Missoula Board of County Commissioners

PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES
COVER SHEET

THURSDAY, AUGUST 25, 2022 – 2 PM

Hybrid meeting – Missoula County Courthouse Annex Sophie Moiese Room/Microsoft Teams

Click here to view the meeting recording.

Time stamps (in green) correspond to meeting recording above. Please click to the time stamps listed to view a particular item in the meeting.

ATTENDANCE:

Commissioners Present:
Chair Vero
Commissioner Slotnick
Commissioner Strohmaier

Staff Present:
Violet Plummer, Administrative Assistant, Commissioners' Office
Shantelle Gaynor, Director, Community Justice Department
Allison Franz, Communications Manager, Communications
Andrew Czorny, Missoula County Chief Financial Officer
Kyla Lehnerz, Administrative Assistant, Commissioners' Office
Shane Stack, Director, Public Works
Dylan Jaicks, Civil Attorney, County Attorney's Office
Chris Lounsbury, Missoula County Chief Administrative Officer
Shyra Scott, Recording Director, Clerk and Recorder's Office
Emmie Bristow, Community Engagement Coordinator, Communications
Debb Clark, Finance Manager, Public Works
Pirrie Durkee, Accounting Clerk, Weed/Extension Office
Kayla Talbert, Grants Administrator, Community and Planning Services
Amy McGhee, Chief Deputy, Clerk of Court's Office
Anne Hughes, Missoula County Chief Operating Officer
Jerry Marks, Department Head Extension Agent, Weed/Extension Office
Mel Fisher, Strategic Initiatives Manager, Communications and Projects
Juniper Davis, Parks, Trails & Open Lands Program Manager, Community and Planning Services
Laurie Hire, Office Manager, Community and Planning Services
Amanda Henthorne, Budget Analyst, Finance
James Wilson, Training & Development Coordinator, Clerk and Recorder's Office
Sam Scott, Assistant Recording Director, Clerk and Recorder's Office
Chet Crowser, Director, Community and Planning Services

Travis Ross, Parks & Trails Operations Administrator, Community and Planning Services
Adriane Beck, Director, Office of Emergency Management
Caroline Bean, Climate Action Program Manager, Community and Planning Services
Andrew Valainis, Climate Resiliency Coordinator, Community and Planning Services
Karen Hughes, Assistant Director, Community and Planning Services
Erica Grinde, Director, Risk and Benefits

1. **CALL TO ORDER** *[Time stamp – 0:03]*

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** *[Time stamp – 0:06]*

3. **LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT** *[Time stamp – 0:19]*
Missoula County acknowledges that this event takes place in the aboriginal territories of the Salish and Kalispel people.

4. **PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS** *[Time stamp – 0:30]*

5. **PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA** *[Time stamp – 0:30]*

6. **CURRENT CLAIMS LIST** *[Time stamp – 0:39]*
Claims received as of August 3, 2022 to August 17, 2022 by the Commissioners' Office total $4,727,679.56.

7. **HEARINGS**
   a. **Proposed Fiscal Year 2023 Preliminary County Budget – Open Hearing** *[Time stamp – 19:04]*
   Andrew Czorny, Missoula County Chief Financial Officer

   [Continued to September 8, 2022 Public Meeting]

   b. **Proposed Increase to the Permissive Medical Levy – Open Hearing** *[Time stamp – 56:19]*
   Andrew Czorny, Missoula County Chief Financial Officer

   [Continued to September 8, 2022 Public Meeting]

   c. **Rural Special Improvement Districts (RSIDs) Budget – Resolution** *[Time stamp – 5:06]*
   Andrew Czorny, Missoula County Chief Financial Officer

   [Resolution 2022-088 Book: 1080 Page: 1354]

   d. **Fairgrounds Special District Budget – Resolution** *[Time stamp – 11:16]*
   Andrew Czorny, Missoula County Chief Financial Officer

   [Resolution 2022-089 Book: 1080 Page: 1355]

   e. **Seeley Refuse District Budget – Resolution** *[Time stamp – 13:51]*
   Andrew Czorny, Missoula County Chief Financial Officer

   [Resolution 2022-090 Book: 1080 Page: 1356]

8. **OTHER BUSINESS** *[Time stamp –56:38]*

9. **ADJOURN**

Chair Vero – Called the meeting to adjourn at 2:57 p.m.

BCC Public Meeting August 25, 2022 – Transcription

This transcription was produced by transcription software. There may be discrepancies between this transcription and meeting dialogue. You can view the recording of the meeting on the county's YouTube channel: https://www.youtube.com/c/missoulacounty or contact the commissioners' office to obtain a copy.

Dialogue in the transcription attributed to "Sophie Moiese Room" is for all speakers that attended the meeting in person. Attendees that participated virtually are labeled individually.

0:03
We'll begin with the Pledge of Allegiance.

0:06
I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

0:19
And Missoula County acknowledges that this event in the Sophie Moyes room takes place in the Aboriginal territories of the Salish and Kalispell people.

0:30
Any public comments or public announcements or public comments not on the agenda?

0:38
OK.

0:39
Our current claims list received as of August 3rd, 2022 to August 17th by the Commissioner's Office totals 4,727,000 dollars, $679.56.

0:53
We have 12345 proposed hearings and we're not sure if Andrew Chorney is coming in person or is he on line or maybe I just asked Kyla to see if she can track him down.

