

STATE OF WYOMING)
) ss.
COUNTY OF FREMONT)

LANDER, WYOMING
OFFICE OF THE FREMONT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
JUNE 27, 2022

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. County Clerk Julie A. Freese was present.

A Public Hearing was held, as advertised, to hear comments regarding the E-911 Special Revenue Fund and Fremont County's Fiscal Year 2022-23 proposed budget. Five people were present in the audience.

The hearing opened with the E-911 Budget hearing. Communications Supervisor Carl Freeman 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 device. Freeman gave his recommendation to keep this surcharge at \$0.75 per line for a projected revenue total of \$408,769 with all agencies anticipated to pay 100% of actuals. The exception is the City of Riverton which has its own Dispatch and those residents with land lines are not charged the fee. 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 2022-2023 budget was advertised with an assessed valuation of \$845,306,666. She reviewed adjustments to the advertised budget that had recently been presented to the Commission. CARES funding received totaled \$3.2 million. Over the course of the last two fiscal years, we have taken an extremely prudent approach to expenses and anticipated revenues, and had asked for bare bone budgets from all departments. The approach is to live within our means. As a result, we spent less but received more in sales taxes and other revenues than anticipated. That was added to the reserves which had been expended below normal levels in the prior two fiscal years in order to sustain levels of service. The Commission has always tried to keep \$7.5 million in reserves, which with the additional money has a balance of \$12,626,574. ARPA funding was also received totaling \$3.8 million each for this fiscal year and next. The determination was made to prioritize one-time funding projects with this money, such as communication towers and infrastructure for fire, law enforcement and EMS. As a result, the Commission decided to lower the mills that the county is allowed to assess from 12 to 10 mills for this upcoming fiscal year.

Chairman Becker noted that about eight years ago, the cash reserve was \$10 million. This year is above that amount and he hopes the amount will sustain the county over the next several years. He will issue a public statement tomorrow when the final budget is approved but stated first and foremost, none of this would be possible without all the elected officials, department heads, and employees of Fremont County Government if they had not had an eye towards fiscal conservancy and common sense. The condition of the county could not have been done without the diligence and fiscal conservancy of Fremont County Government.

County Assessor Tara Berg updated the Board on final assessment figures which will change the assessed valuation from the advertised amount of \$845,306,666 to \$847,207,649.

There was no other public comment from audience.

The budget will be adopted the following day during the Regular Meeting at 10:30 a.m.

There being no further business, the Public Hearing closed at 5:45 p.m.

A full detailed report (informational only) and the official minutes are posted on Fremont County's website (www.fremontcountywy.gov). The meeting can also be accessed via You Tube (Fremont County WY Government).

/s/ TRAVIS BECKER, CHAIRMAN
FREMONT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

ATTEST:

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