

Missoula Board of County Commissioners

PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES COVER SHEET



THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 07, 2023 – 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:

Commissioner David Strohmaier (Acting Chair)

Commissioner Juanita Vero

Staff Present:

Cheryl Hartman, Administrative Assistant, Commissioners' Office

Bradley Seaman, Elections Administrator, Elections Office

Chris Lounsbury, Missoula County Chief Administrative Officer

Vincent Pavlish, Civil Attorney, County Attorney's Office

Andrew Czorny, Missoula County Chief Financial Officer

Allison Franz, Communications Manager, Commissioners' Office

David Wall, Auditor, County Auditors' Office

Zach Jones, Planner, Planning, Development and Sustainability

1. **CALL TO ORDER** *[Time stamp – 0:02]*
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** *[Time stamp – 0:07]*
3. **LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT** *[Time stamp – 0:23]*
Missoula County acknowledges that this event takes place in the aboriginal territories of the
Salish and Kalispel people.
4. **PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS** *[Time stamp – 0:32]*
[None]
5. **PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA** *[Time stamp – 9:11]*
6. **CURRENT CLAIMS LIST** *[Time stamp – 10:47]*
Claims received as of August 18, 2023 to August 29, 2023 by the Commissioners' Office total
\$2,025,591.11

7. HEARINGS

a. Washburn Family Transfer *[Time stamp – 11:10]*

Zach Jones, Planner, Planning, Development and Sustainability

Commissioner Vero made the motion that the Board of County Commissioners of Missoula County hereby approve the Washburn Family Transfer Exemption to create and transfer one parcel to an immediate family member in the subdivision exemption affidavit.

Commissioner Strohmaier seconded.

[Motion Passed 2-0.]

[Letter 2023-166 was sent to Washburn family on September 18, 2023]

b. 2024 Precincts, Polling Places, and Commissioner District Revision Proposals

[Time stamp – 29:22]

Bradley Seaman, Elections Administrator, Elections Office

[Continued to Public Meeting November 09, 2023]

c. Seeley Lake Refuse Budget Resolution *[Time stamp – 1:28:40]*

Andrew Czorny, Missoula County Chief Financial Officer

Chris Lounsbury, Missoula County Chief Administrative Officer

Commissioner Vero made the motion that the Missoula Board of County Commissioner adopt and approve the resolution with the increase amount of \$200 for the budget of the Seeley Lake Refuse District.

Commissioner Strohmaier seconded.

[Motion Passed 2-0.]

[Resolution 2023-068 Book: 1093 Page: 131]

d. Missoula County Fairgrounds Resolution *[Time stamp – 1:36:22]*

Andrew Czorny, Missoula County Chief Financial Officer

Chris Lounsbury, Missoula County Chief Administrative Officer

Commissioner Vero made the motion that the Missoula Board of County Commissioner adopt and approve the resolution for the Missoula County Fairgrounds budget.

Commissioner Strohmaier seconded.

[Motion Passed 2-0.]

[Resolution 2023-069 Book:1093 Page:132]

e. Missoula Local Government Building Special District Resolution *[Time stamp – 1:36:22]*

Andrew Czorny, Missoula County Chief Financial Officer

Chris Lounsbury, Missoula County Chief Administrative Officer

Commissioner Vero made the motion that the Missoula Board of County Commissioner adopt and approve the resolution for the Missoula Local Government Building Special District budget.

Commissioner Strohmaier seconded.

[Motion Passed 2-0.]

[Resolution 2023-070 Book:1093 Page:128]

f. Missoula County Rural Special Districts Resolution [Time stamp – 1:32:46]

Andrew Czorny, Missoula County Chief Financial Officer
Chris Lounsbury, Missoula County Chief Administrative Officer

Commissioner Vero made the motion that the Missoula Board of County Commissioner adopt and approve the resolution for the Missoula County Rural Special Districts budget.

Commissioner Strohmaier seconded.

[Motion Passed 2-0.]

[Resolution 2023-072 Book:1092 Page:129]

g. Missoula County Budget for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Resolution [Time stamp – 1:37:58]

Andrew Czorny, Missoula County Chief Financial Officer
Chris Lounsbury, Missoula County Chief Administrative Officer

Commissioner Vero made the motion that the Missoula Board of County Commissioner adopt and approve the resolution for the Missoula County Rural Special Districts budget.

Commissioner Strohmaier seconded.

[Motion Passed 2-0.]

[Resolution 2023-071 Book:1092 Page:130]

8. OTHER BUSINESS

[None]

9. ADJOURN

Chair Slotnick – Called the meeting to adjourn at 4:03 p.m.

BCC Public Meeting September 07, 2023 – 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.

0:0:0.0 --> 0:0:2.250

Kim Seeberger

But even taking off, apparently it's a big one.

0:0:12.880 --> 0:0:13.70

Kim Seeberger

What?

0:47:47.940 --> 0:47:48.330

Sophie Moiese Room

OK.

0:47:48.340 --> 0:47:49.530

Sophie Moiese Room

Good afternoon everyone.

0:47:49.540 --> 0:47:56.910

Sophie Moiese Room

I would like to call to order today's Thursday, September 7th public meeting of the Missoula Board of County Commissioners.

0:47:56.920 --> 0:47:58.560

Sophie Moiese Room

Please join me in the Pledge of Allegiance.

0:48:6.590 --> 0:48:11.860

Sophie Moiese Room

Stands one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

0:48:18.760 --> 0:48:23.750

Sophie Moiese Room

And welcome to all of you in the Sofi Moe's room here at the Mozilla County Courthouse.

0:48:23.760 --> 0:48:35.400

Sophie Moiese Room

And joining us online today, Missoula County acknowledges that this event here in Missoula, Mt takes place in the Aboriginal territories at the Salish and Kalispell people.

0:48:36.250 --> 0:48:42.240

Sophie Moiese Room

Sheryl, would you be so kind as to fill folks in on just procedure and closed captioning and such?

0:48:45.270 --> 0:48:51.480

Sophie Moiese Room

How everyone if you are joining us for this meeting virtually today, instructions for turning on closed captioning or on your screen.

0:48:51.930 --> 0:49:0.80

Sophie Moiese Room

If you are joining us in person, we'll have closed captioning on all the screens here in the soapy and Louise room, and we also have assisted listening devices available.

0:49:0.150 --> 0:49:4.820

Sophie Moiese Room

Please come to me if you would like an assisted listening device and I will get one for you.

0:49:5.270 --> 0:49:9.710

Sophie Moiese Room

We ask that all speakers today remember to speak slowly and clearly during the meeting.

0:49:9.720 --> 0:49:12.520

Sophie Moiese Room

This helps with the accuracy of the closed captioning.

0:49:12.790 --> 0:49:18.250

Sophie Moiese Room

There will be multiple chances for the meat during the meeting for public comment virtually during those times.

0:49:18.260 --> 0:49:21.410

Sophie Moiese Room

If you like to speak, we ask that you use the raise hand feature.

0:49:21.640 --> 0:49:24.950

Sophie Moiese Room

If you are on Microsoft Teams, this is a small hand button.

0:49:25.180 --> 0:49:28.670

Sophie Moiese Room

If you are calling in on the phone, you'll need to hit star 5 to raise your hand.

0:49:28.680 --> 0:49:31.670

Sophie Moiese Room

Then once called on, you'll need to hit star 6 to unmute.

0:49:31.920 --> 0:49:35.750

Sophie Moiese Room

If you have any questions or concerns, please find me during the meeting and let me know.

0:49:35.880 --> 0:49:36.360

Sophie Moiese Room

Thank you.

0:49:38.980 --> 0:49:40.20

Sophie Moiese Room

Saying yes Sir.

0:49:41.730 --> 0:49:42.260

Sophie Moiese Room

Sure, sure.

0:49:46.300 --> 0:49:46.910

Sophie Moiese Room

No.

0:49:47.500 --> 0:49:49.530

Sophie Moiese Room

You wanna make sure these things get used?

0:50:7.230 --> 0:50:7.700

Sophie Moiese Room

All right.

0:50:7.760 --> 0:50:8.930

Sophie Moiese Room

Stand by, everyone we are.

0:50:11.530 --> 0:50:15.400

Sophie Moiese Room

Taking care of some business here in the Commissioner meeting room.

0:50:46.980 --> 0:50:54.350

Sophie Moiese Room

With any luck, we actually have the listening devices that we've been promising people all these years, right and OK.

0:51:48.580 --> 0:51:50.470

Sophie Moiese Room

Do we not have the listening devices?

0:51:53.260 --> 0:51:54.930

Sophie Moiese Room

Do we know where they are? No.

0:51:57.580 --> 0:52:6.80

Sophie Moiese Room

Sorry, Sir, we will be sure to talk very loud, so if you cannot hear anything that's being said, please, please let us know.

0:52:7.840 --> 0:52:8.410

Sophie Moiese Room

Yeah.

0:52:8.420 --> 0:52:11.290

Sophie Moiese Room

And we will make sure this gets remedied.

0:52:11.540 --> 0:52:15.60

Sophie Moiese Room

This is not meant to be a bait and switch, so OK.

0:52:17.80 --> 0:52:24.90

Sophie Moiese Room

So this is the time of uh in the agenda where you can offer public comment on anything that is not on the agenda.

0:52:24.100 --> 0:52:28.310

Sophie Moiese Room

By that I mean you can see our packed list of public hearings today.

0:52:28.480 --> 0:52:36.400

Sophie Moiese Room

If what you wanna comment on relates to any of those items, there will be an opportunity when we take up those items for you to comment.

0:52:36.790 --> 0:52:42.210

Sophie Moiese Room

If there's anything else that you would like to comment on today, potholes in your neighborhood.

0:52:42.390 --> 0:52:44.600

Sophie Moiese Room

Uh, barking dogs.

0:52:44.610 --> 0:52:45.340

Sophie Moiese Room

Whatever.

0:52:45.870 --> 0:53:1.80

Sophie Moiese Room

Hopefully within the purview of the board of County Commissioners, now is your time to to comment on that if you're in the Sophie Moiese room, I will invite you to come up to the microphone, hit the button at the base of the MIC, and so the light turns green.

0:53:1.330 --> 0:53:4.60

Sophie Moiese Room

State your name and we will take your comment.

0:53:4.270 --> 0:53:20.350

Sophie Moiese Room

After we finish with folks in the room, we will take public comment online and please use the raise hand function if you are able to or unmute yourself and introduce yourself and we'll take you in the order or in which you raise your hand or jump in.

0:53:20.360 --> 0:53:22.950

Sophie Moiese Room

So, Sir, come on up to the microphone.

0:53:29.800 --> 0:53:36.150

Sophie Moiese Room

My name is Gary Koprivica and I'm a resident Missoula since 1963.

