

FISCAL YEAR 2006 BUDGET HEARING

FINAL HEARING

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 3, 2005 – 2:30 P.M.

ROOM 201 – COURTHOUSE ANNEX

The Final Hearing on the Fiscal Year 2006 Budget was called to order at 2:30 p.m. by Chair Jean Curtiss. Also present were Commissioner Barbara Evans, Commissioner Bill Carey and Chief Financial Officer Dale Bickell.

Dale Bickell provided an update to the presentations made at the Preliminary Budget Hearings on July 20, 2005. There is also summary information for the County budget, including a comparison to 2005, and what the mill levies are expected to be for this fiscal year.

Property Taxes

The Certified Valuation from the Department of Revenue provided greater than anticipated values for new growth, primarily due to the expiration of MRA's Urban Renewal District I.

Inflation Factor

As a result of the tax figures, the Board of County Commissioners decided not to levy the inflation factor allowed by law, creating a reduction in the potential tax increase of \$275,516.

Permissive Medical Levy

The Board of County Commissioners has approved additional tax revenues from the permissive medical levy provided by the 2001 and 2003 legislatures. The levy is based on the increase in health insurance costs (net of benefit reductions) of tax funded employees. Final calculations show increased levies of \$188,069 (.83 mills) Countywide and \$57,920 (.56 mills) in the unincorporated areas.

Budget Enhancements

Since the Preliminary Budget Hearings, and after the Certified Valuation from the Department of Revenue was received, the following Budget Enhancements were approved, in addition to those already shown as at the preliminary hearings as approved:

County Attorney – Add 1 FTE Attorney (\$57,249)

Clerk of Court – Add 0.5 FTE District Court Clerk (\$7,763)

Justice Court – Overtime for data conversion to new system (\$14,903)

Fair – Paving for additional ADA access (\$10,000)

Missoula Correctional Services – Provide for inflationary increases in current contracts (\$15,310); expand the pre-trial supervision program (\$44,660)

Office of Planning and Grants – Missoula in Motion grant match (\$9,000); participation in historic preservation program (\$14,278)

District Court – Tax revenues have been increased approximately \$165,000 in order to fix a structural imbalance in the District Court Fund.

Bottom Line

The Fiscal Year 2006 budget as presented, including the enhancements that have been preliminarily approved by the Board of County Commissioners, result in a next tax increase of approximately \$341,303 or 2.0 mills Countywide (which represents a 1.7% increase over the prior year). In the area outside the City limits, there is a net tax decrease of \$170,109 or 2.2 mills (which represents a 6.7% decrease over the prior year). This decrease is primarily due to one-time levies in Fiscal Year 2005 to correct the Fiscal Year 2004 certified valuation. Also, the County receives an additional \$1,526,000 in property tax revenue from new construction.

Chair Curtiss opened the public hearing. The following people were in support of:

Name	In Support of
Joe Loos	Friends to Youth
Tim Twardoski	Detention Officers Compensation
Larry DeGarmo	Salvation Army
Matt Theil	Detention Officers Compensation
Evelyn Hawkins (in writing)	Specialized Transportation/Para-Transit System
Stephen G. Earle (in writing)	Missoula in Motion Grant Match

There being no further comments, the public hearing was closed.

Chair Curtiss stated the adoption of the Fiscal Year 2006 budget is scheduled for Monday, August 8, 2005 at 11:00 a.m. in Room 204 in the Commissioners Office.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the Commissioners were in recess at 2:50 p.m.