	CALCULATED	11,573,000	16,623,000	11,377,000	4,976,000	5,000,000
DUPAGE COUNTY PAYMENT	15,000,000	15,000,000	PA 93-0226	15,000,000	-	-	-	-
RECLASSIFICATION OF RESTRICTED TO UNRESTRICTED			CALCULATED	-	-	-	-	-
QUALITY LOAN REPAYMENT			BOARD POLICY					
NET TRANSACTIONS	(14,672,201)	(11,200,889)		(22,603,254)	(11,001,964)	(9,570,243)	(8,759,826)	2,501,756
BEGINNING BALANCE	134,832,327	120,160,126		108,959,237	86,355,983	75,354,019	65,783,776	57,023,951
ENDING BALANCE	120,160,126	108,959,237		86,355,983	75,354,019	65,783,776	57,023,951	59,525,707
UNRESTRICTED								
HELD FOR EMERGENCY RESERVE	12,900,000	13,300,000	3.0%	13,700,000	14,100,000	14,500,000	14,900,000	15,300,000
O&M RATE STABILIZATION	31,052,607	22,281,709		12,825,328	3,972,637	-	-	-
CONSTRUCTION RESERVE	42,417,219	55,351,228		56,804,355	54,255,082	48,257,476	39,097,651	41,199,407
RECLASSIFICATION OF RESTRICTED TO UNRESTRICTED								
UNDISTRIBUTED PA93-0226	30,000,000	15,000,000		-	-	-	-	-
UNDISTRIBUTED QUALITY LOANS	3,790,300	3,026,300		3,026,300	3,026,300	3,026,300	3,026,300	3,026,300
TOTAL UNRESTRICTED CASH & EQUIVALENTS	120,160,126	108,959,237	TARGET AT ONE YEAR	86,355,983	75,354,019	65,783,776	57,023,951	59,525,707
RESTRICTED								
DEPRECIATION	5,000,000	5,000,000		5,000,000	5,000,000	5,000,000	5,000,000	5,000,000
O & M	11,112,075	11,173,922		10,963,171	11,886,201	13,226,644	13,755,164	14,309,506
O & M RESERVE	11,532,818	11,597,007		11,378,276	12,336,256	13,727,452	14,275,984	14,851,315
TOTAL RESTRICTED CASH & EQUIVALENTS	27,644,893	27,770,929		27,341,447	29,222,457	31,954,096	33,031,148	34,160,822
TOTAL CASH & EQUIVALENTS	147,805,019	136,730,166		113,697,430	104,576,476	97,737,872	90,055,099	93,686,528