0:53:36.220 --> 0:53:41.410

Sophie Moiese Room

Born and raised in Butte and I've been a homeowner in Missoula since 1970.

0:53:41.920 --> 0:53:45.40

Sophie Moiese Room

And what I'd like to request from the city is.

0:53:47.420 --> 0:53:48.490

Sophie Moiese Room

Income statements?

0:53:49.150 --> 0:53:55.680

Sophie Moiese Room

Uh, in all categories that the city has taken in since it 2020?

0:53:55.690 --> 0:54:5.70

Sophie Moiese Room

21 and 22 and also city expenditures the same categorically, and 2021 and 22.

0:54:6.210 --> 0:54:9.240

Sophie Moiese Room

And I I think you probably mean county, not city.

0:54:9.690 --> 0:54:10.700

Sophie Moiese Room

I live in the city.

0:54:10.980 --> 0:54:16.120

Sophie Moiese Room

Ohh, you live in the city so we we have no jurisdiction over city budgets.

0:54:16.650 --> 0:54:25.400

Sophie Moiese Room

So that would have, but you don't have copies of the income and expenditures of the city, not for the city of Missoula, just for Missoula County government.

0:54:25.450 --> 0:54:25.940

Sophie Moiese Room

OK.

0:54:25.990 --> 0:54:29.840

Sophie Moiese Room

So that would be something to take up with the mayor or the City Council.

0:54:29.850 --> 0:54:30.280

Sophie Moiese Room

OK.

0:54:30.350 --> 0:54:31.910

Sophie Moiese Room

All right. I thank you.

0:54:33.110 --> 0:54:40.640

Sophie Moiese Room

I do have questions regarding the streets and I know we do a great job because of the winners and so forth that we deal with now.

0:54:40.650 --> 0:54:46.70

Sophie Moiese Room

How many of you ever drive up Hill View? Anybody.

0:54:46.160 --> 0:54:47.470

Sophie Moiese Room

Yes, OK.

0:54:48.380 --> 0:55:19.910

Sophie Moiese Room

I live at the top of the hill view and you know the road is is very good, but we have weeds off of the road that are two feet tall and not only does it look bad, but also it's a fire danger as far as grass fires and you know I when I have friends coming into town it's really I believe that detriment to what people think of of our city.

0:55:20.730 --> 0:55:24.370

Sophie Moiese Room

Uh, and I talked about affordable housing.

0:55:24.880 --> 0:55:26.230

Sophie Moiese Room

You absolutely can.

0:55:26.240 --> 0:55:50.840

Sophie Moiese Room

Yeah, you know and and I will be the first, not the first, but I'm concerned also, but we have to start realizing that the money that homeowners are paying different categories, whether it be taxes or whatever contributes to the problem with affordable housing.

0:55:51.430 --> 0:56:2.310

Sophie Moiese Room

I'm fixed income 78 years old and my property taxes and costs of living in Missoula have really gone up substantially.

0:56:2.320 --> 0:56:19.290

Sophie Moiese Room

Where my income has it so everyone that's applying to build or renovate or whatever or paying very high prices for the different studies taxes.

0:56:19.520 --> 0:56:33.830

Sophie Moiese Room

And I think that has to be addressed if we want affordable housing, then we have to help the people that own property to decrease their costs so that they can also decrease their rent costs.

0:56:34.890 --> 0:56:38.620

Sophie Moiese Room

Uh, does the the water system?

0:56:38.630 --> 0:56:42.980

Sophie Moiese Room

Is that also with this the correct that's city of Missoula?

0:56:43.20 --> 0:56:43.290

Sophie Moiese Room

Yeah.

0:56:43.300 --> 0:56:46.360

Sophie Moiese Room

I just had a question whether how that is going.

0:56:51.570 --> 0:56:56.660

Sophie Moiese Room

Not those are the questions that I've had, and I thank you very much for allowing me to ask these questions.

0:56:56.710 --> 0:56:57.400

Sophie Moiese Room

Thank you, Gary.

0:56:57.510 --> 0:56:58.30

Sophie Moiese Room

Appreciate it.

0:56:59.840 --> 0:57:2.630

Sophie Moiese Room

Any other public comment on items not on the agenda?

0:57:5.290 --> 0:57:11.360

Sophie Moiese Room

Anyone online or joining BF phone who has public comment on items not on today's agenda?

0:57:13.600 --> 0:57:22.470

Sophie Moiese Room

OK, seeing none, we will move on claims received as of August 21st, 2023 to August 29th, 2023 by the Commissioner's Office.

0:57:22.480 --> 0:57:42.500

Sophie Moiese Room

23 by the Commissioner's Office total 2,000,000 twenty \$5591.11 we have a whole variety of public hearings today without objection for my fellow Commissioner here, we're going to reorder the agenda slightly, so we bunch up all of the budget items together and get everything else out of the way first.

0:57:42.510 --> 0:57:55.450

Sophie Moiese Room

The budget items together and get everything else out of the way first, so that will mean moving up the polling place precincts and Commissioner, District item, right.

0:57:55.460 --> 0:58:1.410

Sophie Moiese Room

Beneath, we'll make that item new item B, right beneath the Washburn family.

0:58:1.420 --> 0:58:9.100

Sophie Moiese Room

Transfer just in terms of procedure, how we're going to run this today and this would be for folks online or in the room.

0:58:9.970 --> 0:58:16.230

Sophie Moiese Room

Each public hearing I will open it will begin with a staff presentation.

0:58:17.360 --> 0:58:46.650

Sophie Moiese Room

Uh, it will be followed by if there is an item like this, and the only one on the agenda today like this would be the first one where the applicant or an applicants representative would then have an opportunity to say if you were words that would be followed by opening it up for public comment, we'll close the public hearing, have questions from the Commission discussion among the the Commission, and then we will vote on each item individually.

0:58:48.130 --> 0:58:50.220

Sophie Moiese Room

Please keep your comments synced.

0:58:50.330 --> 0:59:4.580

Sophie Moiese Room

There's likely a lot of folks who wanna comment on some of these items today, so I'm going to request that you keep your minute your comments to roughly 3 minutes or so, you'll get one chance, one bite at the apple to make your comments.

0:59:4.650 --> 0:59:13.740

Sophie Moiese Room

And please, if someone else has already made the same comment, you're going to make no need to be redundant.

0:59:13.830 --> 0:59:17.370

Sophie Moiese Room

So with that, I'd like to open up our first public hearing.

0:59:17.380 --> 0:59:23.180

Sophie Moiese Room

This is on the Washburn family transfer and Zach, would you be so kind as to present this for us?

0:59:39.800 --> 0:59:40.270

Sophie Moiese Room

Hello.

0:59:40.780 --> 0:59:42.650

Sophie Moiese Room

Thank thanks, Washburn.

0:59:42.660 --> 0:59:52.750

Sophie Moiese Room

This my wife, though you might just wanna take a seat for a minute or our staff person is going to present this for us not to keep you standing more than you have to.

0:59:52.800 --> 0:59:53.590

Sophie Moiese Room

Thank you very much.

0:59:53.600 --> 0:59:54.230

Sophie Moiese Room

No problem.

0:59:54.240 --> 0:59:55.330

Sophie Moiese Room

We'll be right with you.

0:59:55.840 --> 0:59:59.830

Sophie Moiese Room

Yeah, I will call you to the stand later when I have a few questions to ask as well.

1:0:2.530 --> 1:0:4.550

Sophie Moiese Room

Oh, this is the Washburn family.

1:0:4.560 --> 1:0:16.850

Sophie Moiese Room

Transfer the proposal is at 16545 Folsom Rd, which is South of Lolo, and the claimants are James and Paraluman.

1:0:16.920 --> 1:0:26.340

Sophie Moiese Room

Ashburn, apologize if I'm getting the name wrong there represented by Eli and Associates, and I am Zach Jones with planning, development and sustainability.

1:0:31.840 --> 1:0:39.510

Sophie Moiese Room

O this map kind of shows where the property is located with the blue arrow pointing to the property just under it.

1:0:39.880 --> 1:0:48.330

Sophie Moiese Room

It's accessed off of Folsom Rd, which is the road that goes S from the property, and low low is to the north.

1:0:48.340 --> 1:0:49.990

Sophie Moiese Room

You can see the intersection of Hwy.

1:0:50.0 --> 1:0:50.770

Sophie Moiese Room

12 and Hwy.

1:0:50.780 --> 1:0:54.420

Sophie Moiese Room

93 where those two red roads meet?

1:0:59.670 --> 1:1:3.550

Sophie Moiese Room

This is what is currently existing on the property.

1:1:4.260 --> 1:1:7.690

Sophie Moiese Room

Umm, there is one tracked.

1:1:7.750 --> 1:1:23.20

Sophie Moiese Room

Uh listed as a 5-1 on the property, and then there's also another tract uh listed as tracked a of certificate of Survey 2606, which was actually created by a mortgage security exemption.

1:1:23.810 --> 1:1:28.70

Sophie Moiese Room

However, it's not a legal tractive record, and it's not conveyable.

1:1:33.170 --> 1:1:49.710

Sophie Moiese Room

Uh, what is being proposed is to create and transfer one new 2 1/2 acre tract to the washburns adult child Benjamin Washburn and the remaining tract, which is about 23.9 acres, will continue to be owned by the Washburns.

1:1:51.510 --> 1:1:58.770

Sophie Moiese Room

And currently there's one single family residence which is located where tracked A is which I showed before and you'll see again here.

1:2:3.160 --> 1:2:17.840

Sophie Moiese Room

So this is what is being proposed shown on a proposed survey on the created parcels kind of in the southeast corner of the property, which is labeled as tracked A5-1B.

1:2:24.690 --> 1:2:34.500

Sophie Moiese Room

So getting into the general evasion criteria and rebuttable presumptions that we review, there are two that were triggered.

1:2:34.510 --> 1:2:48.100

Sophie Moiese Room

So the first is the proposed division is on a track that was previously created through use of move my box here, use of a family transfer exemption, mortgage security exemption or occasional sale exemption.

1:2:48.230 --> 1:3:17.350

Sophie Moiese Room

Or is received preliminary plat approval and in this case just the mortgage security and boundary line relocations have been used in the past and the second is is the proposed division incompatible with the growth policy and in this case it is so it's not compliant with the land use designation of open and resource which recommends a density of 1 dwelling per 40 acres.

1:3:17.900 --> 1:3:18.510

Sophie Moiese Room

Umm.

1:3:18.800 --> 1:3:23.950

Sophie Moiese Room

If other goals and policies of the growth policy are map.

1:3:31.400 --> 1:3:36.220

Sophie Moiese Room

And could the applicants please step to the stand?

