

Martin County Truth and Taxation Public Hearing
December 5, 2013
Martin County Courthouse-Board Room

Chairman Elliot Belgard called the meeting of the 2013 Truth and Taxation Public Hearing to order at 6:00pm. Board members present were: Steve Flohrs, Dan Schmidtke, and James Forshee. Staff present was: Dan Whitman, County Assessor, Jessica Korte, Accountant, Scott Higgins, Martin County Coordinator. Also, present was Rod Halverson, KFMC/KSUM, Sentinel Reporter, and members of the public (7 in attendance as listed on the signup sheet). Budget packets were provided to all in attendance.

Belgard opened the public hearing, reviewed the agenda, and stated the purpose of the meeting and that it was to review and obtain public input on the CY2014 proposed levy and budget, and not on property values. Belgard referred those who had questions regarding their property values to the County Assessor.

Whitman reviewed information he had put together regarding the Payable CY2014 Tax Base Analysis, stating that Agricultural land has seen the largest increase and taking on approximately 71% of the tax base, with residential at 14.9%, Commercial at 8.6%, and the remaining in multi-family and PU/RR/PP.

Forshee reviewed the proposed CY2014 budget stating that the total expenses are \$23,146,661, projected revenues (non- taxes) at \$10,085,840 (increase of \$858,105), and total proposed levy of \$11,805,424 with projected use of fund balance in the net amount of \$355,397. Forshee stated that the overall tax levy increase over CY2013 is 3.15% which equates to \$360,562 increase in dollars. Overall increase in expenditures is 6.75%, which equates to \$1,464,199 increase in dollars. Forshee went on to state that the tax levy provides the following services \$2,596,658 (22%) General Government, \$3,682,486 (31%) Public Safety, \$2,607,524 (22%) Road and Bridge, \$2,648,891 (23%) Human Services, \$264,865 (2%) Debt Service and \$5,000 for Forfeited Land. Forshee further stated that the tax levy requested increase is due to reduction in revenues received from state grants and other county aid, decrease in interest rates on investments, public safety increase expense for boarding of inmates, increase in Human Services costs, and increased expenditure for Road and Bridge. Finally, Forshee noted that the legislature has required that the estimated savings in sales tax (due to recent legislation exempting sales tax on various goods and services) must be stated (form included in budget packet), stating that the estimated amount expected to be saved for Martin County is \$115,000. Forshee stated his concerns of continuing to spend reserves in balancing the budget.

Belgard thanked Forshee for the budget review and asked if there was any public input.

Ron Kuehl of Trimont asked if a levy limit was put on every year. Forshee responded that it depends on the legislature and whether it places levy limits on local units of government or not. However, it has not necessarily been placed on every year.

Belgard asked if there were any further comments on the proposed CY2014 budget and

levy. There was none.

Motion by Schmidtke, seconded by Flohrs, with no further input from the public regarding the proposed CY2014 budget and levy, to close the public hearing portion of the meeting. Carried unanimously.

Belgard asked for discussion from the Board.

Belgard stated his desire to see the overall levy to go down. Schmidtke concurred. Flohrs stated the question is which areas are we going to cut. With no further discussion,

Motion by Flohrs, seconded by Schmidtke, Be It Resolved that the Martin County Board of Commissioners, set December 17, 2013 at 10am as the date for final consideration of the proposed Budget and Property taxes for CY2014. Carried unanimously

With no further business to wit,

Chairman Belgard declared the meeting adjourned.

The meeting adjourned at 6:33pm.

Elliot Belgard, Board Chairman

Attest: Scott Higgins, Martin County Coordinator