1:13
So, OK, oh, and there's nothing we can do without him, it looks like.

1:22
Oh, yes.

1:23
OK, OK.

1:24
While we're stalling for time here, for folks who don't know, earlier this week on Monday and Tuesday, Zula County and 17 other counties across Montana hosted the Greater Northwest Passenger Rail Summit in Billings, Mt.

1:41
And very shortly the if folks were not able to participate, the recordings for that event should all be available and you can view all of those sessions at your leisure and there's a lot of good material there.

1:56
There we go.

2:03
Talk about other things until he will be here shortly is what Kyla just said.

2:12
Well, at this event, if if that has not piqued your interest enough already, some of the things that folks might want to tune in for and some of those sessions include here in a keynote address from the Administrator of the Federal Railroad Administration who made the trek out to Billings, Mt.

2:33
We also had a special appearance, virtual appearance of the President and CEO of Ukrainian Railways to talk about what they have done in their Herculean effort to keep the trains running in Ukraine while at war with Russia and many other things that folks would be interested in.

4:02
Amanda.

4:02
Yeah, Amanda is there.

4:08
Would you be able to start us out until Andrew gets here or would you rather wait for Andrew?

4:19
We could go through the Rs IDs if you would like to do that.

4:24
I could take care of those pieces and we could do that here.

4:28
Sounds like a great idea.

4:34
All right.

4:35
I believe Violet has my presentation.

4:46
Yes, I do.

4:46
One second.

4:48
OK.

5:17
All right.

5:18
Perfect.

5:20
So what we're asking today is for a final hearing of the real special improvement districts and asking you to sign the resolution that was attached with the meeting agenda and materials.

5:36
So if you could go to the next slide for a rural special improvement districts, we have 35 St.

5:43
lighting districts, 4 water and sewer maintenance districts, 6 parks and common area districts and 11 debt service districts that are paying off prior infrastructure improvements.

5:58
Just as an overview of what we covered at the initial hearing on August 11th, there are three districts with assessments that are proposed to be increased and in total and one of those is newly assessed.

6:14
The 1st is RSID nine O 4 which is Canyon View Park.

6:18
We're asking to increase the assessment an average of $10.75 per property.

6:25
That particular RSID is assessed based on the assessed value of the property, so that average may vary depending on the value of the property in the district.

6:36
The total increase for the district is $1000 and that's the first increase that has happened for that district since 2013 in RSID 923 Elmar Park.

6:50
We're asking for an increased assessment of $8.48 annually.

6:55
The assessment in total for the year for the property would be $131.58.

7:02
Overall.

7:03
For the district, the increase would be $2000.

7:06
In this particular district everyone pays the same amount, so that one 3158 is what every property owner would pay.

7:14
RSID Five O 5, which is the 29th and North Avenue West paving is a new district and has a new assessment and there was a significant Rd.

7:26
project out there and that is under way is my understanding.

7:31
And to finance a portion of that homeowners asked us to put in place an RSID.

7:41
So the assessment to pay off that debt service for each property owner will be $322 annually.

7:49
That's paid in two payments with property taxes and the end of November and the end of May.

7:59
None of the other rural special improvement districts total assessments will increase in fiscal year 2023.

8:07
Like I mentioned for the each of the assessments, you know some are fixed and some have slightly variable.

8:14
You can find more information about each district online at missoulacounty dot US under our financial services page.

8:22
We have a page dedicated to our special districts.

8:28
Are there any questions?

8:33
Thanks, Amanda.

8:37
We only have 3-4 people in here.

8:40
Does anyone have any comments or questions in the room?

8:46
OK and don't see anyone online, Josh or Dave, I'm pretty good.

8:55
I just wanna note, these are really modest increases that bring these districts up to date.

9:00
I do wanna highlight the new district and that this came to be because neighbors reached out and wanted to know how they could get this paving and road maintenance done and it's about to happen.

9:12
I want to give Shane Stack and John Hart a pat on the back for shepherding this thing along.

9:19
It's been a long process it's really glad to see across the finish line.

9:23
The 29th and N agreed.

9:29
Thanks.

9:30
Thanks Josh.

9:30
I would say it's it's paved and on Monday they're going to kind of do a little bit of clean up work and great should be all finished up next week.

9:38
Fantastic.

9:39
Well done.

9:42
All right.

9:45
Thank you.

9:46
We'll go on to very great It's our.

9:49
Yeah what's our our process is our process just to do we do them all pronounce this open or what do we adopt next week or not next week but first week of September with the final budget.

9:59
This is actually I'm asking you to adopt.

10:02
We could adopt this RSID right now.

10:06
Yes, please.

10:07
That would be ideal.

10:09
Our RSID reporting requirements are a little earlier than the rest of the county budget.

10:14
So if you could approve these today, if you wish, that would be fantastic, OK.

10:19
And would you rather us do these all at once or should we be doing these one at a time?

10:24
I believe RSID, we got to do it all by itself.

10:29
Probably if we want to be very technical, doing each one by itself is probably the best way to do it.

10:35
But I knew it as soon as I said it.

10:37
That was kind of dumb me.

10:38
Sorry.

10:40
I would move that we adopt the rural Special Improvement District's budget.

10:47
Any further discussion all in favor.

