



Boone County Board Minutes



PUBLIC HEARING PROCEEDINGS 2017-2018 COUNTY BUDGET

Hilary K. Maricle, Chairman of the Boone County Board of Commissioners, called for a motion to open a public hearing on Monday, September 11, 2017 at 10:00 A.M. in the Boone County Courthouse Commissioners Meeting Room in Albion, Nebraska. Motion made by Commissioner Maricle, second by Commissioner Rasmussen to open said public hearing. Notice of the hearing was given in advance by publication and the convened hearing was open to the public. Commissioners present for said public hearing were Hilary K. Maricle, Alan Rasmussen and Ken Luettel. Chairman Maricle read the notice for the record. Richard Martinsen, CPA, for Schmeits, Mueller & Martinsen, P.C., was present to answer budget questions. Barb Hanson, County Assessor, was present to answer county valuation questions. Jim Dickerson, Albion News, was present for the budget hearing.

The public hearing was for the purpose of hearing support, opposition, criticism, suggestions or observations of taxpayers relating to the 2017-2018 Boone County proposed budget in compliance with the provisions of State Statute Sections 13-501 to 13-513. Also, to set the final tax request for the 2017-2018 Boone County proposed budget at a different amount than the prior year tax request in compliance with the provisions of State Statute Section 77-1601.02 The hearing was open for one hour and the proposed budget was published in the September 6, 2017 issue of the Albion News, Albion, Nebraska.

The County Board and those present for the hearing discussed with Martinsen the differences from last year's fiscal budget in the areas of asking dollars, land valuation, tax rate, property tax requirement and fund balances. Martinsen provided answers to questions asked with regard to the proposed budget and publication. The proposed property tax request for 2017-2018 is \$3,606,824.00, which is different from the 2016-2017 property tax request of \$3,635,029.00, being a decrease of \$28,205.00 from fiscal year 2016-2017. The proposed tax rate for 2017 of 0.150708 is lower than the 2016 tax rate of 0.151013. It takes a 75% vote to exceed the 2.5% lid limitation by an additional 1% budget authority growth. The levy authority of 50 cents includes the County levy and all the entities such as Agricultural/Historical Societies, Fire Districts, etc. added together. The County allowable levy limit is 45 cents of the 50 cents. The 2017 County valuation is \$2,393,259,621.00 compared to the 2016 valuation of \$2,407,095,340.00 a decrease of \$13,835,719.00. The majority of the County valuation decrease is in regard to Personal Property.

The adopted 2017-2018 County Budget has a tax request expense decrease from the 2016-2017 County Budget. The County of Boone, Nebraska financial contribution to the BCDA, Inc. is 80% of the corporation budget and is from the Inheritance Tax Fund, no longer from County General Fund.

Motion made by Luettel, second by Rasmussen to close said public hearing at 11:00 A.M. Roll call vote: Yeas: Luettel, Rasmussen and Maricle. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Discussion: The county tax rate will be 0.150708. If it were not for the use of inheritance tax dollars, the county rate would be increased in order to maintain the current level of services that are both mandated under state law and that our county taxpayers deserve and expect.



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Martinsen explained that Inheritance Tax funding is considered a local tax. Inheritance Tax funds stay in the respective county and benefit the respective county taxpayers with a lower property tax rate. If the legislature removes the Inheritance Tax funding, then the state and federal levels will receive the taxes generated from “Inheritance” and the local county level will need to increase their property tax rate to maintain mandated services.

Martinsen explained that the new 2017 Nebraska Legislation eliminates the 2% delinquent tax allowance unless Federal Prime Rate is Above 10%; eliminates budgeting for anticipated litigation claims (LB 432) and Highway Allocation is removed from Authority and removed from restricted funds listings (LB 382). In addition, (LB 51) impacts the county budget in regard to Interlocal Agreement report, budget hearing, audits and contracts. The group discussed the overall County valuation loss from the previous year of \$13,835,719.00, with the possibility of additional valuation loss next year.

Motion made by Rasmussen, second by Luettel to approve and adopt the County Budget for 2017-2018 as published and presented with an Unused Budget Authority created for next year of \$182,835.22; and set the 2017 County Tax Rate at 0.150708, which is different than the County Tax Rate of 0.151013 for 2016. Roll call vote: Yeas: Rasmussen, Luettel and Maricle. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion made by Luettel, second by Maricle to approve exceeding the 2.5% lid limitation on restricted funds by an additional 1% budget authority growth for fiscal year 2017-2018. Roll call vote: Yeas: Luettel, Maricle and Rasmussen. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The Board expressed their appreciation to Martinsen for his assistance with the County Budget preparation throughout the years.

Kathy Thorberg,
Boone County Clerk