

STATE OF WYOMING)
) ss.
COUNTY OF FREMONT)

LANDER, WYOMING
OFFICE OF THE FREMONT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
JUNE 28, 2021

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 2021-22 proposed budget. Five people were present in the audience and Sheriff Ryan Lee was present via Zoom (a complete list is on file in the Commissioners' Office).

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 \$334,200 with all agencies paying at 100% of actuals, with the exception of City of Riverton that 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 2021-2022 budget was advertised with an assessed valuation of \$573,842,534. Cut \$4.7 million last year from budgets and this year the message to all Departments was to again keep budgets status quo and she was happy to report that all Departments submitted budgets either under or right at last year's amount, and if they were over had presented an explanation as to why. Worked with off-line boards to delineate where they got their money (fees, events, donations, foundations) and what taxpayers should be paying for (maintenance, infrastructure) and working through a new process with them this year. She found that revenues did not take a dive and that sales tax revenue amount was higher than anticipated and that budgets looked a lot better in comparison with revenues vs. expenditures. Estimated revenues are expected to be about the same going into next year, the only thing making this budget feel difficult is SF60 and they are all struggling on how the oil and gas industry will pay for their taxes, which they now only have to pay 50% for this last year and then they have 12 years to pay the other half. This has a huge effect to the budget and kudos to Assessor Tara Berg and Treasurer Jim Anderson who have been working on this diligently to understand the budget impacts, and there are still a lot of conversations taking place across the State on the tax implications. She felt this budget represents spending within the county's means. The Commissioners did set aside \$650,000 for SOC changes that will be looked at in July and August that will represent salary adjustments across the county as a whole. CARES one-time money has been received in the amount of \$3.5 million which is being used to reimburse the Cash Reserve and also paid off the Justice Center outstanding note of \$827,000 that was used as match money for the SLIB grant for construction. A little has been taken out of Cash Reserve to balance this budget, but we are in a much better place than last year and better than anticipated.

Commissioner Jennifer McCarty stated she is glad to be where at and that we are not in the situation we were in last year.

Commissioner Mike Jones expressed thanks to everybody who participated in budget process and their efforts in trying to keep expenses down, there was good conversation and he appreciates the efforts that went into it.

Commissioner Clarence Thomas thanked everyone involved in the process as well.

Vice Chairman Larry Allen echoed the comments of fellow Commissioners and stated there had been good discussion during the process, some not easy, and expressed appreciation to everyone involved.

Chairman Travis Becker thanked County Clerk Julie Freese, Deputy Margy Irvine and Financial Specialist Michelle Neuenschwander for all their efforts. He also expressed thanks to Elected Officials, Department Heads, and Off Line Boards for keeping budgets in line, it's been a tough go and it is important to address the SOC discussion quickly in July to help our employees. This is the first time we have set aside a set amount to address this issue (\$650,000) as we have not been able to address any increases for several years and it is time to do so.

There was no public comment from audience.

The budget will be adopted the following day during their regular meeting at 9:30 a.m.

There being no further business, the Public Hearing closed at 5:40 p.m.

/s/ TRAVIS BECKER, CHAIRMAN
FREMONT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

ATTEST:

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