10:49
Aye.

10:52
Thanks, Amanda.

10:54
Thanks for all your hard work, Amanda.

10:55
Andrew just came running in.

10:58
There's a cloud of dust behind him, but maybe we'll finish these next two.

11:01
And then the dust was actually a cloud of $1.00 bills.

11:05
Umm, I I could go ahead and finish these up so Andrew could get settled and get his presentation lined up.

11:13
OK.

11:14
So good.

11:16
The Fairgrounds Special District, if you could go to the next slide Violet.

11:22
So the Fairgrounds phase one renovation proposed assessment is $844,272 and this is for all of the improvements to the historical buildings and the all of kind of the new shiny things on that side of the Fairgrounds.

11:41
Also we're asking for an A proposed assessment of $817,712.00 for the debt service for the Rocky Mountain Gardens and Exploration Center which is under construction.

11:56
Both of these assessments are paying the debt service for those construction bonds that have been and will be issued by the district for these projects.

12:08
Do you have any questions or comments?

12:14
One comment here that when we talked about putting this together a long time ago, the Butterfly House folks had to bring our huge chunk of money to the table in the many millions of dollars and they did it.

12:26
They privately fundraised.

12:28
So a big portion of this project is not covered by tax dollars, but it's covered by philanthropy that the Butterfly House folks made happen.

12:35
And Jerry helped make happen too with his group.

12:40
Thank you for pointing that out, Commissioner Slotnick.

12:42
The last time I checked on the total we were over $5,000,000 that would not be funded by taxes.

12:50
So they did a great job and the folks are wondering in this particular district, the only property in the district is Missoula County.

13:00
So we're saying that, yeah, somewhat paying ourselves for this district.

13:07
I would go, did I screw anything up there, Andrew?

13:10
Oh, OK.

13:14
I would without objection go ahead and move that we adopt the Fairgrounds special district budget.

13:20
I'll second that.

13:21
Any further discussion?

13:27
All in favour?

13:28
Aye.

13:30
Question any of this.

13:32
The audio is there.

13:34
That echo is is this monitor the sound on?

13:38
Is that OK?

13:41
Thank you.

13:42
Oh, now I hear it.

13:43
OK, OK, OK.

13:51
The next one we have is the Seeley Refuse District budget.

13:58
Yes, if we could go to the next slide pilot.

14:04
So the Seeley Lake Refuse District budget is pretty simple this year.

14:10
And we are, we aren't proposing any fee increases or an increase for assessments to the district.

14:17
And the proposed fees for the district ratepayers will remain at $180 per year out of district.

14:23
Fees will remain the same at $4.00 for a 32 gallon trash bag or $18.00 per cubic yard.

14:30
And the fees for all the other kinds of materials that they accept there will also remain the same.

14:42
So.

14:42
Oh, go ahead.

14:45
Just a quick question.

14:45
So Amanda, I mean it's really wonderful for these folks that they're not going to have to pay any more money and I'm sure they'll be excited about that.

14:52
My only concern is are we going to be back next year or the year after with a really big jump because we didn't do small incremental moves forward just to keep up with inflation.

15:02
That was my question as well.

15:03
The feathering or like because last year we did a big jump and so yeah, So what What do you, what do you think on that?

15:10
So I would say in response to that particular question, there are a lot of moving kind of pieces in terms of the collections beyond just the district fees.

15:22
The big one that's been a driver is the out of district fees have been higher than we have anticipated the last three years and they've continued to grow and the growth that we saw this past year will help us cover the expenses, the increases for the things that we're paying for this year.

15:42
And so before increasing everybody's fees more if we've got enough income to you know stay even, there didn't seem to be a need for an increased assessment.

15:55
The other part of that was the fee income that we saw last year was only for a portion of the fiscal year because the fees didn't become weren't in place for the out of district and the special items until I believe was October 1st.

16:16
So we only had 3/4 of the year and we actually had more collections than we even expected.

16:22
So I think until we see that taper off, keeping the assessments where they are makes sense.

16:28
So in some kind of odd, bizarre way, we want to say bring your garbage to Sealy, not exactly, but you know, it's still probably more efficient to go where it's closer.

16:47
Only think about revenue from out of district and that the original cost here just came about from 1/2 year.

16:52
That all makes sense.

16:53
So thanks for that answer.

16:54
Yes.

16:55
And you know we have heard the message loud and clear that you would prefer smaller increases that are tied to the expenses rather than large ones like we had to do last year.

17:07
So thank you.

17:11
Any other comments?

17:13
OK, I would move that we approve the budget for the Sealy refuse district.

17:21
Second, any further discussion all in favor.

17:25
Aye.

17:28
Thanks Violet for fixing the audio.

17:39
Thanks, Amanda.

17:41
Thank you.

17:46
Just working on the slides.

18:44
I'm ready.

18:45
I apologize for my leg.

18:48
All good.

18:48
Thanks.

18:49
I'm so happy I had something to do.

18:56
Is your microphone on?

18:57
Oh, it's on.

19:00
Just not talking into it.

19:01
I'm sorry.

19:04
So we're here to open the preliminary budget hearing fiscal year 2023.

19:12
In the budget presentation, I'll be talking about the overall budget appropriations, the budget requests, the tax impacts for public comment.

19:21
They may attend the meetings now and the next public meetings between now and the final adoption.

