

Meeting Notes

October 7, 2022



Of: Citizen Budget Committee

Voting Members: Commissioners Bob Kangas and Jeff Peterson, Mark Ronnei - District #1, Chris Hanneken – District #2, Jack Carder – District #3, and Kevin Krueger – District #5

Staff : Sandra Norikane, Mark Peterson, Betsy Woodford, and Joshua Stevenson

Date: Friday, October 7, 2022 - Public Meeting Room, Land Department Building, Backus, MN

- 9:00 A.M.
1. Commissioner Kangas called the meeting to order with the flag pledge
 2. Approval of Agenda: M/S/P Kangas, Peterson - Motion to approve as presented - Unanimous
 3. Budget related changes since last meeting (August 19, 2022) – Staff reported that the County Board adopted a preliminary levy at 5.06% above the 2022 final levy. Essential groups are requesting 5%-8% Cost of Living Adjustments for 3 years during 2023 labor negotiations. Some neighboring Counties are adjusting 2022 wages to settle future labor contracts. Cass will fall behind in wages without increases as neighbors adjust existing contracts and go to arbitration to settle contracts. Sequestered funds from Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency Fund (LATCF) result in two payments of \$689,173.70 to Cass County over the next two years with staff recommending that these funds go directly towards labor contract negotiations. Impact to taxpayers shows a shift of property tax burden to residential with many lost homestead exclusions and new larger values taxed at 1.25%.
 4. Sheriff – Funds for underwater recovery equipment needed for match of Federal Boat and Water Grant if awarded.
 5. Road and Bridge –Revenue recovery for gasoline reimbursements from Departments result in \$50,000 decrease.
 6. North Ambulance – Longville Area Subordinate Service District – No action taken – Potential increases will be detailed during quarterly reports to County Board going forward.
 7. Consider final budget recommendations – M/S/P Hanneken, Ronnei – Motion to recommend a final levy at 5.06% over the 2022 levy based on labor contract negotiations, gas and diesel fuel costs, and utility costs.
- 11:35 A.M.
8. Commissioner Kangas adjourned the meeting.