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OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE STARK COUNTY COMMISSION
August 10, 2023

Chairman Franchuk called the special meeting of the Stark County Board of Commissioners to order at 9:00 a.m. Commissioners Present: Dean Franchuk, Paul Clarys, Bernie Marsh, Neal Messer, and Cory White. Department Heads Present: Auditor Karen Richard, Sheriff Corey Lee, Road Superintendent Al Heiser, County Agent Kurt Froehlich, and Veteran's Officer Jessica McClellan.

RATIFY AGENDA

MOTION BY: Commissioner Messer **SECONDED BY:** Commissioner Clarys

To ratify the agenda as presented.

DISPOSITION: All voted aye. Motion Carried.

PRELIMINARY 2024 BUDGET DISCUSSION & APPROVAL

Richard presented information for the estimated tax statements. She advises one county mill for 2024 will be worth approximately \$219,074.07, last year it was \$212,745.91. In 2023 we levied 25.88 mills for the general, 10 mills for the Capital Projects, 11.5 and 18 for the road, JDA at 2.5 mills, Vector Control close to 1 mill, weed at 4 mills, County Library 3.65 mills, Water Resource District is levying zero again this year. ARPA funding left is \$1,383,248.20. There are some fund balances that the commission could potentially levy less for: Capital Projects has a balance carrying over and should be sitting at 1.5 million so that mill could come down. She estimates the general fund at the end of 2023 should be \$21.5 million. State Aid Distribution and Interest rates were up for 2023. She is asking the commission to decide in dollars what they would like to see on the estimated tax statements.

Messer inquired which levies are based only on county levies and do not include the City of Dickinson. Richard advises the weed department, Airport, county road, and JDA, and the value is approximately \$85,000.00.

Clarys asked about expenses for 2023 and if the budget is currently where we thought it would be. Richard advises that it looks like we are on track and revenue is up due to increased interest income.

Messer asks what they need to decide on today. Richard states the general is the big one and we can use the previous year's dollar amounts for the other funds if we want. We can go down from what we set today, just can't go up. Messer states JDA has asked for additional funds and in his discussion with his county portfolios he is seeing a push for higher numbers in their budgets. Richard states the increase in oil and gas revenue and the increase in interest income this year would potentially cover any increase in wages or insurance for next year. She states if you put out on the estimated tax statements the \$5.5 million from last year that would cover you. Messer expresses concern based on his visit with his department heads that their budgets may be higher and the \$5.5 million won't cover. Marsh also expresses this concern and states once we know every department's budget then we will know more of where we are at. Richard states to not show an increase on the estimated tax statements they need to stay under \$5.669 million.

MOTION BY: Commissioner Messer **SECONDED BY:** Commissioner Clarys

To set the County Jail mill at \$ 2,190,740.00.

DISPOSITION: Roll call: Commissioners: Messer - aye, Clarys- aye, Marsh - aye, White - aye, Chairman Franchuk – aye. Motion Carried.

MOTION BY: Commissioner Messer **SECONDED BY:** Commissioner Marsh

To levy 11.5 mills or \$2,519,300.00 for Road and Bridge.

DISPOSITION: Roll call: Commissioners: Messer - aye, Marsh- aye, White - aye, Clarys - aye, Chairman Franchuk – aye. Motion Carried.

MOTION BY: Commissioner Messer **SECONDED BY:** Commissioner Marsh

To levy 18 mills or \$1,530,000.00 for County Road.

DISPOSITION: Roll call: Commissioners: Messer - aye, Marsh- aye, White - aye, Clarys - aye, Chairman Franchuk – aye. Motion Carried.

MOTION BY: Commissioner Messer **SECONDED BY:** Commissioner Clarys

To establish the JDA mill at \$600,000.00 or 2.73 mills for 2024.

DISPOSITION: Roll call: Commissioners: Messer - aye, Clarys- aye, Marsh - aye, White - aye, Chairman Franchuk – aye. Motion Carried.

MOTION BY: Commissioner Messer **SECONDED BY:** Commissioner Marsh

To establish Vector Control at \$130,000.00.

DISPOSITION: Roll call: Commissioners: Messer - aye, Marsh – aye, White - aye, Clarys - aye, Chairman Franchuk – aye. Motion Carried.

MOTION BY: Commissioner Clarys **SECONDED BY:** Commissioner White

To levy \$340,000.00 for the budget year 2024 for Weed Control.

DISPOSITION: Roll call: Commissioners: Clarys - aye, White – aye, Marsh - aye, Messer - aye, Chairman Franchuk – aye. Motion Carried.

MOTION BY: Commissioner Messer **SECONDED BY:** Commissioner White

To set the levy for the library at 3.65 mills or \$310,250.00.

DISPOSITION: Roll call: Commissioners: Messer - aye, White – aye, Marsh - aye, Clarys - aye, Chairman Franchuk – aye. Motion Carried.

MOTION BY: Commissioner White **SECONDED BY:** Commissioner Messer

To set the Airport at 0.99 mills at \$84,150.00.

DISPOSITION: Roll call: Commissioners: White – aye, Messer – aye, Clarys – aye, Marsh – aye, Chairman Franchuk – aye. Motion Carried.

Richard reports last year we levied \$5.5 million for the General Fund. Messer states his conversations with department heads are reflecting a budget increase. The mills can be raised, or we make a conscious decision we are going to chip away at the reserve. Marsh believes the reserves are too important to chip away at. Messer states that 2 years ago we were milling more, and expenses haven't gone down. Clarys states we will need to justify to our public why we went up or down. In 2022 we levied \$6.338 million.

MOTION BY: Commissioner Messer **SECONDED BY:** Commissioner Marsh

To set the General mill dollar amount at \$6.3 million.

DISPOSITION: Roll call: Commissioners: Messer - aye, Marsh – aye, White - aye, Clarys - aye, Chairman Franchuk – aye. Motion Carried.

County Agent Kurt Froehlich introduced Debra Theurer, NDSU extension agent with the collaborative project West Dakota Parent & Family Resource Center. This is a collaborative project with Dickinson Public Schools. Theurer provided an overview of this project – they provide skills, resources, and support through education to families. Froehlich advises that his budget will have new line items for 2024 to assist with the operating and salary costs for this project.

Franchuk advises throughout August they will be meeting with department heads on their budgets and on September 17th at 9:00 a.m. the Commission will meet on the budget and approve the final budget on October 3rd.

Commissioner Clarys made **MOTION** to adjourn at 10:34 a.m., Commissioner Marsh **SECONDED**, Adjourned.



Karen Richard, Auditor



Dean Franchuk, Chairman