DUPAGE WATER COMMISSION
SUMMARY OF REVENUES , EXPENDITURES & FUND BALANCES
50% REVENUE BOND SUBSIDY - \$1.30 RATE

	FORECAST FY 12-13	FORECAST FY 13-14	FORECAST FY 14-15	FORECAST FY 15-16	FORECAST FY 16-17	FORECAST FY 17-18	FORECAST FY 18-19	FORECAST FY 19-20	FORECAST FY 20-21
REVENUES:									
FIXED RATE	7,144,844	7,144,163	7,144,969	7,143,844	-	-	-	-	-
O & M REVENUE	38,738,200	38,955,295	39,275,717	39,387,704	47,209,761	47,223,116	47,735,810	48,265,111	48,080,125
SALES TAX	40,178,543	40,982,114	41,801,756	42,637,791	43,490,547	44,360,358	45,247,565	46,152,516	47,075,566
INVESTMENT INCOME	4,118,876	4,380,301	4,602,347	4,781,816	4,916,823	6,152,140	6,602,183	6,412,669	6,412,669
SUBSEQUENT CUSTOMER	758,389	765,973	773,633	781,369	789,183	797,075	805,046	813,096	821,227
EMERGENCY SUPPLY	11,319	11,545	11,776	12,012	12,252	12,497	12,747	13,002	13,262
OTHER INCOME	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500
TOTAL REVENUES	90,952,671	92,241,891	93,612,698	94,747,036	96,421,066	98,547,686	100,405,851	101,658,894	102,405,349
EXPENDITURES:									
WATER PURCHASE	56,558,486	58,694,265	60,892,006	63,199,341	65,579,480	68,061,374	70,611,376	73,268,742	75,478,616
CREDIT FORM CHICAGO	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
OPERATING EXPENSES	13,151,039	13,808,591	14,499,021	15,223,972	15,985,171	16,784,430	17,623,652	18,504,835	19,430,077
MINOR CAPITAL	255,256	268,019	281,420	295,491	310,266	325,779	342,068	359,171	377,130
MAJOR REPAIRS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
REV BOND P&I	14,289,688	14,288,325	14,289,938	14,287,688	-	-	-	-	-
GO BOND P & I	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	84,254,469	87,059,200	89,962,385	93,006,492	81,874,917	85,171,583	88,577,096	92,132,748	95,285,823
5 YEAR CONSTRUCTION PLAN	5,100,000	5,202,000	5,306,040	5,412,161	5,520,404	5,630,812	5,743,428	5,858,297	5,975,463
DUPAGE COUNTY PAYMENT	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
RECLASSIFICATION OF RESTRICTED TO UNRESTRICTED	-	-	-	-	39,120,046	-	-	-	-
QUALITY LOAN REPAYMENT	368,308	368,308	368,308	368,308	368,308	368,308	368,308	368,308	368,308
NET TRANSACTIONS	1,966,510	348,999	(1,287,419)	(3,303,309)	48,514,099	8,113,599	6,453,635	4,036,157	1,512,371
BEGINNING BALANCE	59,525,707	61,492,217	61,841,215	60,553,796	57,250,487	105,764,586	113,878,185	120,331,820	124,367,977
ENDING BALANCE	61,492,217	61,841,215	60,553,796	57,250,487	105,764,586	113,878,185	120,331,820	124,367,977	125,880,348
UNRESTRICTED									
HELD FOR EMERGENCY RESERVE	15,800,000	16,300,000	16,800,000	17,300,000	17,800,000	18,300,000	18,800,000	19,400,000	20,000,000
O&M RATE STABILIZATION	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CONSTRUCTION RESERVE	42,665,917	42,514,915	40,727,496	36,924,187	45,818,240	53,431,839	59,385,474	62,821,631	63,734,002
RECLASSIFICATION OF RESTRICTED TO UNRESTRICTED	-	-	-	-	39,120,046	39,120,046	39,120,046	39,120,046	39,120,046
UNDISTRIBUTED PA93-0226	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
UNDISTRIBUTED QUALITY LOANS	3,026,300	3,026,300	3,026,300	3,026,300	3,026,300	3,026,300	3,026,300	3,026,300	3,026,300
TOTAL UNRESTRICTED CASH & EQUIVALENTS	61,492,217	61,841,215	60,553,796	57,250,487	105,764,586	113,878,185	120,331,820	124,367,977	125,880,348
RESTRICTED									
DEPRECIATION	5,000,000	5,000,000	5,000,000	5,000,000	-	-	-	-	-
O & M	14,882,903	15,475,767	16,098,214	16,743,047	-	-	-	-	-
O & M RESERVE	15,446,423	16,061,735	16,707,751	17,376,999	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL RESTRICTED CASH & EQUIVALENTS	35,329,325	36,537,502	37,805,965	39,120,046	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL CASH & EQUIVALENTS	96,821,542	98,378,717	98,359,761	96,370,533	105,764,586	113,878,185	120,331,820	124,367,977	125,880,348

