

TWENTY-NINTH 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 6:00 P.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	Present

Also present Finance Director, Dana Angel.

Those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Lasha moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Norden, to approve the Agenda 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 6:00 P.M.**

Commissioner Stiehl asked Finance Director, Dana Angel to give a report on the 2007 Budget.

Dana Angel, Fremont County Finance Director, stated the assessed value for Fremont County increased 47.9 million, or 2.15%, from \$365.6 million to \$373.5 million. The surcharge fee for solid waste collected by Fremont County transfer stations and landfills will increase from .30 cents to .50 cents/per cubic yard. Fremont County will also receive Gaming Pact funds in the amount of \$500,000. for the year 2007 compared to \$400,000. received in 2006 and these funds will be used for road improvements and the partial acquisition of two pieces of road and bridge equipment.

The Department of Human Resource State revenues are projected to decrease by approximately 7.23% and it is expected the Sheriff's funds will decrease by \$54,800. or 14.5% in 2007 and the majority of all other revenues for 2007 are projected to remain the same.

Citizen Ms. SeEtta Moss asked about the recovery of the decreased funds in 2A.

Commissioner Norden replied that the Board is projecting to build up reserves by 12/31/07 by \$500,000 and reach \$1,000,000 by the end of 2009. By 2007 it is projected the sales tax will increase by 3%, or approximately 7.5% from actual 2005 collections. In 2006 there was an increase of 1 ½%. There will be an increase in the surcharge fee for solid waste collection by Fremont County transfer stations from .30-cents/cubic yard, to .50-cents/cubic yard. Gaming Impact Funds will be used on roads and to purchase two pieces of equipment.

It is expected the Sheriff's Fund will decrease by \$54,800. or 14.5% in 2007. The General Fund saw an increase of 1.19% or \$114,000. \$91,000. of that went to increase the Sheriff's budget. The General Fund expenditures are projected to increase 1.1% from the 2006 budget levels

The County Commissioners announced they would hire a County Manager to begin employment March 1, 2007. A crack/chip seal project for the airport ramp areas is planned for 2007. There will be one staff decrease in the Treasurer's Office, Human Resources and in the Planning and Zoning Offices. The Sheriff's Department will eliminate four positions.

The County employees will receive their increase of 3.19% beginning January 7, 2007. Paid holidays for all County employees have been decreased by 2 days in budget year 2007, from 11 paid holidays to 9 paid and 2 unpaid. This is estimated to save \$71,264 for budget year 2007.

Sheriff Beicker said services are going to be cut and the public will notice the cuts.

Ms. SeEtta Moss stated she would rather see cuts in the 4-H rather than cut deputies from the Sheriff's Department, which will decrease the public's protection.

Commissioner Lasha replied that he felt support for the kids was very important and we need to keep programs like the 4-H.

Finance Director Angel advised that he had received good news, but did not have the time to share it with the Commissioners prior to this meeting. The County had asked for \$192,000 from the Department of Local Affairs as an emergency to reimburse the Road and Bridge for expenses. The money was to open roads, to rebuild County Road 121. He said they would have to go through Grant applications.

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Ms. SeEtta Moss had a question on training. She said training has to be done in the Assessor's Office. She repeated that she would rather see protection than putting money in 4-H. Again, **Commissioner Lasha** stated he feels the children need programs like 4-H.

Commissioner Norden said they eliminated fair premiums in 2006 and will do the same in 2007.

Commissioner Norden said they had a million dollar shortfall in the budget and money was transferred from the Lottery Fund and shifted money from Road and Bridge to the General Fund. The County is looking at the sale of properties. It was a team effort and employees stepped up to put this budget together.

Commissioner Stiehl stated the County was selling off assets in an effort to balance the Budget and build up the General Fund reserve but he wanted the general public to be aware the methods would eventually be exhausted. He commented the monies saved in the current years budget could be added as a budget increase for the upcoming year.

Commissioner Stiehl advised there would be no more public comments and will take these comments under advisement.

Commissioner Stiehl adjourned the meeting at 7:30 P.M.

County Clerk