19:28
They may also write in e-mail BCC at missoulacounty dot US for write comments.

19:35
The website is listed here as well for the budgets upcoming meeting.

19:41
Well, it's today, 2010.

19:45
Oh, I'm sorry, and that's a but can people comment on the do we have a thing on Missoula County Voice that people can comment as well if they don't remember that e-mail?

19:56
OK, at the top of the page.

20:00
Missoula County Voice.

20:03
Thanks.

20:04
And for some reason, the budget adoption date isn't in here.

20:08
The budget option it's going to be at the September 8th public meeting, so just taking a look at the budget overview, this year we, we and and the residents of Missoula County face some pretty serious challenges.

20:28
Increasing CPI of 9.6% put us at the highest in the nation in the Mountain States at CPI year over year.

20:39
CPS Consumer Price Index, which is the measure of inflation and these are ports of of the components of CPI that make up that 9.6.

20:52
You said we're the highest in the nation.

20:57
Oh, in the nation, in the nation the highest CPI for the mountain states year after year, year over year and year.

21:06
I can show it to you on the graph.

21:10
This is the mountain states.

21:13
That's us.

21:15
OK, so year over year, cost of gasoline has gone up 37%, cost of food 10.9%, Cost of automobiles 12.7%, Cost of materials 21%.

21:36
Last year, asphalt was made from petroleum and spiked 20%.

21:41
So $1,000,000 Rd.

21:42
is now $1,200,000 natural gas.

21:47
We had a 47% increase.

21:50
Andrew, I'm sorry, are you having problems hearing?

21:52
Can you, can you really eat the microphone?

21:55
Yeah.

21:56
OK, here we go.

21:58
Maybe start over with a slide 'cause this is a good one.

22:00
Yeah, this is the financial challenges facing the residents due to the CPI and inflation from year over year from 21 to 22.

22:09
The cost of gasoline went up through 37% cost of food, 10.9% cost about automobiles, 12.7% materials, 21% asphalt which is made-up petroleum.

22:24
Petroleum spiked 20% increasing our cost of roads $1,000,000 road to 100 a $1,200,000 natural gas 47% increase.

22:38
We saw a 4.3% increase in electricity in 2021.

22:42
Projected 3.9% increase in 2022.

22:47
Cost of housing 20% 2020 one.

22:52
Now if 2122, approximate 20% increase to live and provide services in a current environment depends on our capability to increase your income and revenue.

23:04
Wage and pressure and and employee retention has became major issues for the county and providing essential services to our residents.

23:22
OK, sorry I had some notes on the sheets.

23:27
Yeah soon.

23:29
So here here's the graph of the inflation index.

23:33
The CPI index.

23:34
Excuse me, 12 month, year after year over year, invisible tax inflation.

23:42
That's really taxation without legislation.

23:47
Couple of quotes don't readily quote Ronald Reagan, but you said inflation is as violent as any mugger, as frightening and as any armed robber, and as deadly as a hit man.

24:00
Maggie Thatcher said inflation is the parent of unemployment and none seem thief of those who've said when the feds approve spending money on a program they don't have, they print more money making dollars.

24:14
You and I have in our savings worth less.

24:18
So our buying power continues to decrease.

24:24
Andrew, can I can I just say something?

24:27
Inflation, just for a moment, Certainly correct.

24:29
If the government puts out a whole lot of money, that would bring the value of money down.

24:34
We are coming off of an absolutely unprecedented global pandemic.

24:38
And during that pandemic we saw a tremendous supply chain shortage in almost everything.

24:44
So in places like the West where there was money, there was competition to buy items like we had never seen before, and the competition to buy things is the essence of inflation and it drives prices up.

24:58
This, this inflationary spike I believe was spurred in part by that supply chain shortage and that intense competition to buy stuff.

25:07
If every object had been flowing in 2020 the way it had flowed in terms of production in 2018, I don't think we would have seen this.

25:14
Saw factories all over the world closed down.

25:17
Meanwhile, people living in their houses in places like Missoula, Mt, having extreme demand for new cool stuff because they're sitting at home and they couldn't get that stuff.

25:25
So push prices up and we're I believe we are still reeling from that even as we are reeling from the Fed putting money into the system.

25:33
I I would agree with you Josh and a similar situation happened in the housing industry.

25:40
Housing we should mortgages should honestly be around 4% annually.

25:49
We left it the Fed funds rated near 0 for too many years.

25:53
We should have started raising in the Obama era.

25:56
What it did was people got into homes at a very low price where they were right in the edge, inventory shrunk way down.

26:04
Then the demand comes back to normal.

26:06
There's no inventory.

26:07
Well, guess what, inflation.

26:10
So that's why we.

26:11
That's part of the housing price here in Missoula.

26:14
Yeah, Addition to people wanting to live here, of course.

26:26
So I want to talk a little bit about the property tax system in Montana.

26:29
I I believe it's broken.

26:31
It's an archaic system.

26:33
Method of taxation made sense in old England when people's wealth were measured by their castles and they derive their income from the properties on their castles.

26:46
Today is an ability.

26:48
The person's ability to pay is not the wealth determined by their home.

26:52
It's it's what they earn the system for funding services at the local level are broken.

27:00
We need real property tax reform.

27:02
Property tax is cannot be the only source of income local governments rely on to provide essential services to their residents.

