

Minutes of Preliminary Budget Hearing
August 21, 2014 – 2:00 p.m.
Fergus County Commissioners
712 W. Main St., Suite 210
Lewistown, MT 59457

Present: Presiding Officer Ken Ronish, Commissioner Carl Seilstad, and Rana J. Wichman, Clerk & Recorder. Commissioner Sandra Youngbauer was absent. Public present: See attached list.

CALL TO ORDER:

Presiding Officer Ronish called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING:

Presiding Officer Ronish opened the public hearing for the FY1415 preliminary budget.

- Tom Wojtowick asked if all funds are listed. Clerk & Recorder Wichman told him funds such as the schools, cities and towns, and fire districts are not listed.
- Paul Huff asked for an explanation regarding cash reserves. Commissioner Seilstad explained that these are what the various funds run on prior to receiving budgeted revenues, and for levied funds this is capped at 33% of budged appropriations.
- Commissioner Seilstad went on to say that the Commissioners thought last year's budget was a challenge, but this year has been much worse. Things such as health insurance and the fact that our overall cash is down \$881,000 has had a big impact. Because of the personal property re-evaluation the mill value was reduced. Because it is important to keep the cash reserve levels up, it was decided to reduce all levied budgets (not including salaries and employer contributions) by 5%. Other options considered were laying off employees, having a hiring freeze, or having no increase in salaries and wages. Commissioner Seilstad reminded everyone that this is a preliminary budget. Gene Meier asked if there is a "light at the end of the tunnel".
- Treasurer Dolores Sramek explained the personal property re-evaluation and its impact on Fergus County. It cut our billable personal property taxes by approximately 50%.
- Commissioner Ronish stated that longevity was reinstated for this fiscal year.
- Commissioner Seilstad stated that in FY1314 longevity was not paid and there was a large increase in employee and employer health insurance premiums.
- Gene Meier asked about money from the flood damage and if the County doesn't have emergency money set aside. Commissioner Seilstad stated we are still owed approximately \$340,000.00 by FEMA but we may not receive that until FY1516, and the Commissioners try to save some of the PILT payment for emergencies.
- Tom Wojtowick asked if there is any other money not reflected in the budget. Commissioner Seilstad stated that County Attorney Meissner has a bad check fund and Clerk of Court Phyllis Smith has a passport fund. This money can be used at their discretion, and every year they contribute some to be used on County projects.

Commissioner Ronish closed the public hearing.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Tom Wojtowick asked about the old fence pillars at the fairgrounds. Fair Board Member Roberta Brown indicated they are trying to salvage them.

NEXT MEETING DATES:

August 25, 2014
Monday – 2:00 p.m.

Business Meeting

Fergus County Commissioners
712 W. Main St., Suite 210
Lewistown, MT 59457

September 4, 2014
Thursday, 2:00 p.m.

Final Budget Meeting
Meeting

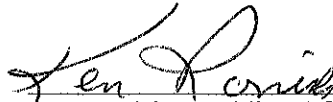
Fergus County Commissioners
712 W Main St., Suite 210
Lewistown, MT 59457

September 10, 2014
Wednesday – 2:00 p.m.

Business Meeting

Fergus County Commissioners
712 W. Main St., Suite 210
Lewistown, MT 59457

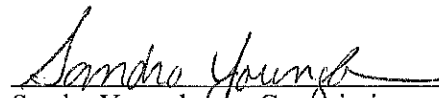
FERGUS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS


Ken Ronish, Presiding Officer


Carl Seilstad, Commissioner

Attest:


Rana J. Wichman, Clerk & Recorder


Sandra Youngbauer, Commissioner

8-21-14

Meeting Date:[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

8/21/2014		FY2015 NON-LEVIED PRELIM		Page 4 of 4	
#2	COUNTY OF FERGUS	NON-LEVIED	FUNDS	PRELIMINARY	
FUND	FUND NAME	APPROPRIATION	CASH	TOTAL	TOTAL
NO					
2150*	PREDATORY ANIMAL-Sheep	3,500	753	4,253	4,253
216X	BRIGHT COUNTRY LIGHTS	12,000	5,000	17,000	17,000
2155*	PREDATORY ANIMAL-Cattle	25,435		25,435	25,435
2210	COUNTY PARK	28,130	0	28,130	28,130
2272	CENT MT HEALTH DIST	154,970	109,229	264,199	264,199
2274	EMERGENCY PREP	244,716	561,401	806,117	806,117
2350	COMMUNITY COUNCIL	1,603		1,603	1,603
2381	DRUG FORFEITURES	25,500	735	26,235	26,235
2384	FIRE COUNCIL	32,950	7,381	40,331	40,331
2386	USG LOAN-SMDC	104,115		104,115	104,115
2392	RECORD PRESERV	106,177		106,177	106,177
2393	ECON DEVELOP LOAN	26,000	6,972	32,972	32,972
2394	ALCOHOL REHAB	18,318	10,026	28,344	28,344
2395	COMPUTER	100,908		100,908	100,908
2396	LEASED PROPERTY	82,065	10,000	92,065	92,065
2420	GAS TAX	244,499		244,499	244,499
2830	JUNK VEHICLE	66,655	42,319	108,974	108,974
2840	WEED GRANT	25,949		25,949	25,949
2859	COUNTY LAND INFO	4,000	3,634	7,634	7,634
2894	STATE-FED MIN ROYAL	74,124		74,124	74,124
2895	HARD ROCK TRUST CRChew	40,971		40,971	40,971
2896	METAL MINE-Port Authority	74,976		74,976	74,976
2900	P.I.L.T.	1,651,970		1,651,970	1,651,970
2915	DARE	6,600	59,247	65,847	65,847
2917	CRIME VICTIMS ASST	54,440	11,931	66,371	66,371
2968	DES GRANTS	42,299		42,299	42,299
2972	FAMILY PLANNING	249,585	168,744	418,329	418,329
2973	MCH NURSES	37,638	13,888	51,526	51,526
2978	IMMUNIZATIONS	5,705	10,901	16,606	16,606
2991	CTEP		0	0	0
4000	CONSTRUCTION RSV.	336,500	386,903	723,403	723,403
4010	ROAD CAP IMP	-	0	0	0
4020	BRIDGE CONST RES	100,104		100,104	100,104
4030	JUNK VEHICLE CAP IMP	84,183		84,183	84,183
4100	FAIR CONST RESERVE	22,162		22,162	22,162
4101	FAIR PARKING	3,657		3,657	3,657
4110	AIRPORT CONST RES	603,271	41,575	644,846	644,846
4400	CAPITAL IMPROVMT	230,939		230,939	230,939
5610	AIRPORT	402,035	15,921	417,956	417,956
6050	SELF INSURANCE	1,335,670		1,335,670	1,335,670
	TOTALS	6,664,319		8,130,879	8,131,654
*Receives assessments so cash reserves cannot exceed 33%.					