Rate = \$1.30; No Reservoir

One Year Reserve



Revised December 11, 2006

Rate = \$1.30; No Reservoir

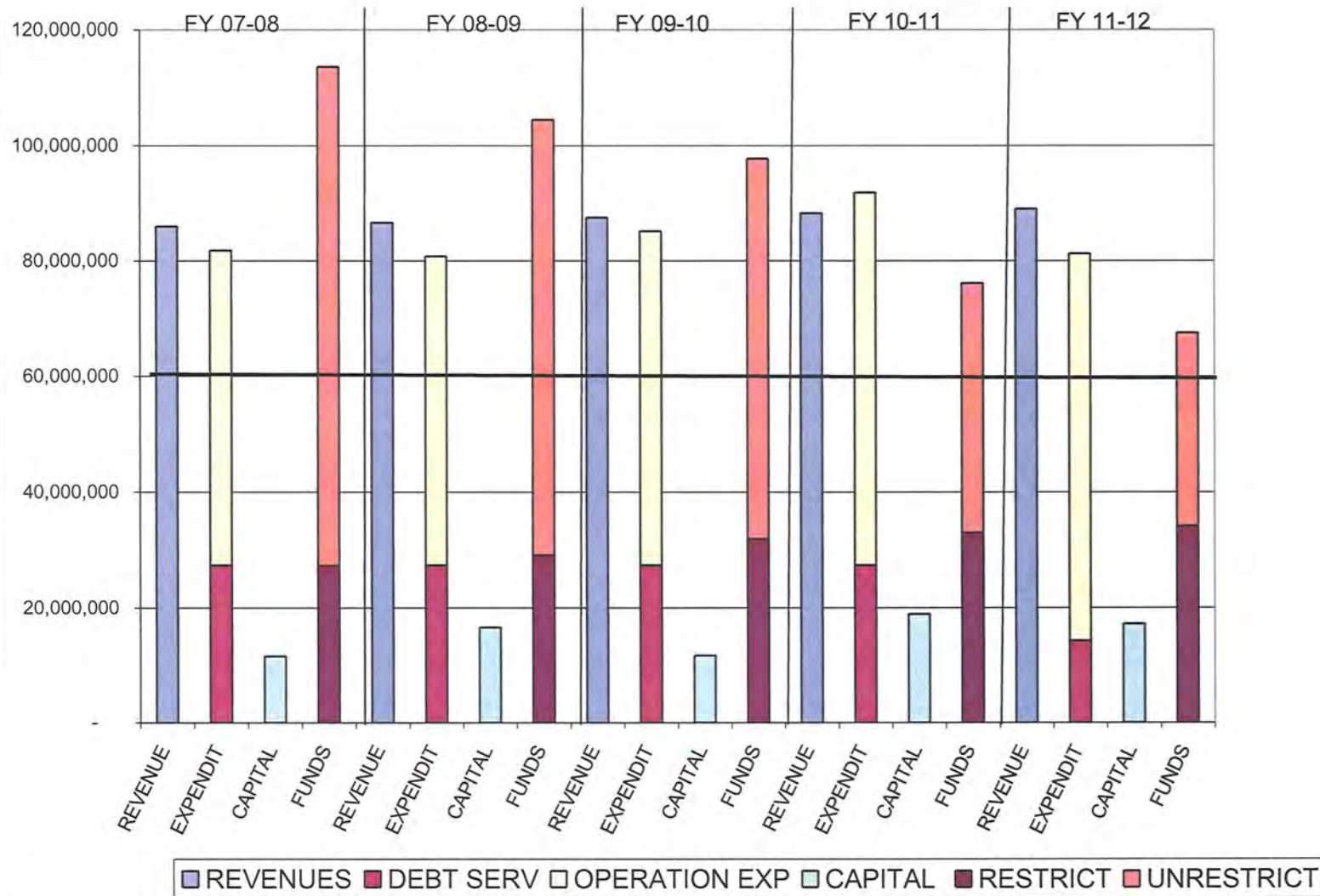
One Year Reserve

	FY 07-08	FY 08-09	FY 09-10	FY 10-11	FY 11-12	FY 12-13	FY 13-14
REVENUES	86,012,443	86,645,048	87,343,236	88,293,854	89,043,064	90,952,671	92,241,891
DEBT SERV	27,408,338	27,406,338	27,411,713	27,411,851	14,289,188	14,289,688	14,288,325
OPERATION EXP	54,434,359	53,407,674	57,904,266	64,434,304	67,009,019	69,709,525	72,502,856
CAPITAL	11,573,000	16,623,000	11,377,000	4,976,000	5,000,000	5,100,000	5,202,000
RESTRICT	27,341,447	29,222,457	31,954,096	33,031,148	34,160,822	35,329,325	36,537,502
UNRESTRICT	86,355,983	75,354,019	65,783,776	57,023,951	59,525,707	61,492,217	61,841,215

	FY 14-15	FY 15-16	FY 16-17	FY 17-18	FY 18-19	FY 19-20	FY 20-21
REVENUES	93,612,698	94,747,036	96,421,066	98,547,686	100,405,851	101,658,894	102,405,349
DEBT SERV	14,289,938	14,287,688	-	-	-	-	-
OPERATION EXP	75,391,027	78,423,313	81,564,651	84,845,804	88,235,028	91,773,577	94,908,693
CAPITAL	5,306,040	5,412,161	5,520,404	5,630,812	5,743,428	5,858,297	5,975,463
RESTRICT	37,805,965	39,120,046	-	-	-	-	-
UNRESTRICT	60,553,796	57,250,487	105,764,586	113,878,185	120,331,820	124,367,977	125,880,348

