

The Barnes County Commission met in SPECIAL BUDGET session on Tuesday, August 8, 2023 with Cindy Schwehr, Vicky Lovell, Bill Carlbom, Pete Paulson, and Shawn Olauson present. Chairman Carlbom called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

Preliminary Budget Discussion

Auditor Beth Didier presented the preliminary budget requests, some of which exceeded the maximum allowable levy limitations. The following adjustments were made:

- General Fund reduced from \$5,707,370.87 to \$5,517,004.99 – which equals 58 mills.
- City County Health District reduced from \$475,604.00 to \$380,483.00 – which equals 4 mills.
- Veterans Service reduced from \$265,465.53 to \$190,241.99 – which equals 2 mills.
- Road & Bridge reduced from \$2,378,088.60 to \$2,282,899.01 – which equals 24 mills.
- Weed Control reduced from \$734,668.21 to \$380,483 – which equals 4 mills.
- Emergency set at \$23,780.00 – which equals .25 mills.
- County Agent reduced from \$285,617.90 to \$190,242.00 – which equals 2 mills.
- Economic Development reduced from \$285,160.69 to \$190,242.00 - which equals 2 mills.
- Bridge Sinking set at \$126,245.99 - which equals 1.33 mills.
- Capital Projects set at \$850,000.00 – which equals 8.94 mills.
- Soil Conservation set at \$142,681.00 – which equals 1.5 mills.
- Garrison Conservancy set at \$95,121.00 – which equals 1 mill.
- Airport set at \$345,500.00 – which equals 3.66 mills.
- Older Persons set at \$190,242.00 – which equals 2 mills.
- Ambulance set at \$287,688.00 – which equals 3 mills.
- Water Resources reduced from \$533,082.90 to \$285,362 – which equals 3 mills.
- Historical Society set at \$71,341.00 - which equals .75 mills.
- Library increased from \$148,306.00 to \$152,014.00 – which equals 2.05 mills.
- State Medical Center set at \$95,121.00 - which equals 1 mill.

Cindy Schwehr moved to set the preliminary budget for publication and Estimated Tax Statement purposes at \$11,796,585.64 or 124.48 mills on the funds respective taxable valuations; Bill Carlbom seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll-call vote, with all members voting “yes”.

These are preliminary figures. The Commission intends to work on further reductions between now and October 3, 2023 when the 2024 budget will be finalized. The public hearing to discuss the 2024 budget will be held on Tuesday, September 19, 2023 at 6:00 PM in the Barnes County Courthouse Commission Room on second floor.

With no further business, Pete Paulson made a motion, seconded by Shawn Olauson, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

Bill Carlbom, Chairman
Barnes County Commission

Beth M Didier
Barnes County Auditor