27:13
Reform based on a person's ability to pay or create other forms of revenues that provide a positive end effect for Montana property taxpayers is what we need.

27:23
Legislature needs to lead all or get the hell out of the way.

27:32
Andrea, you I think you're gonna have to just swallow that mic a little bit more.

27:36
I'm having to drop some really trouble hearing through.

27:39
Sorry.

27:42
Will this slideshow be available for folks?

27:47
If you want to read, read these slides.

27:50
Yeah, we'll have those done.

27:54
We could get you a printed copy.

27:56
Sure.

27:57
OK.

28:02
Let him go through his presentation 1st and then we'll open it up for public comment, if that's OK.

28:08
Great.

28:11
So the categories of county expenditures are personnel, which include wages and benefits.

28:17
And in this year we had 27 pay period which also contributed to that.

28:23
Operations include energy costs, fuel, material costs, contracted services.

28:30
Capital outlay includes heavy equipment, computers, elections, tabulators, new structures are extending useful lives, capital assets.

28:40
These are just some examples of the of the types of expenditures.

28:47
The base budget is the base is the budget that we need just to continue con county operations as is without any increase in service or whatever the examples of personnel and we we managed to keep that base budget at 7.36% which I thought was excellent since inflation was running at about 9.6% and the non voted base budget is the base is the budget that the commissioners have the control over.

29:26
Those are the levies that they can actually adjust.

29:29
The voted budget Sir are done but are created by the people.

29:37
So examples of the personnel increases and for increases in base budget.

29:44
Every thirteen years the county has a 27 pay period as opposed to 26 so we had to budget for an additional 27 pay period.

29:53
Retain Employees Montana's and Missoula County's implemented pay plan for all non union employees provides methodology over the years to bring employees to market wages and ensures that at least all county employees will have a living wage.

30:11
85% of the county employees are not are covered by collective bargaining agreements.

30:17
Negotiated contractual agreements vary depending on the collective bargaining group you're in and contribute to the increase and there was also 5% increase to health costs.

30:29
855 full time equivalent employees we have at the county.

30:38
Continuing on with the non budget increase operations, energy, fuel cost increase, cost of goods, building construction equipment, increased cost from contractual services, capital projects, continued rehabilitation of maintenance and facilities, extend their useful lives, safety improvements, safety railing at the detention center, equipment, emergency responder vehicles, public works vehicles and equipment and construction.

31:15
The total pulmonary nonvoted budget increases including the newly requested 20/20/2023 budgeted expenditures equal a 10.91% increase.

31:29
It's a base budget plus the requested budgets that you approved.

31:36
There were several million you did not approve personal at a proposed 17% increase.

31:45
Operations, 3% increase, capital 27% increase primarily due to the construction of the fairgrounds and 65% of the total expenditures are being fund by cash.

32:03
So tax, yeah, I want to if I can just kind of put an exclamation mark on that.

32:08
So we're seeing an increase in expenditures by 10.91%, but well over half of that is covered by one time, by our one time expenses covered by cash that the county already has that this means there are no new taxes to cover those that money.

32:23
So that that would bring this down to less than 5%.

32:28
We're we and we are still maintaining our minimum reserve levels.

32:36
So total revenue is increased by 17.3%, property taxes make up about 33.23% of that of that revenue pie.

32:48
So it's much smaller piece of the pie then you would actually anticipate.

32:54
Would you mind just providing folks an example of what some of those other revenue sources are?

33:05
It's the intergovernmental revenues, it's fees for services, it's grants, it's funds Cares Act funding.

33:18
Pretty big right now.

33:25
Property tax increases with budget requests.

33:30
The total 2023 property tax revenue was 66,000,006.

33:36
Eleven.

33:37
The voted mill levy increases put up 14%, the permissible medical increases decreased by 2%.

33:48
Judgment levies increased by 110% and non voted mill levies increased by 10.6%.

34:06
Two weeks, a fairly sizable jump in the vote of levies and in revenue other than property taxes, we have intergovernmental revenues that I was talking about earlier.

34:21
Federal, state, city reimbursements, grants, reimbursements, contractual agreements, licenses, permits, charges for services, document recording with the Clerk and Recorder subdivision, review for county planning services, medical services at the Health Center and the PHC.

34:43
And looking just in comparison 2122, we have more in revenues and 23 than we have in 22.

34:55
Part of that, a large part of that is because I'm doing two large bond issuances this year for the fairgrounds.

35:02
Well, well one for the fairgrounds and then another one for the elections that are much smaller and we're going to have some debt proceeds in there, transfers in, they should match match transfers out, but sometimes we have external transfers out as well.

35:24
Entitlement share that went up slightly and that was primarily because well we had a slight increase 3% increase but then HP3O3 they replaced some lost property tax revenue that came from business equipment tax with entitlement share payments.

35:43
So that went up for perhaps one year.

35:47
So it and just wanted to try and do a definition of entitlement share for anybody who that did dozen people listening.

35:55
Can we say an entitlement share is the portion of money we get that the state is collecting and we get that money because we did the work.

36:03
So I'm thinking about things like motor vehicle titling that we have to maintain an office with a whole bunch of nice folks in there taking your money and getting your your license plates and your documentations.

