

STATE OF WYOMING )  
 ) ss.  
COUNTY OF FREMONT )

LANDER, WYOMING  
OFFICE OF THE FREMONT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
JUNE 29, 2020

### **FULL DETAILED REPORT**

The Board of Fremont County Commissioners met in Special Session at 5:30 p.m. with the following members present: Chairman Travis Becker, Vice-Chairman Larry Allen, Jennifer McCarty, Clarence Thomas and Michael Jones. Fremont County Clerk Julie A. Freese was present for the meeting.

A Public Hearing was held, as advertised, to hear comments regarding the E-911 Special Revenue Fund and Fremont County's Fiscal Year 2020-21 proposed budget. Nine people were present in the audience (a complete list is on file in the Commissioners' Office).

The hearing opened with the E-911 Budget hearing. Communications Supervisor Carl Freeman and Sheriff Ryan Lee gave an update on both the E-911 and Dispatch budget, and stated all anticipated revenue will come from User Fees from agencies for which Dispatch provides a service for and from the 911 surcharge money collected from each traditional and wireless devices. Freeman gave his recommendation to keep this surcharge at \$0.75 per line for a projected revenue total of \$348,069 with all agencies paying at 100% of actuals. There were no comments from the audience on the proposed budget for E-911.

Chairman Becker asked County Clerk Julie Freese to provide an update on the budget to date. The proposed FY 2020-2021 budget was advertised with an assessed valuation of \$627,693,309. In February, the departments were asked to submit budgets status quo of the previous year's budget. The County Assessor and Treasurer both stated they expected lower projected revenues and assessed valuations for FY 2020-2021. At that time, an assessed valuation of \$634 million was used, a decrease of 8% from the FY 2019-2020 assessed valuation. Freese stated there are no reserves, other than Cash Reserve, and all Capital Revolving Fund purchases were put on hold until after the budget process was completed. She stated appreciation that the departments complied with submission of the new budget with no increases; however, the County still faced a \$2.5 million budget cut to balance the budget. Budget work sessions were then held through all of May and June. The Commissioners first obligation was to fund all statutory services and then support services, followed by social services. Legal research was conducted to determine if the Elected Officials could defer or decline their statutorily set annual salary increases. By the first of June, departments were notified they were not to spend any money unless absolutely necessary, and to put a hold on all travel unless mandated by their job functions, as the fund balance will be very important to carry over to the next fiscal year. At this time, departments were also asked to give further voluntary cuts to help offset the \$2.5 million reduction needed. Departments were also asked to provide a narrative of what a 10%, 20% and 30% budget cut would do to their department. After voluntary cuts were received, the deficit was now at \$1.3 million. The decision was made to move all cash reserve amounts (\$610,000) from Off Line Boards (Fair, Library, Museum, Recreation Board) into the County's Cash Reserve, and along with other adjustments, there was now a surplus of \$200,000. Then by the next meeting, updated information was produced from the Wyoming County Commissioners Association CREG report, at which time another \$2.2 million was required to be cut due to reduced sales and use taxes, making a grand total of \$4.5 million that had to be cut. Employees were informed they would be paying a 7% increase in health insurance premiums and also 1% of their retirement premium which included a mandatory ¼% increase for this upcoming fiscal year. The tentatively balanced budget was advertised.

As the County has taken over the bookkeeping duties of the Library system, there is some work to be done to bring their benefits policy into compliance with the County. Vice-Chairman Larry Allen asked for confirmation that the Library Board is taking this issue seriously, to which Acting Library Manager Anita Marple replied was the case.

Chairman Becker stated the County is experiencing one of the most trying times and the budgets will be looked at on a monthly basis, to be compared to anticipated revenues. He stated the Commission will be very proactive to stay ahead of any changes that need to be made. He thanked the departments and Elected Officials for working together on the budget and that everyone needs to be part of the overall team.

Public comments were taken.

Local businessman Brett Berg thanked the Commissioners for their work during to get to a balanced budget during this very trying time, and for taking the heat they have taken regarding cuts they have made. He further stated that it takes good people to sit at the table and make the hard decisions for the benefit of the county as a whole.

Chairman Becker thanked Berg for his positive comments. He further thanked all those offices involved in preparing the budget and continued monitoring throughout the year, with special thanks to County Clerk Julie Freese, Deputy Treasurer Jim Anderson and Assessor Tara Berg for their continued work on providing updated assessed valuation and projected revenues throughout the process.

The budget will be adopted the following day during their regular meeting at 10:00 a.m.

There being no further business, the Public Hearing closed at 5:50 p.m.

/s/ TRAVIS BECKER, CHAIRMAN  
FREMONT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

ATTEST:

/s/ JULIE A. FREESE, COUNTY CLERK AND CLERK OF THE BOARD