

**TWENTY-EIGHTH MEETING**

The Board of Commissioners of the County of Fremont, State of Colorado, met in Special Session on November 21, 2006, 615 Macon Avenue, Room LL3, Fremont County Administration Building, Canon City, Colorado. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 A.M. by Commissioner Chairman, Michael Stiehl.

Michael J. Stiehl	Commissioner	Present
Edward H. Norden	Commissioner	Present
Larry Lasha	Commissioner	Present
Brenda Jackson	County Attorney	Absent
Norma Hatfield	Clerk and Recorder	Absent

Also present Finance Director, Dana Angel; and Deputy Clerk, Kris Lang.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America was recited by those present.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Commissioner Lasha** moved to approve the Agenda. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Norden Upon vote: Commissioner Lasha, aye; Commissioner Norden, aye; Commissioner Stiehl, aye. The motion carried.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**PUBLIC HEARING  
2007 FREMONT COUNTY BUDGET  
NOVEMBER, 21, 2006 10:00 A.M.**

**Dana Angel, Fremont County Finance Director, submitted** detailed copies of the 2007 Preliminary Budget and reviewed a prepared summary narrative.

***REVENUES:***

Assessed value for Fremont County increased \$7.9 million, or 2.15%, from \$365.6 million to \$373.5 million. Operating property tax revenue will increase by the same 2.15% or \$96,855 for 2007. Additional property tax revenue of \$164,147 will also be realized by the mill levy increasing from the elimination of the temporary credit amount of 2006 of \$164,147. The total operating property tax revenue increase for the budget year 2007 is \$261,002. The General Fund Reserve Balance is projected to be \$500,000 by December 31, 2007. It has been studied and discussed that the General Fund Balance should be a minimum of 10% of annual spending in order to be sufficient to meet cash flow requirements. This goal will be considered in future budget years with the goal to be \$1 million by December 31, 2009. Sales tax revenues are projected to increase 3% in 2007 from 2006 collections, or \$146,481 to \$5,029,196. Estimated 2006 revenues are estimated to increase \$347,468, or approximately 7.5% from actual 20065 collections. An increase in the surcharge fee for solid waste collected by Fremont County transfer stations and the landfill is proposed at .50 cents/cubic yard compared to the present rate of .30 cent/cubic yard, to become effective January 1, 2007. Fremont County will receive Gaming Impact funds in the amount of \$500,000 for 2007 compared to \$400,000 received in 2006. The grant will be used for road improvements on CR67 (Phantom Canyon), CR 9 (Red Canyon) and partial payment of acquisition on 2 pieces of Road & Bridge equipment (grader and truck w/snow plow). The remainder of the cost of the equipment is included in the Capital Expenditures Fund.

*OVER REVENUE CHANGES:*

The Department of Human Services state revenues are projected to decrease approximately 7.23%. Local property tax allocation to that fund will increase 48% in 2007 to \$1,009,000 from \$682,000 in 2006. Overall DHS spending will decrease 3.23%. Mr. Angel stated this was severe restriction in 2006, requiring more property tax revenue that is labor limited to operate and meet the requirements of Human Services. The Sheriff's Fund was created on January 1, 2006 and is no longer part of the General Fund. The revenue from the Sheriff's Fund is projected to decrease \$54,800, or 14.5% from 2006-estimated collection, to \$321,500, from \$376,300. The majority of all other revenue sources for the 2007 are projected to remain approximately the same as 2006 collections, without material differences.

*EXPENDITURES:*

The total General Fund expenditures are projected to increase 1.1% from the 2006 budget levels, or \$113,765. Of this, \$91,213 is required for transfer to the Sheriff's Fund for 2007. The third year of implementation of the pay plan adopted in 2004 will take effect January 7, 2006 for the General Fund, Road and Bridge, Department of Human Service and Fremont Airport. Total cost for 2007 is \$272,827 or 3.19% of total payroll. The 2007 Proposed Budget includes the addition of a County Manager to begin employment around March 1, 2007. The Board will discuss this inclusion during the hearing this date along with some of the duties to be outlined and explained. A crack/chip seal project for the Airport ramp areas is planned for 2007 at a cost of \$140,000. Federal FAA revenue and Colorado CDOT revenue will provide \$124,000 for this project. Services are projected to decrease in several areas. Staff reductions of one each in the Treasurer's office, Human Resources, and the Planning & Zoning offices are included in the proposed budget. The Sheriff's Fund includes elimination of four positions. In addition to the above staff reductions for 2007, paid holidays for all County employees have been decreased by 2 days in budget year 2007, from 11 paid to 9 paid and 2 unpaid. This is estimated to save \$71,264 for budget year 2007. Over expenditures (all funds) are planned to decrease 2.61% in 2007 or \$683,576 less than the 2006 budget levels.