36:13
This is the money we we we get a slice of the money that comes from that in order to cover the cost of providing that service that I feel like the word entitlement is a terrible name for what this is.

36:24
There's no entitlement here.

36:25
This is a reimbursement for services provided and A and a poor reimbursement at that required mandated.

36:31
You have to do this we do it and we need to get some money for doing it.

36:34
Folks won't work for free.

36:36
Absolutely correct.

36:37
This is something that happened at the turn of the century and there were all sorts of work and money is being transferred each which way And they tried to straighten it out and this is what they came up with.

36:49
It's a very tangible way that people see for people to see that local government, county government is an extension of state government.

36:58
Yeah.

37:01
So and we saw property taxes go up to 66 million expenditures.

37:11
Personal expenditures want to from 82 to 8587 million operations from 62 to 73, Yep, a lot late from 5.8 to 16.5 that's the buildings and then debt service associated with that and we have some transfers out as well.

37:33
I just want to note again I can't stop noting things, but some of these expenditures are entirely related to our COVID response and covered with ARPA money.

37:45
And I don't think we'd see numbers this large without having had to attend to that pandemic and having that source of money available to do that attending.

37:53
You might wonder why we have, you might wonder why we have revenues that are greater than expenses and that is because we've issued the debt and we will not have spent it all down by the end of the year.

38:08
So we we only we're only a portion of what you see on your property tax bill and would like to show you how to see how you can find out what you pay on your property tax bill on to who you need to go to the Missoula County website and go to property information system tab.

38:29
It's right here, circled here.

38:32
Click on that.

38:34
You'll come up with this little box that will ask you for your address or name or any kind of identification.

38:44
I threw Strohmeyer in there in their name and did a little random pic there.

38:51
Just a random pic and I thought I'd take David for Adsenson second one zoomed in on that and if I had a a larger screen I could show his home which is outlined here and then go ahead and press taxes.

39:13
And then there's this little part here that I put into the system in 2012 pie charts to give people understanding of where the money is actually going.

39:26
This is a complete chart, it shows where all the slices of the pie are going.

39:34
County gets 21%.

39:38
Let's get like cut off cities down below.

39:42
Damn the very bottom there.

39:44
Can you.

39:46
Yeah, I don't see the can't see the percentage, but you can see the size of the pot.

39:49
Big Blue slice, right?

39:52
It's got to be pretty close to 30%.

39:54
Gosh darn.

39:56
So this is where the the big slices are and then you drill down.

40:03
See where the City collection is and city doesn't really identify where their general fund monies go.

40:09
There they have Big Slice and then have Park District and a Road District that collect assessments on the Missoula Urban or Special districts.

40:24
Dave gets charged for Missoula Urban Transportation and the Water Quality District.

40:31
See the amounts there for each and then the state school distribution divided into state high school equalization, state school foundation equalization, university mileage, full tech, and elementary equalization amounts there And then for local schools.

40:57
We have a number of categories for elementary and adult education and high school education and then here's the whole enchilada.

41:14
This is every bit of tax on Dave's tax bill along with the associated categories and costs.

41:23
So it's an interesting exercise if you'd like to go through and and relay, identify where where your, where your money's going to.

41:34
I'm sorry, can you go back to those, I couldn't find the county slice which one?

41:39
Oh, there we go.

41:40
OK, just mixed in there.

41:42
So, so yeah, I would, I would highly encourage folks to take a look at their property because just looking at this breakdown I see County Fair.

41:52
I paid $11.28 in taxes to support the County Fair and I believe I probably got my money's worth in the several days I attended out there just through the free admission along.

42:14
So departments are submitted over 88 requests for additional funding, operations, capital funding.

42:19
The commissioners have raised decline to fund 2.6 million in spending.

42:25
Remaining requests under consideration include 1.3 million one point in one time cash from prior year savings, $822,000 request requiring property tax dollars, $161,000 request for refund with grants and fees and other revenues.

42:47
So more information about all these budget requests.

42:51
We have them all online in great detail at this website.

42:58
And maybe we could get a printed copy for you.

43:03
Leave.

43:06
Oh, it will be OK.

43:07
I'm sorry.

43:09
Ship went off.

43:13
So, yeah, if you'd just like to come to the microphone and then just turn it on and then.

43:23
OK.

43:23
Your name.

43:24
OK.

43:25
OK.

43:26
I'm just a little guy.

43:27
I've been a Missoula County resident.

43:29
Oh, I'm sorry.

43:30
What was your name again?

43:31
Greg Sousa.

43:32
Greg Sousa OK, thanks.

43:34
I've been a Missoula County resident for 45 years.

43:38
The house I'm currently in, I bought it 30 years ago.

43:42
I live out of town and I specifically bought that house because I didn't need any services.

43:49
I don't have paved, paved Rd.

43:52
no St.

43:53
lights, curbs, sidewalks, nothing.

43:56
I've got my own, well septic tank and I'm always asked to sacrifice every time something goes up in price.

44:06
As you guys know, when you go to the store and you buy your food and you pay for your healthcare, everything, we are paying more and more and more.

44:17
It's getting to the point of why can't we hold the line.

44:22
I understand what we just went through.

44:26
We need to retain employees.

44:27
We need to pay more for asphalt.

44:29
We need to, I get it as much as you guys get it, but at some point, if you can't afford it, you do without.

44:38
I do like as things go up, I have to cut out.