Rate = \$1.30; With Reservoir

One Year Reserve



Revised December 11, 2006

Rate = \$1.30; With Reservoir

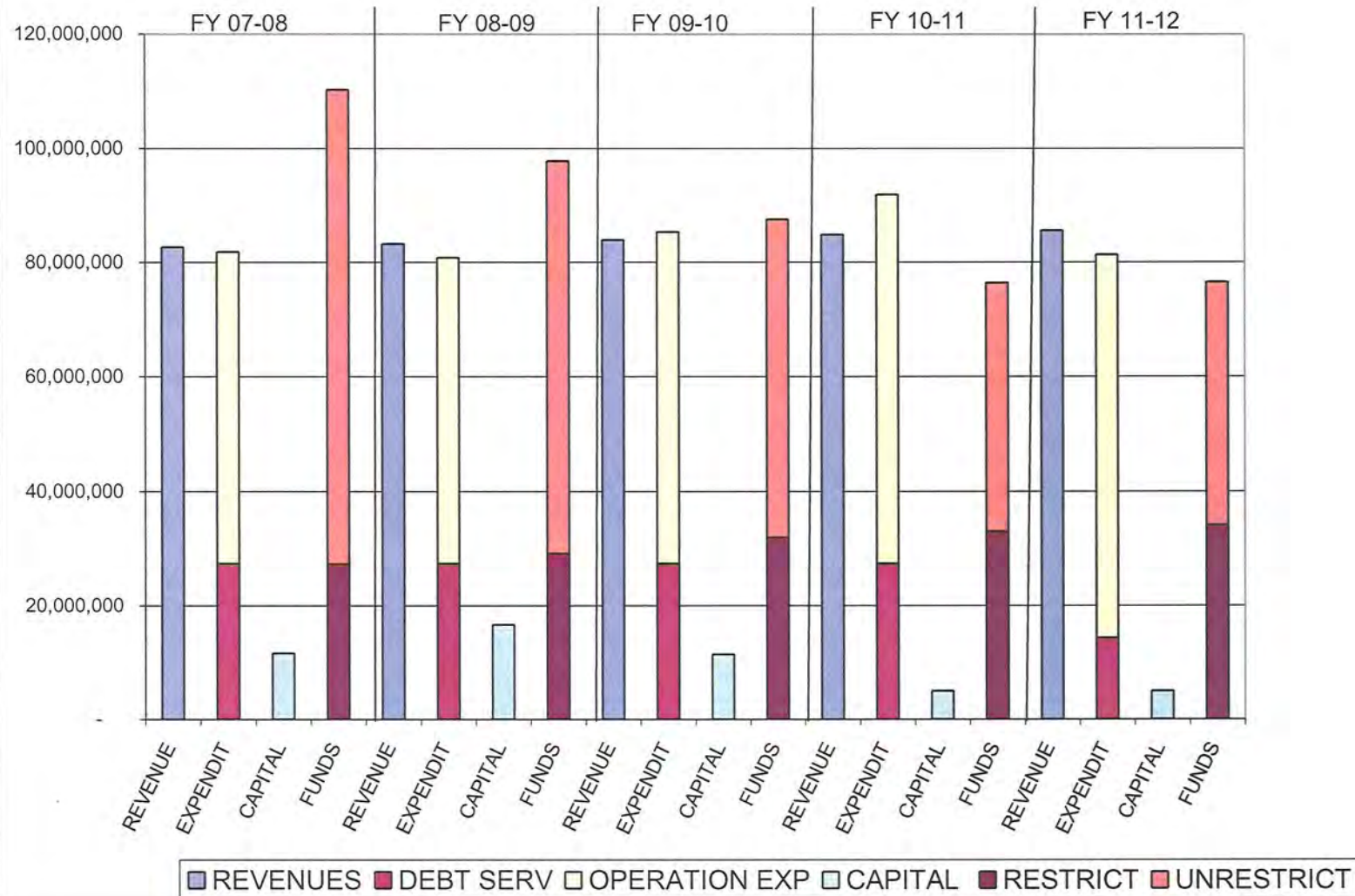
One Year Reserve

	FY 07-08	FY 08-09	FY 09-10	FY 10-11	FY 11-12	FY 12-13	FY 13-14
REVENUES	86,022,443	86,655,548	87,547,476	88,305,430	89,055,219	90,965,434	92,255,292
DEBT SERV	27,408,338	27,406,338	27,411,713	27,411,851	14,289,188	14,289,688	14,288,325
OPERATION EXP	54,434,359	53,407,674	57,754,266	64,434,304	67,009,019	69,709,525	72,502,856
CAPITAL	11,573,000	16,623,000	11,689,000	18,931,000	17,250,000	5,000,000	5,100,000
RESTRICT	27,341,447	29,159,709	31,954,096	33,031,148	34,160,822	35,329,325	36,537,502
UNRESTRICT	86,355,983	75,354,019	65,814,991	43,100,166	33,351,922	35,418,432	35,869,430

	FY 14-15	FY 15-16	FY 16-17	FY 17-18	FY 18-19	FY 19-20	FY 20-21
REVENUES	93,626,769	94,761,811	96,074,774	98,563,975	100,422,954	101,306,890	102,424,205
DEBT SERV	14,289,938	14,287,688	-	-	-	-	-
OPERATION EXP	75,391,027	78,423,313	81,564,651	84,845,804	88,235,028	91,773,577	94,908,693
CAPITAL	5,202,000	5,306,040	5,412,161	5,520,404	5,630,812	5,743,428	5,858,297
RESTRICT	37,805,965	39,120,046	-	-	-	-	-
UNRESTRICT	34,686,051	31,488,863	79,749,400	87,973,407	94,539,658	98,320,721	99,950,258