1:3:36.620 --> 1:3:38.870

Sophie Moiese Room

Yeah, come on up, Mr Mrs Washburn.

1:3:47.620 --> 1:3:50.150

Sophie Moiese Room

So I think it would be OK if just one answers.

1:3:51.980 --> 1:3:52.310

Sophie Moiese Room

Yeah.

1:3:52.320 --> 1:3:54.830

Sophie Moiese Room

Or you can answer in harmony simultaneously.

1:3:54.840 --> 1:3:55.870

Sophie Moiese Room

That's fine too.

1:3:56.140 --> 1:3:56.710

Sophie Moiese Room

It's fine.

1:3:56.720 --> 1:3:58.50

Sophie Moiese Room

We can do that, but we'll try.

1:3:58.60 --> 1:3:58.870

Sophie Moiese Room

OK.

1:3:59.160 --> 1:4:1.900

Sophie Moiese Room

So could you please state your name for the record?

1:4:2.540 --> 1:4:5.210

Sophie Moiese Room

James David Washburn, thanks.

1:4:5.410 --> 1:4:9.570

Sophie Moiese Room

So first question, did you buy the property with the intent of dividing it?

1:4:10.60 --> 1:4:12.110

Sophie Moiese Room

No, thank you.

1:4:12.180 --> 1:4:16.270

Sophie Moiese Room

Do you or your transferees intend to transfer the property within the next year?

1:4:16.710 --> 1:4:18.150

Sophie Moiese Room

No, thank you.

1:4:18.310 --> 1:4:22.590

Sophie Moiese Room

Have you talked to anyone at the county about going through subdivision review?

1:4:23.180 --> 1:4:29.820

Sophie Moiese Room

No, and the recipient is not a minor, so I'll ask will the properties be developed?

1:4:31.740 --> 1:4:35.870

Sophie Moiese Room

Yes, our son, who's age 32, wants to build a house on it.

1:4:36.790 --> 1:4:37.120

Sophie Moiese Room

OK.

1:4:37.130 --> 1:4:37.660

Sophie Moiese Room

Thanks.

1:4:37.700 --> 1:4:42.240

Sophie Moiese Room

And will the recipient of the property be residing on the property?

1:4:42.530 --> 1:4:44.710

Sophie Moiese Room

Yes, great.

1:4:44.720 --> 1:4:45.630

Sophie Moiese Room

Thank you very much.

1:4:45.640 --> 1:4:47.90

Sophie Moiese Room

That's all I have for you now.

1:4:47.400 --> 1:4:47.690

Sophie Moiese Room

Thank you.

1:4:49.930 --> 1:4:56.970

Sophie Moiese Room

Unless before you sit down not to keep you hopping up and down, is there anything else that you'd like to add before Zach wraps up?

1:4:58.660 --> 1:5:0.30

Sophie Moiese Room

Ohh, I don't know.

1:5:0.40 --> 1:5:1.310

Sophie Moiese Room

Let's yeah have.

1:5:1.940 --> 1:5:4.250

Sophie Moiese Room

Unless you have any other questions, OK.

1:5:4.680 --> 1:5:5.750

Sophie Moiese Room

No, none at this time.

1:5:5.760 --> 1:5:6.390

Sophie Moiese Room

So thank you.

1:5:6.460 --> 1:5:7.10

Sophie Moiese Room

Thank you.

1:5:7.380 --> 1:5:7.930

Sophie Moiese Room

Go ahead, Zach.

1:5:11.350 --> 1:5:23.0

Sophie Moiese Room

And then the end of my presentation, I will say that the planning office is recommending approval and I have the recommended motion stated here, OK.

1:5:23.10 --> 1:5:24.940

Sophie Moiese Room

So any questions, feel free.

1:5:25.130 --> 1:5:25.880

Sophie Moiese Room

Any questions?

1:5:26.270 --> 1:5:41.910

Sophie Moiese Room

I don't have any questions other than I don't know if you want to reference the discussions we had with planning department talking about the future growth policy so that this compliance issue doesn't look look so bad.

1:5:41.920 --> 1:5:46.990

Sophie Moiese Room

It's not because you look at the development in the area and it isn't 1 to 40.

1:5:47.300 --> 1:5:54.700

Sophie Moiese Room

So in a sense, this is compliant with what's on the ground right now, but we're in the process of updating our growth policy.

1:5:58.60 --> 1:6:1.200

Sophie Moiese Room

Yes, I don't really have anything to say on that front.

1:6:1.210 --> 1:6:7.380

Sophie Moiese Room

I think just the fact that yeah, we are looking at updating it and yeah, yeah. Thanks.

1:6:7.390 --> 1:6:24.680

Sophie Moiese Room

So, so, so The upshot is, if you look at at the landscape out there in the vicinity of of low low areas that in the old antiquated growth policy might be identified as one per 40, clearly have already been subdivided and chopped up.

1:6:25.20 --> 1:6:32.70

Sophie Moiese Room

So we need to bring our growth policy into the 21st century here a little bit.

1:6:32.880 --> 1:6:37.240

Sophie Moiese Room

So any public comment on this proposed family transfer?

1:6:39.570 --> 1:6:40.680

Sophie Moiese Room

Any public comment?

1:6:40.690 --> 1:6:41.390

Sophie Moiese Room

Anyone online?

1:6:51.60 --> 1:6:53.860

Sophie Moiese Room

OK, seeing none, how about a motion?

1:6:54.110 --> 1:6:54.730

Sophie Moiese Room

OK.

1:6:55.360 --> 1:7:4.50

Sophie Moiese Room

I move to approve the request by James and Paluma Washburn to utilize a family transfer exemption to create and transfer one parcel as presented in the subdivision exemption affidavit.

1:7:4.480 --> 1:7:7.550

Sophie Moiese Room

Second, any further discussion seeing none?

1:7:7.560 --> 1:7:8.190

Sophie Moiese Room

All in favor?

1:7:8.660 --> 1:7:11.520

Sophie Moiese Room

Aye, good luck with your project.

1:7:12.560 --> 1:7:12.990

Sophie Moiese Room

You bet.

1:7:13.0 --> 1:7:13.400

Sophie Moiese Room

Thank you.

1:7:17.280 --> 1:7:28.10

Sophie Moiese Room

Our next public hearing and folks are getting kind of the full breadth of Missoula County government today from from land use to elections to budgets.

1:7:28.20 --> 1:7:41.880

Sophie Moiese Room

So we have Bradley Seeman, our elections administrator, who's going to presenting to us 2024 precincts, polling places and Commissioner District revision proposals. Bradley.

1:7:45.330 --> 1:7:46.230

Sophie Moiese Room

Thank you, Commissioner.

1:7:46.240 --> 1:7:49.90

Sophie Moiese Room

One second, I will thank you, Commissioner.

1:7:49.100 --> 1:7:52.830

Sophie Moiese Room

One second, I'll pull up my presentation and then I'll begin.

1:8:2.500 --> 1:8:3.120

Sophie Moiese Room

OK.

1:8:3.130 --> 1:8:4.270

Sophie Moiese Room

Are we seeing it on the screen there?

1:8:6.880 --> 1:8:11.410

Sophie Moiese Room

Antastic so this is a little bit of an and Bradley, if you could bring that MIC right up to you.

1:8:11.420 --> 1:8:14.70

Sophie Moiese Room

So folks can hear no problem.

1:8:14.120 --> 1:8:14.570

Sophie Moiese Room

Perfect.

1:8:14.580 --> 1:8:15.630

Sophie Moiese Room

Thank you really close here.

1:8:16.420 --> 1:8:25.510

Sophie Moiese Room

This is a follow up from an earlier discussion we had in April about precinct boundary updates and so this will be a little bit of a review of the state redistricting process.

1:8:25.960 --> 1:8:29.590

Sophie Moiese Room

We'll also talk about Commissioner, District updates, which are included in here.

1:8:29.800 --> 1:8:32.950

Sophie Moiese Room

Discuss what a precinct is our county level process.

1:8:33.40 --> 1:8:43.310

Sophie Moiese Room

All of the work that we've done over the course of this year and then we will finalize with that big broad discussion of polling place assignments and steps will take to finalize this process.

1:8:44.720 --> 1:8:48.310

Sophie Moiese Room

So the state redistricting process takes place after the census.

1:8:48.320 --> 1:8:58.930

Sophie Moiese Room

This happens and they change our House and Senate districts, so this is done at the district and Apportionment Commission at the state level as they go through and they adjust these boundaries.

1:8:58.940 --> 1:9:6.810

Sophie Moiese Room

The next step is for counties to go through and to follow up with, dividing each of the House districts into precincts.

1:9:7.280 --> 1:9:16.60

Sophie Moiese Room

The statewide redistricting took place earlier this year, was finalized in those maps, were sent over to the legislature, which then triggers our process.

1:9:16.750 --> 1:9:26.810

Sophie Moiese Room

Before we go too deeply into the process about each of our different precincts, I wanted to take a moment and talk about the Commissioner, district boundaries, which we didn't discuss earlier this year.

1:9:27.700 --> 1:9:35.970

Sophie Moiese Room

So the Commissioners, the districts are required to be updated after the census, the same way we go through and we update our precincts after the census.

1:9:35.980 --> 1:9:47.710

Sophie Moiese Room

We wanna update our Commissioner district boundaries when we do this process, we use mapping technology to help us make sure that we are following each of the different sections of the law with our office.

1:9:48.180 --> 1:9:56.210

Sophie Moiese Room

We're not able to create an oftentimes requested like an urban semi urban in a rural a bullseye pattern for a commissioner, districts.

1:9:56.380 --> 1:10:3.430

Sophie Moiese Room

The law states that the Commissioner districts must be equal in population and is equal in size as possible.

1:10:3.440 --> 1:10:11.70

Sophie Moiese Room

So if we were to look at that process, we would have so many more voters in the urban area that it would be so much smaller than the rural area.

1:10:11.660 --> 1:10:25.360

Sophie Moiese Room

So we weren't able to proceed forward with a plan that may look like a bullseye pattern as we've been requested when we go through this process, we've provided a map out, there are a few handouts here in the room.

1:10:25.420 --> 1:10:30.990

Sophie Moiese Room

There are also maps for you guys where you can see the adjustments that we are looking at taking place for the Commissioner.

1:10:31.0 --> 1:10:37.550

Sophie Moiese Room

Districts commissioners are elected at large, but they have to be residents of the district for at least two years.

1:10:38.200 --> 1:10:45.60

Sophie Moiese Room

So we wanted to update this process before candidate filing takes place in January for the 2024 election cycle.

1:10:46.0 --> 1:10:55.690

Sophie Moiese Room

As we went through this process, our GIS mapping department really helped us come up and working to make sure that we were even in both population and area as possible.

1:10:56.80 --> 1:10:58.10

Sophie Moiese Room

I think they did a bang up job on this.

