

**Martin County Board of Commissioners
Truth In Taxation Public Hearing
December 2, 2010
Board Room**

Schmidtke called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., with the following Board members present: Boler, Potter, and Pierce. Absent: Donnelly. County staff present was Scott Higgins, County Coordinator, James Forshee, Martin County Auditor/Treasurer, and Dan Whitman, Martin County Assessor. Jennifer Brookens, Sentinel Reporter. There were four (4) members of the public present.

Schmidtke explained to the public the procedures for the budget hearing stating that the purpose of the meeting is to get public input on the proposed county budget for CY2011 and not to discuss property valuations. Those citizens, who wish to discuss their valuations, were referred to the County Assessor.

Forshee reviewed the CY2011 proposed budget, including department budget detail proposed revenues and expenditures. The proposed tax levy needed for CY2011 is \$10,592,208 which equates to a 2.99% increase over CY2010 tax levy. Total projected revenues of \$20,145,867 and total projected expenditures of \$19,449,832.

Schmidtke opened to the public for comment. There were various questions pertaining to the budget. One question was whether the county had any plans to build a jail facility in the near future. The response was not at this time, but the county needed to continue to plan for the future. An inquiry was made regarding if a contingency plan was in place if the state withheld their funding of the public transit system. Higgins responded that it was likely that services would be cut back, unless the board wanted to continue operations as established, which funding would then come out of the county's reserves.

Schmidtke asked if there were any further comments from the public. There were none.

Motion by Commissioner Pierce, seconded by Commissioner Potter, Be It Resolved that the Martin County Board of Commissioners, hereby close the public portion of the hearing. All voting in favor. Motion carried. Public portion of meeting was closed at 6:55pm.

Whitman gave a presentation of the Payable 2011 Tax Base Analysis. Stated that the residential real estate market continues to be slow. Agricultural land in expected to see the highest increase of 13%, with residential at a change less than .5%. The overall estimated market value for the County increased 8.7% over last year, with .3% of estimated market value increase from new construction. Agricultural land continues to be the largest of the tax base distribution at a little over 54%, with residential in second at an approximately 27%. After a brief discussion, Schmidtke thanked Whitman for his presentation.

With no further discussion on the proposed Budget.

Motion by Commissioner Pierce, seconded by Commissioner Schmidtke, Be It Resolved that the Martin County Board of Commissioners, hereby approve setting December 21, 2010 at 10:00am for consideration to approve the CY2011 final tax levy and budget. Carried unanimously.

With no further business to wit,

Chairman Schmidtke declared the meeting adjourned. Meeting adjourned at 6:59pm

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MARTIN COUNTY, MN

Dan Schmidtke, Board Chair

ATTEST: _____
Scott Higgins, County Coordinator