Rate = \$1.20; No Reservoir

Six month reserve



Revised December 11, 2006

Rate = \$1.20; No Reservoir

Six Month Reserve

	FY 07-08	FY 08-09	FY 09-10	FY 10-11	FY 11-12	FY 12-13	FY 13-14
REVENUES	82,645,165	83,250,667	83,922,111	84,846,593	85,570,095	87,454,034	88,717,605
DEBT SERV	27,408,338	27,406,338	27,411,713	27,411,851	14,289,188	14,289,688	14,288,325
OPERATION EXP	54,434,359	53,407,674	57,904,266	64,434,304	67,009,019	69,709,525	72,502,856
CAPITAL	11,573,000	16,623,000	11,377,000	4,976,000	5,000,000	5,100,000	5,202,000
RESTRICT	27,341,447	29,222,457	31,954,096	33,031,148	34,160,822	35,329,325	36,537,502
UNRESTRICT	82,978,705	68,571,860	55,569,467	43,350,805	42,367,437	40,822,547	37,633,858

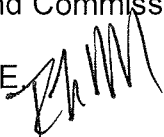
	FY 14-15	FY 15-16	FY 16-17	FY 17-18	FY 18-19	FY 19-20	FY 20-21
REVENUES	90,062,807	91,171,023	92,456,725	94,918,768	96,750,557	97,607,257	98,724,572
DEBT SERV	14,289,938	14,287,688	-	-	-	-	-
OPERATION EXP	75,391,027	78,423,313	81,564,651	84,845,804	88,235,028	91,773,577	94,908,693
CAPITAL	5,306,040	5,412,161	5,520,404	5,630,812	5,743,428	5,858,297	5,975,463
RESTRICT	37,805,965	39,120,046	-	-	-	-	-
UNRESTRICT	32,782,477	25,888,380	70,422,625	74,891,017	77,672,255	77,638,816	75,451,554



DuPage Water Commission

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chairman Rathje and Commissioners

FROM: Robert L. Martin, P.E. 
General Manager

DATE: December 12, 2006

SUBJECT: 2007-2008 Capital Improvement Plan

Attached are breakdowns of costs for the backup generation for the DuPage Pumping Station and backup generation, variable frequency drives (VFDs) and photovoltaic (PV) cells for the Lexington Pumping Station. These cost breakdowns have been prepared by the engineers working on those projects. These breakdowns show the difference in costs from the 2006-2007 Capital Improvement Plan and the savings from the Value Engineering Studies. Please note that the estimated construction cost for the Lexington Pumping Station backup generation is lower (\$1.8 million) than what is shown on the draft 2007-2008 Capital Improvement Plan. This is due to Greeley & Hansen finding additional savings from the Value Engineering Study.

Upon further review it is felt that the Material and Equipment Storage Facilities should be added back into the 2007-2008 Capital Improvement Plan due to storage limitations on site. The estimated construction cost for the Material and Equipment Storage Facilities is \$640,000 and the estimated engineering cost is \$60,000.

Representatives from Camp Dresser and McKee and Greeley and Hansen will be present for the Committee of the Whole to answer any questions.

DuPage Water Commission
Lexington Pumping Station
Generators, VFDs and PV Cells
Estimate of Project Costs

Greeley and Hansen, LLC
December 11, 2006

Construction Costs	Generators	VFDs	PV Cells	Totals
2006 Initial Estimate Prior to Feasibility Study (5 generators, generator building, modifications to existing switchgear)	\$ 12,500,000			\$ 12,500,000
2006 Estimate From July 2006 Feasibility Study (Table 9-1) (5 generators, generator building, modifications to existing switchgear)	\$ 12,890,000		\$ 6,000,000	\$ 18,890,000
Savings for reduction of 1 generator	\$ (500,000)			\$ (500,000)
Savings for Site Development Costs (Table 4-3 Feasibility Report)	\$ (1,932,400)			\$ (1,932,400)
Costs for additional building square footage due to revised building shape (7500 to 8900 sq.ft.)	\$ 528,000			\$ 528,000
Reconstructed Access Road	\$ 155,000			\$ 155,000
Additional costs for water main relocation	\$ 425,000			\$ 425,000
Allowance for sewer reinforcement*	\$ 150,000			\$ 150,000
Additional cost for temporary access road	\$ 60,000			\$ 60,000
Additional costs for temporary sheeting	\$ 50,000			\$ 50,000
Subtotals	\$ 11,825,600	\$ -	\$ 6,000,000	\$ 17,825,600
Additional costs for LEED Certification	\$ 370,000			\$ 370,000
Additional costs for hybrid planting			\$ 500,000	\$ 500,000
Additional costs for 2 VFD replacements		\$ 1,000,000		\$ 1,000,000
Subtotals	\$ 12,195,600	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 6,500,000	\$ 19,695,600
Cost Adjustment To Midpoint Construction (1/2009) (Est. 6% 1st year & 5% 2nd year)	\$ 146,347	\$ 120,000	\$ 780,000	\$ 1,046,347
Est. Construction Cost	\$ 12,341,947	\$ 1,120,000	\$ 7,280,000	\$ 20,741,947