1:10:58.20 --> 1:11:2.350

Sophie Moiese Room

As you look at that deviation, it is very, very close in population.

1:11:2.360 --> 1:11:12.250

Sophie Moiese Room

And so for these proposed Commissioner districts, you can see the boundary change as it comes through over the previous boundary and the newly established boundaries.

1:11:12.680 --> 1:11:20.480

Sophie Moiese Room

Many of these regions are zero population, however, where we do have population, the small change can drastically impact that.

1:11:20.570 --> 1:11:24.940

Sophie Moiese Room

But this plan keeps our populations balanced incredibly well.

1:11:25.190 --> 1:11:35.460

Sophie Moiese Room

It does also make sure that we are even in an area as possible, so this is our first plan we're presenting specific for our Commissioner districts.

1:11:35.990 --> 1:11:53.440

Sophie Moiese Room

We would like to open up a public comment period on this so that we can take additional review and then we will come back later to confirm these districts as we've gone through this, we did already receive a couple of updates on some of these zero population boundaries that'll make mapping this out a little bit easier.

1:11:53.690 --> 1:11:58.380

Sophie Moiese Room

So we're taking comments in and we've opened up a public comment period on Commissioner districts.

1:12:1.290 --> 1:12:3.520

Sophie Moiese Room

That's my quick update on Commissioner, districts.

1:12:3.570 --> 1:12:34.830

Sophie Moiese Room

This is really an administrative process that we go through to balance it and make sure that the

population area is even and we want to make sure that we're doing this on a regular basis so that voters all get to make sure that they have a Commissioner district that represents them, precincts a little bit different precincts with our county after the state has gone through and redistricted House and Senate districts, we brought precincts forward in April, the precincts gonna be our smallest geographic boundary for an election and it's a subdivision of that House district.

1:12:34.840 --> 1:12:37.410

Sophie Moiese Room

It cannot cross one of those house district boundaries.

1:12:38.710 --> 1:12:46.380

Sophie Moiese Room

They're used to establish ballot rotation, so it a federal election precincts are used to decide which person will be listed first for the presidential race.

1:12:47.80 --> 1:13:2.540

Sophie Moiese Room

Umm, they're also randomly selected in the post election audit to confirm that our machines work correctly and specifically central committees utilize precincts to elect 1 precinct committee, man and Woman in Missoula, we like to name our precincts very specifically.

1:13:2.630 --> 1:13:12.150

Sophie Moiese Room

The voting location and the House district in which they're in, so combining our redistricting process adjustments to the House District and polling places really make sense.

1:13:13.500 --> 1:13:18.710

Sophie Moiese Room

So we started this process earlier in the year to divide each of our House districts.

1:13:18.960 --> 1:13:30.210

Sophie Moiese Room

We needed to make sure that each of our precincts didn't go over 2500 voters, as we were doing this process, the legislature was still in session and changing laws around redistricting.

1:13:30.220 --> 1:13:31.590

Sophie Moiese Room

Well, we were presenting.

1:13:32.160 --> 1:13:33.810

Sophie Moiese Room

We knew that this would be the case.

1:13:33.900 --> 1:13:42.550

Sophie Moiese Room

They updated the time frame for 45 days to 90 days and I'm pretty sure it happened on the 43rd day in our window to make our adjustments.

1:13:42.810 --> 1:13:53.200

Sophie Moiese Room

So with this process, we really wanted to go through create a great area, utilize the technology we had, present this out and seek some public comment.

1:13:54.70 --> 1:13:59.200

Sophie Moiese Room

So we use GIS to determine the boundaries and display each of the different house district boundaries.

1:13:59.570 --> 1:14:9.230

Sophie Moiese Room

What we did is we took our census blocks and then converted them to voters so that we could get a really accurate count to the number of voters, knowing that there's a cap of 2500.

1:14:9.960 --> 1:14:14.650

Sophie Moiese Room

Umm, we also want to make sure that there is even as possible by that voting population.

1:14:14.660 --> 1:14:21.60

Sophie Moiese Room

But some of those rural areas or legislative district boundary may require that some of those precincts are smaller.

1:14:22.860 --> 1:14:37.400

Sophie Moiese Room

Using these GIS tools, not only were we able to, as you can see on the map on the right, convert our census blocks and utilize the mapping to see the streets to see the areas, but also what the best method of travel for voters who are going to a polling place.

1:14:38.340 --> 1:14:45.770

Sophie Moiese Room

As we discussed, we go through in their utilized precincts or utilized in multiple ways from ballot rotation to precinct committeeman in women.

1:14:46.140 --> 1:14:49.170

Sophie Moiese Room

The most common question is where do I go to vote?

1:14:49.580 --> 1:14:53.50

Sophie Moiese Room

And so we wanted to make sure that that was really clear for our voters.

1:14:53.580 --> 1:14:55.80

Sophie Moiese Room

So we took each precinct.

1:14:55.90 --> 1:15:2.950

Sophie Moiese Room

If we worked to design which polling places they will go through and sought extensive amounts of public comment over the summer to create this plan.

1:15:4.580 --> 1:15:9.430

Sophie Moiese Room

As we went through here, we decided that we wanted to follow the same naming nomenclature.

1:15:9.480 --> 1:15:13.30

Sophie Moiese Room

Bonner, 92, means that you're vote at Bonner Elementary School.

1:15:13.360 --> 1:15:20.150

Sophie Moiese Room

And you're in House District 92 because of all of this, it made sense to tackle each of these projects at the same time.

1:15:21.170 --> 1:15:29.100

Sophie Moiese Room

We surveyed voters overtime, tracked voting patterns and worked with existing locations throughout a changing environment to help make these decisions.

1:15:29.370 --> 1:15:31.970

Sophie Moiese Room

So this wasn't done in the night in the dark.

1:15:33.130 --> 1:15:35.430

Sophie Moiese Room

Umm, some of the survey information that's really important.

1:15:35.440 --> 1:15:43.420

Sophie Moiese Room

We conducted 2 scientific surveys, so we had standard deviation, sample sizes that we could use to say this is what our population wanted.

1:15:43.730 --> 1:15:46.480

Sophie Moiese Room

We ran those surveys in 2015 and 2020.

1:15:46.570 --> 1:15:53.980

Sophie Moiese Room

In 2022, we did an informal survey and just asked voters what's going to work best knowing that we have this project coming forward.

1:15:54.530 --> 1:15:57.860

Sophie Moiese Room

As you can see, we asked them about distance to polling locations.

1:15:57.870 --> 1:16:0.620

Sophie Moiese Room

We asked them about the method of voting they prefer.

1:16:0.930 --> 1:16:9.440

Sophie Moiese Room

We also asked them specifically about whether it's more important for us to be responsible when we're using taxpayer dollars in election or providing services.

1:16:9.870 --> 1:16:12.900

Sophie Moiese Room

And we received both answers as the main answer.

1:16:12.910 --> 1:16:14.900

Sophie Moiese Room

So we want to balance that closely.

1:16:15.610 --> 1:16:23.830

Sophie Moiese Room

Specifically, we wanted to make sure that as we looked at this, we were matching utilization to the number of polling locations that we've had.

1:16:24.20 --> 1:16:35.280

Sophie Moiese Room

And so we did make sure that when we were looking, we didn't look at any consolidations over 5 miles away and we wanted to make sure that our utilization and wait times kept it to that 15 minutes.

1:16:37.130 --> 1:16:42.520

Sophie Moiese Room

With redistricting taking place every 10 years, we've seen a change in the way that voters choose to vote.

1:16:42.670 --> 1:16:47.920

Sophie Moiese Room

10 years ago we had far more voters who voted at our polling places than we currently have.

1:16:48.70 --> 1:16:54.880

Sophie Moiese Room

With the increase of voters who vote by mail, the utilization at polling places has gone down, which means that our wait time has gone down.

1:16:54.890 --> 1:16:59.660

Sophie Moiese Room

But that also means that we are paying to have staff in there waiting for voters to serve.

1:16:59.830 --> 1:17:8.650

Sophie Moiese Room

So we're trying to balance that in addition to the method of voting changing and the locations have also changed.

1:17:8.840 --> 1:17:12.160

Sophie Moiese Room

Many of our locations are public buildings and schools.

1:17:12.930 --> 1:17:13.590

Sophie Moiese Room

Umm.

1:17:13.710 --> 1:17:20.480

Sophie Moiese Room

Schools and fire stations and we've seen a big change in security concerns and access to these locations.

1:17:20.490 --> 1:17:26.650

Sophie Moiese Room

Many of the schools here went through an update to provide secure access for students on Election Day.

1:17:26.660 --> 1:17:31.180

Sophie Moiese Room

We need Open Access for voters to be able to get in, receive their ballot and vote in the election.

1:17:31.490 --> 1:17:40.700

Sophie Moiese Room

So we worked hard to help balance that between ADA access issues, security needs from those schools and making sure that we provided good service to our voters.

1:17:41.980 --> 1:17:53.950

Sophie Moiese Room

We take pride in serving voters in the way they requested community polling locations, and we had the most polling locations in 2022 27 locations and that utilization is really dropped down.

1:17:53.960 --> 1:18:4.570

Sophie Moiese Room

So when we looked at this, we wanted to establish a plan that helped keep these community based polling locations in the Community as well as provided good service.

1:18:4.580 --> 1:18:11.590

Sophie Moiese Room

Met that five mile radius and made sure that people didn't have to wait due to that usage.

1:18:11.600 --> 1:18:21.130

Sophie Moiese Room

Dropping security concerns, going up and ADA access issues, we've looked at a plan that would make sure that we could serve voters in a timely fashion.

1:18:21.140 --> 1:18:37.260

Sophie Moiese Room

And in their communities, so as we went through this, we presented this plan out and we held a meeting which we invited elected officials, groups that work in parallel, third party groups that do voter registration, central committees as well as other interested parties.

1:18:37.430 --> 1:18:42.870

Sophie Moiese Room

We had that on August 1st to present this initial plan and seek their comments to incorporate them.

1:18:43.220 --> 1:18:46.290

Sophie Moiese Room

We had 19 people come to a meeting on redistricting.

1:18:46.800 --> 1:18:51.450

Sophie Moiese Room

We're surprising many of you with redistricting here today, but I thought that was fantastic.

1:18:51.460 --> 1:18:58.900

Sophie Moiese Room

Turn out and it really helped us cover some areas and make sure that the groups that utilize precincts were included in this discussion to begin with.

1:19:0.230 --> 1:19:10.870

Sophie Moiese Room

We've also issued press release open Missoula County voices pages and took comments from August 15th through to this meeting to incorporate these changes into the plans we're presenting to you now.