**Commissioner Stiehl** requested clarification how the property tax increase of 2.15% equates with the 12.294 mill levy. Mr. Angel responded the 2.15% is the \$96,855 increase due to increased assessed property values. He stated the County would receive fewer funds since there is reduction in outstanding money for refunds, abatements and the cost of reappraisal. In 2006 the Tabor calculation required a temporary credit, which was distributed to the taxpayers in the amount of \$164,147. This amount will be recuperated this year since the temporary credit is no longer in affect. The computations maximize the mill levy to the original 1992 base of 12.294 mills

**Commissioner Norden** requested clarification regarding the \$33,000 increased property tax revenue figure against the \$261,000 increased operating tax revenue for the budget year. Mr. Angel responded that \$4,591,350 will be received by Fremont County from the 12.294 mills in 2007, whereas, in 2006 that amount was \$4,330,000. This difference is \$261,000.

**Commissioner Lasha** remarked that the flood destruction on the County roads in July was a major financial setback for the Road and Bridge Department. Commission Stiehl advised that usage of equipment requiring diesel fuel has been limited to allow the fuel budget for the anticipated snow removal activities. As an additional cost saving method the Road and Bridge Department will be closed four days this week. Commissioner Norden reported the Road and Bridge Department has been reducing the amount of gravel used in all three districts. Mr. Angel reported that \$155,000 was transferred from the Conservation Trust Fund to offset the cost of the time and fuel spent on the Pathfinder Park Arena.

**Commissioner Norden** commented that the budget goal was to restore the reserves in the General Fund through a series of budget and purchase reductions along with an increase in revenue sources. He stated the revenue projections are based on the \$200,000 from the sale of eight acres of property along highway 67 for the proposed immigration offices; \$80,000 from the sale of rural area properties owned by the County and the \$20,000 County gravel royalties. Commissioner Norden stated he wanted to make sure that citizens understand this is not a balanced budget until the revenue ideas materialize. He stated that the Department of Human Services State revenues were projected to decrease by 7.23% and that Fremont County along with several other Colorado Counties will be lobbying the legislators in the 2007 to restore the funding of State contingency money for the Colorado Department of Human Services.

**Fremont County Sheriff Jim Beicker** stated the Sheriff's Department was experiencing the growing pains of the County. The demands for the services continue to increase. Sheriff Beicker remarked that it was frustrating to know what it takes to provide the public with professional service and not have the revenue. He wanted the general public to be aware that services would be affected as a result of budget reductions and made specific mention of the departments twenty-four hour coverage. He remarked that the department would work within the budget fund and attempt to minimize the affected services. Commissioners Stiehl, Norden and Lasha compliment the Sheriff and his department for their accomplishments under the present budget restraint.

**Commissioners Stiehl, Norden and Lasha** reported that the hiring of a County Manager would result in effective reorganization and saving benefits for Fremont County. The County Manager will control purchasing, evaluate department staffing and review daily administrative functions. The Board of Commissioners spends a considerable amount of time and effort handling daily administrative functions and meetings. As elected officials they are responsible for long range and long-term policies. The Commissioners represent the citizens of Fremont County and will focus on outreach within the community

**Commissioner Norden** responded to a previous question by the media inquiring whether the proposed 2007 budget will affect the opening of the ninety-six empty bed jail. He stated the proposed budget would not affect the jails status. He stated that in the aftermath of the defeat of 1A & B it would still be imperative for the Commissioners to find another formula or solution that would be approved by the taxpayers to open the jail.

**Commissioner Norden** stated they would be another Public Hearing on the budget at 6:00 P.M. He stated that they hoped the citizens would take a keen interest in this information.

**Commissioner Stiehl** adjourned the meeting at 11:00 A.M.

---

County Clerk