* Additional design and construction cost may be required to relocate the existing sewer if it is not feasible to structurally protect this sewer during construction.

Engineering Services Costs	Generators	VFDs	PV Cells	Totals
Feasibility Study - Proposed January 2006, prior to feasibility study	\$ 90,000			\$ 90,000
Feasibility Study - Actual	\$ 90,000			\$ 90,000
Design As Proposed January 2006	\$ 750,000			\$ 750,000
Design Proposed December 2006 (Change in design costs for LEED Certifications, revised site location, better definition of project after completion of Feasibility Study and VFD & PV Cells)	\$ 900,000	\$ 70,000	\$ 450,000	\$ 1,420,000
Office Services During Construction As Proposed January 2006, prior to feasibility study	\$ 500,000			\$ 500,000
Office Services During Construction Proposed December 2006 (Change due to LEED Certification and better definition of project after completion of Feasibility Study and VFDs & PV Cells)	\$ 600,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 350,000	\$ 1,000,000
Resident Services As Proposed January 2006	\$ 400,000			\$ 400,000
Resident Services Proposed December 2006 (Change due to increased construction period from 18 months to 24 months, VFDs & PV Cells)	\$ 660,000	\$ 45,000	\$ 195,000	\$ 900,000
Engineering Services As Proposed January 2006, prior to feasibility study	\$ 1,740,000			\$ 1,740,000
Engineering Services Proposed December 2006	\$ 2,250,000	\$ 165,000	\$ 995,000	\$ 3,410,000
TOTAL PROJECT COSTS	\$ 14,591,947	\$ 1,285,000	\$ 8,275,000	\$ 24,151,947

DuPage Water Commission
DuPage Pumping Station
Estimate of Project Costs

Camp Dresser & McKee, Inc.
08-Dec-06

Construction Costs	Total
2006-2007 Capital Improvement Plan Cost: generator facility, garage and office building	\$ 12,900,000
Value Engineering savings	\$ (3,400,000)
Additional portable generator	\$ 500,000
Inflation	\$ 500,000
Subtotal	\$ 10,500,000

Engineering Services Costs	Total
2006-2007 Capital Improvement Plan Cost	\$ 1,830,000
Spent for original 30% design	\$ (350,000)
Design Engineering amendment (redesign; VE assistance & participation; benchmarking & utility evaluation; pre-purchase document preparation)	\$ 400,000
Additional Construction phase engineering costs: assistance with multiple contract administration (i.e., pre-purchase & construction); reuse and tie-in to existing vehicle maintenance building	\$ 120,000
Subtotal	\$ 2,000,000

Total Project Costs \$ 12,500,000



DuPage Water Commission

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chairman Rathje and Commissioners

FROM: Maureen A. Crowley
Staff Attorney

DATE: December 12, 2006

SUBJECT: Contract QRE-3/06: Quick Response Electrical Work

The Commission advertised for bids for the Quick Response Electrical Contract (Contract QRE-3/06). In the bidding documents, the Commission reserved the right to award a contract to one or more bidders, and the bidder's were required to provide pricing for the following items:

- A. For labor, prevailing rate of wages/union contract wage rate plus ____%
- B. For Material and Supplies used, invoice cost plus ____%
- C. For Owned and Rented Equipment used, Bluebook price plus ____%
- D. For Priority Emergency Work, additional ____% on the sum of items A, B and C
- E. For Insurance and Bonds, \$_____ per year

On November 30, 2006, the Commission received bids from Divane Bros. Electric Co., Egizii Electric, Inc., Huen Electric, Inc., Meade Electric Company, Inc., and Ridgewood Engineering, Inc. for Contract QRE-3/06. Each bid varied from the requirements set forth in the bidding documents in varying degrees.

Among the more material variances, the bids of Huen and Meade were conditioned upon payment terms different than those provided in the Contract and, subsequently, both bidders requested permission to withdraw their bids. Egizii did not submit a bid bond meeting the minimum financial size required by the bidding documents and, as a result, the bonding company's letter of commitment to provide the contractually required performance and payments bonds if Egizii were awarded the Contract was similarly defective. Finally, after questioning by staff as to the bidder's understanding of the payment terms provided in the Contract, Ridgewood requested that it too be allowed to withdraw its bid.

As a result, the viability (if not the validity) of four out of the five bids received is in doubt. Staff is therefore recommending that a second set of bids be solicited, after holding a pre-bid conference to review the detailed requirements for submission of bids and incorporating any necessary clarifications to the bidding documents. No action will be taken on the original bids to preserve confidentiality during the second solicitation process. The fee for obtaining a set of the bidding documents will be waived for those bidders that submitted a bid in response to the first request as an incentive to participate

in the second solicitation. A similar process was followed, with favorable results, in 1997 when the Commission invited bids for the construction of Electrical System Enhancements and Power Management and Monitoring System for the DuPage Pumping Station.

Daily Herald

Big Picture . Local Focus

Water, sewer rates might increase for county customers

By Robert Sanchez
Daily Herald Staff Writer

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Higher bills could be on the horizon for thousands of water and sewer customers serviced by DuPage County.

The county board is expected to vote next month whether to adopt a staff-recommended 9 percent increase in sewer rates along with a 20 percent water rate hike.

If approved, the higher rates would take effect in July.

Past cost-cutting moves have helped DuPage avoid increasing water rates since January 1999. Sanitary sewer user rates haven't changed in 16 years.

"We've managed to delay this for a number of years," said Nicholas Kottmeyer, the chief engineer for the county's public works department. "We can't delay anymore."

Kottmeyer's remarks came during a Tuesday presentation to the public works committee.

The rates customers pay DuPage for water and sewer service varies depending on where they're located.

However, the typical homeowner pays the county \$33.93 every two months for sewer service. Bimonthly water bills average \$51.40.

If the hikes are approved, the average bimonthly bills would increase to \$38.14 for sewer and \$61.17 for water. The average household uses 8,000 gallons of water every month.

Rising maintenance costs and new state-imposed fees are some of the reasons for the suggested higher fees.

For example, a new wastewater fee imposed by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency will cost the county \$111,000 next year. DuPage leaders object to the yearly fee but must pay it.

There's also the cost of providing service.

DuPage operates six water facilities that treat groundwater for roughly 4,800 customers in unincorporated areas near Darien, Glen Ellyn, Itasca, Lisle, Lombard and Woodridge.

And though the county is working toward buying Lake Michigan water from the DuPage Water Commission, the deal is going to take months to complete.

So money is needed to pay for any water plant repairs or upgrades that may be needed until

the transition is complete.

Another expense is upgrades to the three wastewater treatment plants that serve about 39,000 customers throughout the county. There are "several large operational components" of the wastewater treatment process that must be replaced or updated, officials said.

"We know we have these tremendous expenses in the future," Kottmeyer said. "Let's get some of the money in to help buy down some of those expenses. It will be cheaper for the customer in the long run."

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