1:19:12.360 --> 1:19:22.450

Sophie Moiese Room

In addition to the public comment period, our meeting with groups that work in parallel, we also had a meeting in evro, the Avro polling location was one of our hardest to determine.

1:19:22.460 --> 1:19:27.130

Sophie Moiese Room

The best way to serve voters in that community, and so we did, reach out.

1:19:27.140 --> 1:19:35.920

Sophie Moiese Room

We sent postcards to all of the voters registered in that community and we held a meeting on the 22nd with 16 people in attendance to discuss that specific location.

1:19:37.600 --> 1:19:57.970

Sophie Moiese Room

Here's what we came U with the difference between this plan that we presented and the plan we presented in April, we made a small change to the boundaries between Clinton and bonder and we were able to update the polling location to the best method of travel so that voters who live 2.8 miles from Bonner School got to go to Bonner School instead of 10 miles to Clinton Elementary School.

1:19:59.50 --> 1:20:5.440

Sophie Moiese Room

In addition to that, we added another precinct to split between the Library 99 and Lowell 99.

1:20:5.450 --> 1:20:25.130

Sophie Moiese Room

What it did is it allowed us to work and have a new precinct where we have new housing being built and we know we're going to see an increase in voters and for voters who identify with the north side to be able to vote at Lowell school and voters who have a better method of travel to go to the library, we did the same thing with target range, area and Hellgate.

1:20:25.290 --> 1:20:39.940

Sophie Moiese Room

There's an area where it's easier to get to Hellgate compared to target range in the same house district with the same population, so we split that to make sure that we could get those voters to the best area for our polling location changes that we're presenting for this.

1:20:40.120 --> 1:20:43.130

Sophie Moiese Room

We're still working on the best update for the Avro area.

1:20:43.660 --> 1:20:59.70

Sophie Moiese Room

As you can see in the packet that we've provided out, we originally proposed Spring Meadows Fire station, the Spring Meadows Fire station in our public meeting was not looked at as the best option O we presented to our public meeting in Avro ADS.

1:20:59.160 --> 1:21:5.410

Sophie Moiese Room

Would it be better to be in the spring Meadows Fire station or at the Gray Wolf Peak Casino where we have a satellite office event?

1:21:6.840 --> 1:21:14.960

Sophie Moiese Room

The voters in the community expressed a really strong desire to have a polling location located up in their community, not down the hill in spring meadows.

1:21:15.360 --> 1:21:28.380

Sophie Moiese Room

And so we are working closely to address the concerns around smoke at the Gray wolf peak location and we've been in ongoing discussions with the tribal Council up there as to what we can do to address those concerns.

1:21:30.140 --> 1:21:36.780

Sophie Moiese Room

I wanna talk about specific polling place assignments and changes that we are looking at making in addition to the precinct boundaries.

1:21:36.790 --> 1:21:41.830

Sophie Moiese Room

We wanna say that when we adjust these precinct boundaries, these are the areas that we are looking at.

1:21:42.320 --> 1:21:48.390

Sophie Moiese Room

These ten locations were all slated for consolidation based off of the reason listed.

1:21:48.640 --> 1:21:54.350

Sophie Moiese Room

Rattlesnake had security concerns with those doorways and Ada access to get up to the gymnasium.

1:21:54.860 --> 1:21:58.620

Sophie Moiese Room

The Avro location with the Bucksnot being a private business location.

1:21:58.860 --> 1:22:4.600

Sophie Moiese Room

We had really low utilization in that evro area and three miles away we have a satellite office.

1:22:4.830 --> 1:22:12.890

Sophie Moiese Room

And so we wanted to manage combining those two locations so that we could provide a satellite office event and voting experience in the same area.

1:22:14.220 --> 1:22:17.310

Sophie Moiese Room

Umm Russell and Saint Joe both had security concerns.

1:22:17.320 --> 1:22:21.830

Sophie Moiese Room

And ADA access issues Washington School had security concerns.

1:22:21.840 --> 1:22:29.250

Sophie Moiese Room

Same with Jeannette Rankin and Hawthorne Elementary School, as well as to get into that gym, you have to go through a special ad, a door.

1:22:29.260 --> 1:22:30.980

Sophie Moiese Room

So we wanted to address those concerns.

1:22:31.970 --> 1:22:32.390

Sophie Moiese Room

Umm.

1:22:32.870 --> 1:22:41.580

Sophie Moiese Room

Accent had security concerns with that open area and then in addition to that Pacsun Senior Center in the university are all within a mile and 1/2 of each other.

1:22:42.150 --> 1:22:46.620

Sophie Moiese Room

And we had very low utilization rates split between all three of those.

1:22:46.630 --> 1:22:50.860

Sophie Moiese Room

So we could manage that staffing better due to security concerns.

1:22:50.870 --> 1:23:17.430

Sophie Moiese Room

We also looked at Franklin Elementary School, going over to the Lifelong Learning Center, so each of those changes have really met that public comment as we had our voices included in this packet was where opening this discussion for you all to finalize this plan, you can see that we received in comment that stated that yes, we approve of moving from rattlesnake to the library and another comment that states the library is a little far away from the rattlesnake school.

1:23:18.560 --> 1:23:30.190

Sophie Moiese Room

In this we had the same presentation available on the website and we really went through the reason that we were relocating from rattlesnake school was the fact that there were a stairways to get into the gym.

1:23:30.480 --> 1:23:34.870

Sophie Moiese Room

So if you're in a chair, you can't access that gymnasium through a chair.

1:23:35.60 --> 1:23:56.790

Sophie Moiese Room

If it's November and you are having issues walking up the stairs, we're gonna have snowy stairs that you need to take to get into that gym where the library we've worked closely with the library director, we've gotten the 4th floor of that parking for judges off site, and we're working on parking for the voting population, noting most of the voters take no longer than 15 minutes to be in and out and cast a ballot on Election Day.

1:23:58.360 --> 1:23:59.990

Sophie Moiese Room

Those are the specific polling place.

1:24:0.0 --> 1:24:4.310

Sophie Moiese Room

Assignment changes that we were looking at, noting that there is still an ongoing discussion.

1:24:4.520 --> 1:24:12.150

Sophie Moiese Room

What should we do with the Avro location so we are actively working on this in the meeting we discussed a couple of different options.

1:24:12.300 --> 1:24:18.270

Sophie Moiese Room

Spring Meadow, Gray Wolf Peak or trying to revive the fire station?

1:24:18.280 --> 1:24:26.430

Sophie Moiese Room

That was utilized before the fire station has issues with water ADA access to the restroom, and ADA access to the building.

1:24:27.300 --> 1:24:32.40

Sophie Moiese Room

The Spring Meadow location didn't meet that request to have a location in that community.

1:24:32.470 --> 1:25:4.110

Sophie Moiese Room

So right now we're in discussions with tribal council to say, can we utilize Gray wolf peak and if we're not able to find something that works well for us to help mitigate any concerns around the smell of smoke, then can we have a trailer up there or something that we can have at that location where we can combine both the satellite office event and the polling location so that when we're advertising those two different events, we can say come to one location, we eliminate double staffing within 3 miles of each other and in the past that area has served upwards of 100 voters.

1:25:4.190 --> 1:25:14.180

Sophie Moiese Room

So we're really trying to manage that staffing, make sure that we're accommodating for everybody and that one we're still working on and we'll present some updates for the Commission through this process.

1:25:16.330 --> 1:25:17.190

Sophie Moiese Room

Where do we go from here?

1:25:18.370 --> 1:25:19.540

Sophie Moiese Room

We've done a lot of work.

1:25:19.550 --> 1:25:24.580

Sophie Moiese Room

It was really good to see that and for the most part, we didn't receive many comments that were negative on this plan.

1:25:24.590 --> 1:25:41.350

Sophie Moiese Room

We've worked closely with groups that work in parallel central committees and tried to incorporate all of this conversation into the plan we're presenting to you as we go through this, we are opening a second round on the Missoula Voice page so that public comment can come through before any finalization decisions from the Commission.

1:25:42.450 --> 1:25:55.960

Sophie Moiese Room

Based off the feedback we receive new precinct boundaries and names will be considered for adoption by the Commissioners and we will present this at a public meeting after the general election and this will be in place for the 2024 election cycle.

1:25:56.270 --> 1:25:58.320

Sophie Moiese Room

We wanted to make sure we weren't confusing people.

1:25:58.330 --> 1:26:0.820

Sophie Moiese Room

There are no polling places for the November election.

1:26:0.830 --> 1:26:11.460

Sophie Moiese Room

If you live in the city, everybody gets their ballot in the mail and we'll have drop off locations so precincts don't apply and we didn't want to confuse voters after adoption.

1:26:11.610 --> 1:26:17.20

Sophie Moiese Room

If you had a change to your polling location or your precinct, you're going to get a new voter confirmation card.

1:26:17.490 --> 1:26:25.550

Sophie Moiese Room

And then in addition to that polling place, voters will wanna send a specific mailing with a map that says you used to vote at Rattlesnake school.

1:26:25.560 --> 1:26:27.320

Sophie Moiese Room

And now you will be voting at the library.

1:26:27.330 --> 1:26:34.300

Sophie Moiese Room

Here's a map of how to navigate to there, and then also if this is extra burden for you, here's how you can sign up for an absentee ballot.

1:26:35.70 --> 1:26:42.40

Sophie Moiese Room

UM, the final area is on Election Day, we will have voters who show up at these old polling locations because four years ago they went there.

1:26:42.400 --> 1:26:49.340

Sophie Moiese Room

So we will use that same map to sign that location and make sure that voters know that the rattlesnake location would not be available.

1:26:49.350 --> 1:26:52.990

Sophie Moiese Room

But the library is right here and please take a map to help direct you to that location.

1:26:54.850 --> 1:26:56.800

Sophie Moiese Room

That's my quick update really.

1:26:56.810 --> 1:27:15.100

Sophie Moiese Room

This presentation is a follow up of the presentation we had earlier on our precinct boundaries, but we did work really hard to assign polling locations, worked with the community to help balance these needs between Open Access for voting, utilization of different schools and voting locations, travel times and wait times.

1:27:15.550 --> 1:27:18.320

Sophie Moiese Room

And we're still working on one final location.

1:27:18.330 --> 1:27:20.860

Sophie Moiese Room

What we can do is we have a couple of different options.

1:27:21.370 --> 1:27:33.240

Sophie Moiese Room

The original maps that we proposed listed as Spring Meadows 91, it could also be proposed as EVERILL 91 and we can update a polling location up to 30 days ahead of an election.

1:27:33.630 --> 1:27:35.460

Sophie Moiese Room

So that gives us a little bit of time.

