

**Martin County Truth and Taxation Public Hearing
December 8, 2016
Martin County Courthouse-Board Room**

Chairman Elliot Belgard called the meeting of the 2016 Truth and Taxation Public Hearing to order at 6:00pm. Board members present were: Dan Schmidtke, Steve Flohrs, Kathy, Smith and Tom Mahoney. Staff Present were: James Forshee, Auditor/Treasurer, Dan Whitman, County Assessor, Scott Higgins, Martin County Coordinator, Julie Walters, Administrative Assistant, Jessica Korte, Accountant, Dan Whitman, County Assessor, Mike Sheplee, Deputy Assessor, and Sheriff Jeff Markquart. Also, present was Rod Halverson, KFMC/KSUM, Lee Smith, Fairmont Sentinel, and five (5) members of the public. CY2017 Proposed 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 CY2017 proposed levy and budget, and not on property values.

Whitman reviewed information he had put together regarding the Payable CY2017 Tax Base Analysis, stating that Agricultural land has seen a slight decrease compared to last year and taking on approximately 63.6% of the tax base, with residential up slightly at 15.2%, Commercial up slightly at 11.9%, and the remaining in multi-family and PU/RR/PP combined at 8.6%. Whitman further showed that the estimated market value in the county decrease about 4.4%, taxable market value declined approximately 5.0%, and the tax capacity of the county declined approximately 3.7%

Sheplee gave a power point presentation on the better understanding the valuation notices and proposed taxes notice and property tax statements. Sheplee reviewed the correlation between levy changes and an individual property owners proposed taxes.

Forshee reviewed the proposed CY2017 budget stating that the total expenses are \$26,309,203, projected revenues (non-levy) at \$11,462,717, and total proposed levy of \$14,991,920 with projected increase in fund balance in the net amount of \$145,434. Forshee stated that the overall tax levy increase over CY2016 of 7.19% which equates to \$1,066,165 increase over CY2016. Overall increase in expenditures is 14.11%, (\$3,252,557). Forshee went on to state that the tax levy provides the following services \$3,095,532, General Government, \$4,574,086 for Public Safety, \$2,498,987 for Road and Bridge, \$3,475,472 for Human Services, \$256,630 Debt Service (Highway) and \$5,000 for Forfeited Lands, \$64,502 County Parks, 68,164 Economic Development, and \$250,000 in the Capital Improvement Plan. Forshee further stated that the tax levy requested increase is due to a few major reasons including added three new full time position (\$265, 500), increase in Human Services costs \$284,403 Martin County EDA increase of \$9,112 for consultant services, and overall salary and health benefit increases (\$343,337), and Capital Improvements increase of \$150,000.

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

Jim Hill stated the board needs to do all it can to keep taxes down.

Belgard asked if there was any further public input. There were no further comments,

Motion by Schmidtke, seconded by Flohrs with no further input from the public regarding the proposed CY2017 budget and levy, to close the public hearing portion of the meeting. Carried unanimously.

Belgard asked for discussion from the Board.

There was discussion on the concerns for the 7.19% overall levy increase, but with the addition of three new staff and the need to build reserves for Human Services among the other needs for county services the need is there. With no further discussion,

By consensus of the Board members the continuation hearing was set December 20, 2016 at 9:30am as the date for final consideration of the proposed Budget and Property taxes for CY2017. Carried unanimously

With no further business to wit,

Chairman Belgard declared the meeting adjourned.

The meeting adjourned at 6:53pm.

Elliot Belgard, Board Chairman

Attest: Scott Higgins, Martin County Coordinator