44:43
Eating at restaurants.

44:44
That's that's gone now.

44:46
I don't drink beer at bars.

44:48
That's gone.

44:49
I don't go to concerts anymore.

44:52
That's gone because not just this property tax, but everything combined is what's shorting me.

45:00
You know my paycheck didn't go up.

45:03
When you first get your paycheck, first of all, federal taxes come out, state taxes come out, Social Security's comes out.

45:12
Then you better be at least putting 15% aside for your retirement account.

45:19
That's a given.

45:20
Then you've got your utilities.

45:22
You know, I don't have to tell you, but this property tax increase, all I do is see every year it keeps going up and up and up and up.

45:33
So I would just hope that we could hold it down to as little as possible.

45:38
I'm not making any more money, I'm just spending more and it's getting to the point of like whenever something goes up, I have to cut back on something else.

45:48
And basically that's, that's what I wanted to say.

45:52
One other thing.

45:54
Why do we not have these meetings in the evening in the daytime?

45:58
Most people work and they can't get here.

46:01
It's like, as you can see, we've got a couple people here.

46:04
That's it.

46:05
If you go to the Missoula City Council meetings about taxes, you know, there might be 250 people there at where the meetings don't even get over until midnight for hours and hours.

46:18
So is there any way, Sir, can you tell me why we're doing this in the daytime, in the middle of the day when people are at work?

46:28
OK, thank you.

46:30
Thank you so much, Greg, could we change?

46:36
We're we're doing it this way because it's the way we've always done it, which is not a satisfactory answer.

46:42
So the one of the differences between county government and city government and city government, there's a legislative body that's the City Council those folks are not full time employees of of the city.

46:54
They get a stipend but they all have other jobs.

46:57
So if if those if those positions were professionalized and I'm not saying that they should be imagined that they earned a salary for being on City Council and they didn't have to have another job they would probably do it during the day.

47:09
But given that all those folks have jobs have to work, they're accommodating of those folks as much as they are of of the citizens who want to come, come speak.

47:18
So the other thing I can say is when we've dealt with decisions that were really controversial, this room's been packed.

47:26
So I, I hear you and I, I want to believe that, man, if we had this same meeting at night, there'd be a bunch of people here.

47:34
But unfortunately, I think county government is pretty much under the radar unless we're doing something that's very controversial for one specific neighborhood and then they'll all come out.

47:44
So that's what I got.

47:47
But point well taken.

47:54
Yeah.

47:54
Yeah.

47:55
Point totally well taken.

47:57
And I think there's nothing that limits us from adjusting our meetings to better meet the public's needs.

48:03
So I think it's something we ought to have a discussion about.

48:07
Thank you.

48:08
Can't make it here.

48:12
And you got people that.

48:15
Yeah, we have.

48:16
We, we have made this hybrid option available.

48:19
So we have plenty of folks who don't live in town that are attending.

48:22
They're just attending electronically.

48:28
OK Do you want to open this?

48:31
I would move to open this hearing.

48:35
And then how long?

48:36
What was was there A couple weeks is it Tell me the date.

48:40
Say the date again.

48:41
Violet, the date.

48:42
September 8th, September 8th.

48:43
So that means no decisions made today.

48:46
But in we won't make any decisions until September 8th.

48:49
So people have plenty of opportunity to comment in person or send an e-mail or leave a phone message.

48:55
You can get to Missoula County Voice.

48:57
It's a really easy way to do it.

48:58
You don't have to remember much other than that.

49:01
Yeah, I I was just wondering, do we actually need a can the chair just open the public hearing?

49:07
Oh, we don't need a motion, sorry, that we need the actual formal motion to open the hearing.

49:13
Unless there's some Parliament looking at the empty, empty chair of John Hart.

49:17
But I think for all of our other hearings, we just just open it.

49:22
OK, We declare this open.

49:24
There we go.

49:25
And then Greg, if you get Andrew's card, I'm, I'm speaking for him.

49:30
But Andrew's very accessible and he can talk through some of the things that you were asking about, some of those finer details on.

49:37
And one of the one other point I want to add on this, yeah, those property taxes have gone up and up and up and it's terrible.

49:45
It makes me boiling mad.

49:46
And one of the reasons it's only but one, but it's a very real reason is that we get between 2 and 4 million tourists every year in Missoula County.

49:54
2,000,000 is 2,000,000 is what the university says, 4,000,000 is what destination Missoula says.

49:58
So that's why I'm but I don't know for sure, but 2 to 4 million people, when those folks are here, they're making use of services.

50:06
They're driving on the roads that our that our folks build.

50:09
They're calling 911 or even if they don't call 911 just because they're here, we need to make sure there's enough 911 operators.

50:15
They're interacting with people at every restaurant, bar, place of business they go to that are products of our local school system.

50:22
They are using our services every which way, directly and indirectly, and not paying for them.

50:26
So that means on any given day, the 120,000 people that are in Missoula County are paying for another 30 to 50,000 people who aren't paying.

50:35
And we have to figure that out.

50:38
We are subsidizing services for people who aren't paying.

50:41
And if those folks paid, I guarantee you property taxes would be less.

50:45
We go, if you were to go back in time 30-40 years, property taxes were way more reasonable and there was a big shift between then and now.

50:55
So here's some of the big shifts.