1:27:35.470 --> 1:27:54.340

Sophie Moiese Room

We don't need to rush into making this decision, but we can make sure that we're providing the best for that community or if we're able to come to a good solution by the time we present this after the November election, we might be saying we were able to mitigate all of these concerns and we'd like to name this polling location, this precinct Gray wolf 91.

1:27:54.570 --> 1:27:59.350

Sophie Moiese Room

So that way it could match the location where they vote in the House district in which they're in.

1:28:2.980 --> 1:28:5.310

Sophie Moiese Room

Hey, that's a lot of dense information really quick.

1:28:5.320 --> 1:28:6.670

Sophie Moiese Room

I try to be mindful of your time.

1:28:6.680 --> 1:28:8.220

Sophie Moiese Room

I know we've got a lot of people interested.

1:28:8.230 --> 1:28:8.820

Sophie Moiese Room

Thank you, brother.

1:28:8.830 --> 1:28:9.150

Sophie Moiese Room

Numbers.

1:28:10.220 --> 1:28:11.10

Sophie Moiese Room

Thanks.

1:28:11.440 --> 1:28:17.100

Sophie Moiese Room

Is there any public comment on either precincts, polling places or proposed Commissioner districts?

1:28:18.620 --> 1:28:20.510

Sophie Moiese Room

Either people in the room or online.

1:28:24.180 --> 1:28:24.850

Sophie Moiese Room

OK.

1:28:25.260 --> 1:28:26.110

Sophie Moiese Room

Any questions?

1:28:26.840 --> 1:28:27.670

Sophie Moiese Room

Thanks, Bradley.

1:28:27.680 --> 1:28:28.310

Sophie Moiese Room

Thanks, Bradley.

1:28:28.320 --> 1:28:31.610

Sophie Moiese Room

We will see you again and revisit this topic.

1:28:32.140 --> 1:28:33.50

Sophie Moiese Room

Thank you, Elsie.

1:28:33.60 --> 1:28:34.790

Sophie Moiese Room

After the municipal in November.

1:28:34.920 --> 1:28:35.460

Sophie Moiese Room

OK.

1:28:35.470 --> 1:28:36.580

Sophie Moiese Room

Thanks so much for all your work.

1:28:40.60 --> 1:28:55.730

Sophie Moiese Room

Now for the series of budget public hearings, we will kick this off with the first one being the Seeley Lake refuse budget resolution and Chris or Andrew.

1:28:55.740 --> 1:28:56.900

Sophie Moiese Room

I will turn it over to you.

1:28:58.510 --> 1:28:59.380

Sophie Moiese Room

Thank you, commissioners.

1:28:59.390 --> 1:29:0.360

Sophie Moiese Room

My name is Chris Lonsbury.

1:29:0.370 --> 1:29:2.920

Sophie Moiese Room

I'm the chief administrative officer for Missoula County.

1:29:2.990 --> 1:29:7.580

Sophie Moiese Room

Take just a second here for the PowerPoint slide to come up for everybody and for us to adjust the side.

1:29:7.750 --> 1:29:9.200

Sophie Moiese Room

Size of it so folks can see it.

1:29:9.210 --> 1:29:21.210

Sophie Moiese Room

Also, if folks would like to see this and are having a difficult time seeing it on the screen if you go to the Missoula County voice page, you can download the PowerPoint presentation from there as well so that you can view it on your computer at home.

1:29:23.660 --> 1:29:30.170

Sophie Moiese Room

So, as Commissioner Strohmeier just mentioned, we're going to start off our budget presentation here related to special districts.

1:29:30.180 --> 1:29:33.610

Sophie Moiese Room

And so I will cover the first few items, which are all of the special districts.

1:29:33.920 --> 1:29:38.180

Sophie Moiese Room

We'll take a moment for public comment on that and then we'll continue into the counties general budget.

1:29:39.90 --> 1:29:42.780

Sophie Moiese Room

So Mozilla County is responsible for multiple types of special districts.

1:29:42.910 --> 1:29:46.580

Sophie Moiese Room

These include Rd, water, sewer, wastewater collection, lighting, and others.

1:29:47.810 --> 1:29:50.220

Sophie Moiese Room

We hold a public hearing on each of these each year.

1:29:50.230 --> 1:29:59.0

Sophie Moiese Room

If there's going to be any increase to those districts or increases to assessments in those districts, so the first one is the Seeley Lake refuse district.

1:29:59.10 --> 1:30:0.950

Sophie Moiese Room

It is proposed for this district.

1:30:1.10 --> 1:30:19.710

Sophie Moiese Room

Ratepayers will be see an increase of \$20 to \$200.00 total per year out of the district fees, which will be increased to \$6 per 32 gallon bag or \$25 per cubic yard of waste fees for yard debris, appliance construction materials, furniture and tires will all increase slightly.

1:30:20.140 --> 1:30:31.350

Sophie Moiese Room

Fee increases would be in effect starting with the tax bill residents receive in the October and starting in starting date of September 15th, 2023 for special items.

1:30:31.390 --> 1:30:35.780

Sophie Moiese Room

So this piece of the hearing again is related specifically to the celiac refuse district.

1:30:36.490 --> 1:30:41.0

Sophie Moiese Room

So this is for trash collection in that area is you are aware, Commissioners, but the public might not be.

1:30:41.60 --> 1:30:46.250

Sophie Moiese Room

The contract that service through Republic, which provides for the disposal bins up there.

1:30:46.460 --> 1:30:56.40

Sophie Moiese Room

The reason for this increase is related to the higher volume of refuse that we're seeing being delivered to the transfer site as well as contractual increases for the hauling and disposal from the transfer center.

1:30:59.330 --> 1:30:59.980

Sophie Moiese Room

Thank you.

1:30:59.990 --> 1:31:8.110

Sophie Moiese Room

Chris, is there any public comment on the resolution related to the Seeley Lake refuse District?

1:31:9.930 --> 1:31:11.60

Sophie Moiese Room

Any public comment?

1:31:14.540 --> 1:31:17.210

Sophie Moiese Room

It did have a question on public comment.

1:31:17.220 --> 1:31:26.920

Sophie Moiese Room

There was a comment on voice or maybe in our emails, and Shane and Umm, Kim Myers, Kim Meyer.

1:31:26.930 --> 1:31:31.700

Sophie Moiese Room

I was going to like combine her name and, Kyra responded.

1:31:31.710 --> 1:31:34.790

Sophie Moiese Room

I didn't know if they responded back to that person or not.

1:31:34.910 --> 1:31:36.480

Sophie Moiese Room

No, not yet.

1:31:36.550 --> 1:31:45.240

Sophie Moiese Room

OK, but The upshot was that in the last 12 years, the assessment has only increased \$50.00 it's so.

1:31:45.450 --> 1:31:45.930

Sophie Moiese Room

Thank you.

1:31:46.350 --> 1:31:47.630

Sophie Moiese Room

But we can get back to that.

1:31:48.110 --> 1:31:48.440

Sophie Moiese Room

Yes.

1:31:48.450 --> 1:32:0.630

Sophie Moiese Room

And and as a reminder just for the public, we are under contract with Republic, so the increases is passed on directly inside and has to be paid inside that district based on both special district laws and the contract.

1:32:1.870 --> 1:32:2.240

Sophie Moiese Room

Thanks.

1:32:2.250 --> 1:32:7.590

Sophie Moiese Room

Any public comment on the Seeley Lake refuse district budget?

1:32:9.920 --> 1:32:13.230

Sophie Moiese Room

Chris, are we taking all of these together or individually?

1:32:14.660 --> 1:32:20.160

Sophie Moiese Room

So I would recommend Commissioners that we take public comment for each of these as we go until we get to the main budget.

1:32:20.170 --> 1:32:28.360

Sophie Moiese Room

And then of course, I would say you could leave these hearings open until the final budget presentation in case people wanna speak to both the district and the the others.

1:32:28.370 --> 1:32:30.980

Sophie Moiese Room

But I think pausing for a moment for comment is is worthy.

1:32:32.700 --> 1:32:38.790

Sophie Moiese Room

OK, seeing no comment on the Seal Lake Refuse District, we will move on to the fairgrounds.

1:32:42.230 --> 1:32:46.290

Sophie Moiese Room

I apologize, Commissioners, I actually have the other rural improvement districts next.

1:32:46.300 --> 1:32:49.260

Sophie Moiese Room

So I guess with permission OK to go slightly out. Yes.

1:32:49.390 --> 1:32:49.720

Sophie Moiese Room

Yeah.

1:32:49.730 --> 1:33:0.890

Sophie Moiese Room

Please just to keep all the special districts that are related to sewer, water and wastewater or refuse together, so the next is related to water and sewer districts.

1:33:1.190 --> 1:33:4.940

Sophie Moiese Room

So the Lolo sewer and Water District will see an increase this year.

1:33:4.950 --> 1:33:8.40

Sophie Moiese Room

The average increase is \$24.00 annually per property.

1:33:8.350 --> 1:33:11.50

Sophie Moiese Room

The last increase for this district was in 2017.

1:33:12.0 --> 1:33:25.400

Sophie Moiese Room

This is largely being driven by the energy cost necessary to provide water and septic or sorry water and sewer, not septic service inside the little district, as well as personnel costs and supply costs for the low, low sewer and water district.

1:33:28.400 --> 1:33:34.200

Sophie Moiese Room

Hey, any public comment on these sewer or water districts?

1:33:36.630 --> 1:33:37.600

Sophie Moiese Room

Any public comment?

1:33:41.350 --> 1:33:41.760

Sophie Moiese Room

OK.

1:33:41.770 --> 1:33:42.660

Sophie Moiese Room

We will move on.

1:33:43.60 --> 1:33:43.920

Sophie Moiese Room

Thank you, commissioners.

1:33:43.930 --> 1:34:4.520

Sophie Moiese Room

So the next is the Sunset West Water District, the Sunset West Water District is located out just past the why the average increase here is \$77.00 annually per property, and this is again driven by the increased energy cost for the system as well as the miles of line that have been replaced out there as well.

1:34:4.640 --> 1:34:9.180

Sophie Moiese Room

As you can see up there are some updates to the pump stations for the water district.

1:34:9.470 --> 1:34:11.390

Sophie Moiese Room

Any comment on sunset West?

1:34:13.770 --> 1:34:19.600

Sophie Moiese Room

Moving on to Lewis and Clark, yeah, so the Lewis and Clark Sewer district is located in the Clinton area.

1:34:19.950 --> 1:34:24.920

Sophie Moiese Room

This is an annual increase or an average annual increase of \$50.00 annually per property.

1:34:25.250 --> 1:34:38.200

Sophie Moiese Room

As you'll recall, the county was very successful and use both ARPA and state dollars to help update that system, but there continue to be increased energy costs as well as additional staff time that's needed to be dedicated to that district.

1:34:38.210 --> 1:34:40.130

Sophie Moiese Room

And so the increase is to cover those.

1:34:41.430 --> 1:34:43.930

Sophie Moiese Room

Any public comment on Lewis and Clark sewer?

1:34:46.830 --> 1:34:53.980

Sophie Moiese Room

See none Elmar and the last one that we'll see related to rural special improvement districts is for the Elmar Water District.

1:34:53.990 --> 1:35:2.500

Sophie Moiese Room

So Elmar is located off of Mullen Rd, just near the I'm going to say this wrong, it used to be 44 ranch estates and is now the.

1:35:5.20 --> 1:35:5.530

Sophie Moiese Room

What is it now?

1:35:6.910 --> 1:35:9.130

Sophie Moiese Room

Cannot remember the new name for 44 ranch estates?

1:35:9.140 --> 1:35:9.720

Sophie Moiese Room

That's OK.

1:35:9.790 --> 1:35:10.380

Sophie Moiese Room

Sorry about that.

1:35:10.390 --> 1:35:12.990

Sophie Moiese Room

Phantom Hills Golf course in that area.

1:35:13.0 --> 1:35:13.890

Sophie Moiese Room

Sorry about that.

1:35:14.520 --> 1:35:27.750

Sophie Moiese Room

So this is an average increase of \$60.00 annually per property, again driven primarily by energy costs for the cost of pumping water in this water system, as well as some funds to cover additional maintenance that needs to be done to the system.

1:35:27.760 --> 1:35:31.130

Sophie Moiese Room

The last increase for this particular district was back in 2018.

1:35:33.360 --> 1:35:33.730

Sophie Moiese Room

Thank you.

1:35:33.740 --> 1:35:42.910

Sophie Moiese Room

Any public comment on low, low sunset, W, Lewis and Clark or El Mar Rural Special improvement districts on The Voice page?

1:35:42.920 --> 1:35:47.610

Sophie Moiese Room

Do we also have kind of that the average amount folks pay in these districts?

1:35:49.40 --> 1:35:52.850

Sophie Moiese Room

I do not believe that is on The Voice page, but I do believe it.

1:35:52.860 --> 1:35:57.310

Sophie Moiese Room

We have that information on the website related to the special districts themselves.

1:35:57.370 --> 1:36:5.780

Sophie Moiese Room

OK, but I do not believe it is up on The Voice page this this information is up on The Voice page for the changes, but I don't believe the annual average is up on The Voice page.

1:36:7.170 --> 1:36:7.490

Sophie Moiese Room

Thank you.

1:36:9.150 --> 1:36:9.450

Sophie Moiese Room

OK.

1:36:11.60 --> 1:36:20.110

Sophie Moiese Room

Moving on, so Commissioners, the next one I have is the Missoula Local government building and I apologize, I think I might have put fairgrounds into our regular budget.

1:36:20.770 --> 1:36:22.620

Sophie Moiese Room

So my apologies, that's OK.

1:36:22.630 --> 1:36:32.290

Sophie Moiese Room

And just just by way of a an important note on the agenda, I think it's listed as Missoula, local government budget resolution and the word building.

1:36:32.300 --> 1:36:34.970

Sophie Moiese Room

Maybe it's a critical piece of information.

1:36:34.980 --> 1:36:43.500

Sophie Moiese Room

It is so just as a reminder, the Missoula Local government building is the federal building that the city and county acquired from the federal government as part of a transfer.

1:36:44.0 --> 1:36:47.610

Sophie Moiese Room

So Missoula County and the City of Missoula are the Co owners of that building now.

1:36:48.20 --> 1:36:54.950

Sophie Moiese Room

The US Postal Service, they're contributes approximately \$149,000 in annual rent towards its ongoing operations.

1:36:55.340 --> 1:37:4.230

Sophie Moiese Room

We are projecting this year to do mitigation work in that building, specifically around the remediation of lead paint and any asbestos that may be in that building.

1:37:4.240 --> 1:37:18.670

Sophie Moiese Room

So Missoula County is proposing to use a total of approximately \$1,000,000 in American Rescue Plan Act funds paired with Grant and city dollars for a total of a \$2.5 million budget for this next year.

1:37:18.680 --> 1:37:38.620

Sophie Moiese Room

Of that, the maintenance side of it, just the operations piece of the building as opposed to the remediation will be approximately \$387,000 when you take out the cost of the post office lease and then divide that between the city and the county, you come up with an operational cost to the county of \$119,049 for the local government building.

1:37:40.720 --> 1:37:41.80

Sophie Moiese Room

Thanks.

1:37:41.90 --> 1:37:46.670

Sophie Moiese Room

Any public comment on the Missoula local government building budget for next fiscal year?

1:37:50.950 --> 1:37:53.550

Sophie Moiese Room

See, none going moving on.

1:37:54.430 --> 1:37:55.220

Sophie Moiese Room

Thank you, Commissioner.

1:37:55.230 --> 1:37:58.280

Sophie Moiese Room

So here we'll move into Missoula County's primary budget.

1:37:58.290 --> 1:38:8.690

Sophie Moiese Room

I did want to start off here talking about some of the special funding that we are using as part of this year's budget for one time cost and before we do, do we need an intermission at all?

1:38:8.700 --> 1:38:10.340

Sophie Moiese Room

Are we good to just keep rolling?

1:38:10.800 --> 1:38:11.360

Sophie Moiese Room

Fine.

1:38:11.600 --> 1:38:13.230

Sophie Moiese Room

OK, we'll keep rolling.

1:38:13.520 --> 1:38:19.850

Sophie Moiese Room

So we are using some special funding this year that is one time funding that comes from various sources, various sources.

1:38:19.860 --> 1:38:20.400

Sophie Moiese Room

Sorry about that.

1:38:21.420 --> 1:38:33.130

Sophie Moiese Room

In particular, the Federal American Rescue Plan Act, or ARPA, funding also, as you are aware, Missoula County is part of the opioid settlement and we also receive local option marijuana attacks funds.

1:38:33.140 --> 1:38:37.90

Sophie Moiese Room

These local option marijuana Tax fund was voter approved.

1:38:37.500 --> 1:38:41.870

Sophie Moiese Room

It is a 4% tax on recreational marijuana that comes back to Missoula County.

1:38:42.160 --> 1:38:52.440

Sophie Moiese Room

So out of the American Rescue Plan Act, Missoula County, as I mentioned, we'll use part of its funding about a little over \$1,000,000 towards the remediation of the Missoula Local government building.

1:38:52.780 --> 1:39:0.950

Sophie Moiese Room

Meal also be continuing to support the temporary safe outdoor space and several other initiatives around housing in Missoula County for approximately \$1,000,000.

1:39:1.830 --> 1:39:11.900

Sophie Moiese Room

We will continue our support for the mobile support team as well as the opening of the crisis receiving center in Missoula County for approximately \$1,000,000 in American Rescue Plan Act funding.

1:39:12.430 --> 1:39:20.880

Sophie Moiese Room

And we will continue to assist the County Attorney's Office and the Community Justice Department with staffing of positions in both of those departments.

1:39:20.890 --> 1:39:27.320

Sophie Moiese Room

Departments Missoula County also receives approximately \$32,000 in opioid funding.

1:39:27.330 --> 1:39:34.690

Sophie Moiese Room

That money will be dedicated to the mobile support team, which responds to folks with Co occurring conditions both in mental health and addiction.

1:39:35.0 --> 1:39:42.630

Sophie Moiese Room

So we feel that's an appropriate use for those funds and the county receives approximately \$500,000 from marijuana tax.

1:39:42.640 --> 1:39:54.690

Sophie Moiese Room

That money is put into the Mozilla counties local government fund, which helps to support core services in both the County Attorney's Office, 91 elections and motor vehicles, and helps Chris isn't as public.

1:39:54.740 --> 1:39:57.250

Sophie Moiese Room

As public portions of public works or roads?

1:39:57.330 --> 1:40:4.290

Sophie Moiese Room

Yes, and a portion of it is dedicated to the Public Works department as well to help offset the need for property taxes and those departments.

1:40:9.80 --> 1:40:20.410

Sophie Moiese Room

So as we talked about during the preliminary budget, Mozilla County has dedicated itself to meeting the needs of the citizens of Missoula, our mission and the mission of the Commissioners and staff.

1:40:20.540 --> 1:40:29.650

Sophie Moiese Room

We have gone through and reviewed the needs of departments in Missoula County with an attempt to meet the mission and goals and values of Missoula County.

1:40:29.940 --> 1:40:48.120

Sophie Moiese Room

As a reminder, we set a goal this year of trying to keep operational expenses to 3% or less of an increase and we worked hard to provide a cost of living adjustment that while not the same as the inflation rate, would allow artists to continue to maintain high quality workforce in Missoula County.

1:40:48.490 --> 1:40:52.940

Sophie Moiese Room

Just as a reminder for folks, when we look at inflation, we can look at it in lots of different ways.

1:40:52.950 --> 1:41:4.190

Sophie Moiese Room

One way is the consumer price index that consumer price index shows that in this particular case, inflation between 2022 and 2023 grew at more than 10%.

1:41:5.40 --> 1:41:13.370

Sophie Moiese Room

Another way to look at that would just be to look at the local Missoula market and around here we are seeing on average approximately a 6% inflationary pressure.

1:41:16.200 --> 1:41:26.970

Sophie Moiese Room

O Missoula County's total budget, this year, we will have total revenues of 266 million, \$685,000 approximately, with total expenditures totaling 255,000,000.

1:41:27.20 --> 1:41:33.620

Sophie Moiese Room

\$51.00 out of that, that is, looking at all sources of revenue that is not property tax dollars to make up that total.

1:41:33.630 --> 1:41:38.30

Sophie Moiese Room

That includes grants one time funding the American Rescue Plan Act and various sources.

1:41:38.450 --> 1:41:47.710

Sophie Moiese Room

I do want to remind folks that Missoula County has a federally qualified Health Center as part of it, so that we show those numbers if we were to remove the federally qualified Health Center.

1:41:47.720 --> 1:42:1.80

Sophie Moiese Room

So you can see that approximately \$45 million of that operation is only the federally qualified Health Center, which does not, is not supported by property taxes, but is supported both through Medicare and Medicaid dollars as well as a sliding fee scale.

1:42:1.90 --> 1:42:4.460

Sophie Moiese Room

So it does not have an impact on property taxes in Missoula County.

1:42:8.180 --> 1:42:16.810

Sophie Moiese Room

You may have seen charts out there that show the growth in local government and certainly tax revenue and the need for tax supported services continues to grow.

1:42:16.820 --> 1:42:33.900

Sophie Moiese Room

But I did want to highlight one of the reasons why we don't use the total budget revenue and total expenditures of Missoula County, which I just mentioned will be over \$200 million is the fact that when you look at those expenses, they include a lot of one time money that is an ongoing.