50:56
If we go back to 1983, we had four mills in Missoula in the Missoula Valley that were big, big footprints.

51:03
Think of the size of the footprint out at Smurfit Stone.

51:06
Those mills covered like 30% of property taxes and residential home values were low.

51:11
So and we got no tourists.

51:14
So a handful of industries that had big footprints and big revenues were able to carry the load.

51:18
What residents carried was it was pretty doable and the house value was 30,000 bucks.

51:23
So it was all fine.

51:25
Well, as Andrew pointed out, the structure is broken.

51:27
We have the same structure now and we have no big footprint industries, residential values are high and we have two to 4 million tourists that aren't paying it.

51:36
That's the piece that whole structure needs to, needs to change.

51:40
And I totally hear what you're saying.

51:41
Like, I don't go out to eat.

51:42
I don't buy beer and bars.

51:44
Like, cut the extra if you can.

51:46
I hope you can do this.

51:47
If you have the time, take a look at this budget.

51:50
Tell us where the extra is.

51:52
You can say, Yep, don't pave that road.

51:55
Yeah, we're just going to live without that road.

51:57
We're going to live without that person who works in planning.

51:59
We can get by without them.

52:01
I mean, you can find the fat.

52:03
We are totally open to cutting it.

52:05
But this is a lean budget, and if we didn't have to provide services for people who didn't pay, it would be a lot smaller.

52:12
But please, user, take a look at the budget.

52:14
And we're fully, 100% open to suggestions that for sure.

52:20
I know materials.

52:27
Oh yeah.

52:27
Sorry.

52:28
Come up to the microphone.

52:29
Sorry.

52:30
Yeah.

52:31
OK.

52:31
I didn't shut it off.

52:32
OK.

52:33
Yeah, you you can see what we're turning into here.

52:37
It's like another Bozeman with the growth we've got here now.

52:41
It's like you're going to need new stop lights down at Flynn Lane.

52:46
You've got where the VA center is on West Broadway.

52:50
You're going to need all these everywhere.

52:52
So all I can say is property taxes to me is just going to keep rising and rising and it just puts people out that we hate to see the growth of people that have been here for many, many years.

53:05
Growth doesn't make things better, makes things more expensive and more complicated, you know, you guys know that.

53:13
And it's just like more traffic, more everything.

53:17
I was involved in around 199394 of moving the utilities for the Reserve St.

53:24
opening and the day they open Reserve St.

53:29
It was already maxed out.

53:31
You know that that was damn near 28 years ago and it's like where do you get around in this town now?

53:37
It's just bumper to bumper and more this, more that.

53:40
And it's just like, you know, I wish now I would have lived a lot farther out, maybe even in a different county.

53:49
I I hate to see the growth.

53:51
I hate to see these tax bills.

53:53
I don't mind paying.

53:54
I'm paying almost $100 a month right now just for school for Frenchtown School District, $100 a month, just shy of that.

54:03
And it's just like without stone container, you know, they just left a mess here and they're out of here and now we've got pollution problems out there.

54:13
They're not.

54:13
You know, that new company, M2 Greens pays their bill whenever they figure it's they pay it.

54:19
And it, like you said, it's it's a broken system.

54:22
But I don't know who fixes it.

54:25
The legislature, OK.

54:28
And so when you talk to those people, it's like, that's an excellent question.

54:31
We'll get back to you on that.

54:32
Same thing, same thing.

54:34
So I just thought I'd come down here today.

54:37
I figured nothing's going to happen with what I'm telling you people you already know, but it's just getting ridiculous.

54:45
Whenever there's price raises, people have to sacrifice more and more.

54:50
You know, I used to be help with the local economy.

54:54
I'd be down at the MO Club eating burgers and beers and going to venues for concerts and stuff.

55:00
That's over.

55:01
Now.

55:01
That's over.

55:02
So I'm no longer contributing to the local economy.

55:06
I come in and get groceries.

55:08
I'm gone.

55:08
So thanks for listening to what I said.

55:13
Thank you.

55:13
Yeah.

55:14
Thanks for taking the time to come.

55:15
Thank you.

55:21
OK.

55:22
Do we have other business, Oh, I'm sorry or did we you need to do the permissive medical, Oh my goodness, I sorry, thank you.

55:31
Forgot about permissive medical levy.

55:36
Is that something we we actually take action on today or take action on until the final hearing.

55:42
So this is a presentation.

55:44
Do we have a presentation or Well, it just, it was in, it was within that charge.

56:04
It went down 2%.

56:06
Yeah.

56:06
It went down a tiny bit.

56:12
Yes.

56:13
I haven't been able to keep.

56:15
Thank you very.

56:19
Yeah, permissive medical levies 4 million, three, 35 decreased by 2%.

56:26
OK.

56:26
Yeah.

56:29
Because pardon me, it's a slight increase in mill value.

56:36
OK.

56:38
There's no other business.

56:40
Then we're adjourned.

56:41
Thanks.

56:43
Thank you.

56:43
And then Allison, do you think you could get a printed copy for Greg or someone?

56:48
They're up.

56:50
Oh, you gotta print it.

56:51
Awesome.

56:51
Yeah.

56:52
One right now.

56:52
Can you can you put Andrew's phone number and e-mail?

56:56
Or if you don't e-mail, can you put Andrew's phone number on it?