1:42:33.910 --> 1:42:49.120

Sophie Moiese Room

So in addition to the federally qualified Health Center, we've had the American Rescue Plan Act Cares act

during our COVID-19 experience in Missoula County as well as the building of the Missoula Library and things like the Mullen build area or the setup cane area.

1:42:49.610 --> 1:42:56.0

Sophie Moiese Room

So those one time expenses, we would not want to be considered ongoing property tax support or looked at as property tax.

1:42:56.10 --> 1:42:58.690

Sophie Moiese Room

Those are largely through federal grant programs.

1:42:58.700 --> 1:43:3.920

Sophie Moiese Room

And while obviously paid for by federal tax dollars, they aren't directly attributable to property tax dollars.

1:43:3.930 --> 1:43:14.410

Sophie Moiese Room

So this graph actually shows our total expenditures is the red line up above it, and then the blue line that you see in the middle of your chart is actually tracking inflation and population and its growth.

1:43:14.700 --> 1:43:45.280

Sophie Moiese Room

And then below that in the kind of green yellow line, you can see what property taxes have actually done and what you can see is that those two numbers, those two sections of the graph actually more closely track each other, but our continued budget growth continues to be below the actual rate of inflation and population growth in Missoula County and the Commission and staff worked very hard to make sure that that is the case that while many of our core services are supported by property taxes and try to keep those below the great growth of inflation and population in our Community.

1:43:45.630 --> 1:43:55.320

Sophie Moiese Room

Can you just indulge us with a brief history lesson and walk folks through the what the bumps are and the total budget expenditures of, say, for example, 2019?

1:43:55.650 --> 1:43:56.580

Sophie Moiese Room

Yeah, absolutely.

1:43:56.590 --> 1:44:4.300

Sophie Moiese Room

So in 2019, we had a couple of different things going towards the end of 2019, of course was the start of the pandemic headed into 2020.

1:44:4.310 --> 1:44:15.430

Sophie Moiese Room

But what we saw in 2019 was both the library, so debt issuance for the library, which brought in revenues from those bonds to be able to pay for the libraries construction as well as some open space dollars.

1:44:15.440 --> 1:44:28.640

Sophie Moiese Room

And then what we see is that continued reason that line stays up as opposed to dipping back down is

primarily from Cares Act money as well as the American Rescue Plan Act and funding that came in specifically for federally qualified health centers.

1:44:28.650 --> 1:44:31.170

Sophie Moiese Room

As I mentioned, partnership as part of Missoula County.

1:44:31.180 --> 1:44:35.790

Sophie Moiese Room

So the revenues that came directly to federally qualified health centers during the pandemic is also part of that bump.

1:44:35.800 --> 1:44:49.430

Sophie Moiese Room

And then you can see coming out of the pandemic at the end of 2021, head in into 2022, that total revenue begins to come down as some of those one time projects come out and then you'll see an increase coming out of 2022 up to 2023.

1:44:49.560 --> 1:44:56.630

Sophie Moiese Room

That was the 2nd infusion of ARPA expenses, but also the build grant out in the setup cane area of Missoula County.

1:44:58.20 --> 1:44:58.610

Sophie Moiese Room

Thank you.

1:44:58.660 --> 1:44:59.180

Sophie Moiese Room

Yes, of course.

1:45:2.980 --> 1:45:5.930

Sophie Moiese Room

So as you know, we faced many challenges this year.

1:45:5.980 --> 1:45:9.650

Sophie Moiese Room

The folks who work at Missoula County are very hard working and dedicated.

1:45:9.660 --> 1:45:27.740

Sophie Moiese Room

We see through our employee engagement surveys that more than 80% of our employees highly value the fact that they work in a public service sector where they are directly working with constituents to help address needs and challenges in our Community and keeping a mark or keeping a quality workforce is critical to Missoula County.

1:45:27.750 --> 1:45:35.260

Sophie Moiese Room

I mentioned during our preliminary budget hearing that we saw unprecedented stress coming out of the pandemic on our workforce here.

1:45:35.270 --> 1:45:51.500

Sophie Moiese Room

Seeing vacancies in the Sheriff's Department Detention Center, 91 in the County Attorney's Office, as well

as climbing caseloads that push County Attorney caseloads up into the three, four and even 500 cases for one attorney to be managing, which just far exceeds the capacity of any one person to do.

1:45:51.510 --> 1:45:52.190

Sophie Moiese Room

Person to do.

1:45:52.920 --> 1:46:17.330

Sophie Moiese Room

And so we've worked hard over the last several years to try and bring wages, in particular in those areas back into alignment and make sure that we can fill the vacancies in those critical departments while also trying to balance the needs of the Community, not only in public safety but others, but recognizing too, that our constituents and everyone here is feeling the strain from property taxes and their increases.

1:46:20.960 --> 1:46:25.130

Sophie Moiese Room

O the values that we look at our budget are healthy, safe and vibrant communities.

1:46:25.140 --> 1:46:26.180

Sophie Moiese Room

Public engagement.

1:46:26.260 --> 1:46:29.810

Sophie Moiese Room

Quality, workforce, resource stewardship and economic development.

1:46:29.820 --> 1:46:37.770

Sophie Moiese Room

So as I go through the cost of increases that we will be spending in each of those categories this year, just as a reminder, we'll look at them in two different buckets.

1:46:37.780 --> 1:46:44.510

Sophie Moiese Room

One of those is one time requests and so that is money that comes directly from intentional savings that Missoula County makes.

1:46:44.520 --> 1:46:52.460

Sophie Moiese Room

Knowing that we will have to replace equipment over time, it is more cost effective for Missoula County and for Missoula County taxpayers for us to budget for those expenses.

1:46:52.470 --> 1:46:58.120

Sophie Moiese Room

And then when they come along to have those planned expenses than to be hit with all of the costs in anyone given year.

1:47:1.170 --> 1:47:7.80

Sophie Moiese Room

But I wanted to highlight that we really have made an intentional investment in this budget in our quality workforce.

1:47:7.90 --> 1:47:12.780

Sophie Moiese Room

And so as you know, more than 85% of Missoula counties workers are covered by a collective bargaining agreements.

1:47:13.130 --> 1:47:26.940

Sophie Moiese Room

We work really hard with our collective bargaining partners to make sure that we're able to meet the needs of our staff as well as our non union staff in that and so many of the increases that you'll see this year are directly related to that need to retain a workforce.

1:47:27.280 --> 1:47:31.240

Sophie Moiese Room

I mentioned that we've seen unprecedented under staffing in our departments.

1:47:31.420 --> 1:47:37.670

Sophie Moiese Room

You were at one point down 8 deputy sheriff's several county attorneys, 6 dispatchers and 19 detention officers.

1:47:37.680 --> 1:47:46.950

Sophie Moiese Room

And those are numbers that for critical services that just need to be filled in order for us to be able to maintain our dedication to public safety and the services that our Community needs.

1:47:49.40 --> 1:48:20.150

Sophie Moiese Room

So in addition to the base budget this year, I wanted to highlight a few things, which is that the Commissioners work very hard each year as we do our departments to bring forth requests for new services or new staffing needs that we might have around the county recognizing the growing population means that we need to provide additional levels of service to folks this year as the Commission was working through that process beyond what we were able to approve inside the growth of our budget, we did deny more than \$1.8 million in new spending that would have been one time spending.

1:48:20.160 --> 1:48:36.40

Sophie Moiese Room

In addition to that about \$1.1 million in personnel requests, which included 13 new positions to help support departments that those 13 positions obviously would have represented a significant impact to property taxes as they come with an ongoing component for those positions to continue forward.

1:48:38.790 --> 1:48:48.180

Sophie Moiese Room

O looking at our one time funding request again, just a reminder that those come from intentional savings where we know that we're going to have to replace equipment and materials in the future.

1:48:48.190 --> 1:48:52.0

Sophie Moiese Room

And so we budget for those so that the tax impact does not happen all in one year.

1:48:53.540 --> 1:49:3.470

Sophie Moiese Room

O looking again at the preliminary budget, you can look for specific details around this, but in our healthy, safe and vibrant communities, this is the area where we're spending the greatest.

1:49:3.660 --> 1:49:10.30

Sophie Moiese Room

Some of the greatest amount of dollars about \$2.8 million in one time funding much of that coming from ARPA.

1:49:10.980 --> 1:49:16.550

Sophie Moiese Room

Public engagement about \$27,000, a quality workforce, about \$905,000.

1:49:16.610 --> 1:49:21.410

Sophie Moiese Room

Resource stewardship, 3.5 and economic development 73,000.

1:49:21.500 --> 1:49:26.720

Sophie Moiese Room

So I wanted to talk just briefly about the two largest categories there in the area of resource stewardship.

1:49:26.730 --> 1:49:44.190

Sophie Moiese Room

The reason that number shows an increase a pretty significant increase is the contribution for the Johnson St Shelter, which we've been working with our partners at the city as well as the Poverello Center on opening those funds again will come from a one time remittance from the city's tax increment finance district.

1:49:44.200 --> 1:49:44.570

Sophie Moiese Room

District.

1:49:44.580 --> 1:49:49.40

Sophie Moiese Room

So those are taxes collected only inside the city limits, not outside the city limits.

1:49:49.390 --> 1:49:57.140

Sophie Moiese Room

And so we will be using those funds again to help our partners address that one time challenge in Missoula in Missoula's.

1:49:58.280 --> 1:50:10.970

Sophie Moiese Room

Sorry, in the city, primarily in the city of Missoula, but also supporting residents who are in Unhoused outside of the city limits under healthy, safe and vibrant communities, we will be addressing several long term projects.

1:50:11.440 --> 1:50:19.90

Sophie Moiese Room

I would at our Missoula County detention facility that need to be addressed, including heating and cooling that facilities a little over 20 years old at this point.

1:50:19.100 --> 1:50:26.810

Sophie Moiese Room

And again, some of those items need to be replaced just as part of ongoing maintenance and a facility that's now, you know, 20 years old.

1:50:30.100 --> 1:50:32.570

Sophie Moiese Room

More importantly, the ongoing tax supported funding request.

1:50:32.580 --> 1:50:36.770

Sophie Moiese Room

These are the piece that will have a direct impact to folks's taxes this next year.

1:50:37.300 --> 1:50:47.740

Sophie Moiese Room

We do look at those in the same categories that we've looked at at our others, uh, looking at our healthy, safe and vibrant communities, we're spending approximately a new \$123,000.

1:50:47.930 --> 1:50:52.740

Sophie Moiese Room

This will help support additional staff and needs across various departments.

1:50:54.220 --> 1:50:59.120

Sophie Moiese Room

Public engagement about 110,000 quality workforce, about 140,000.

1:50:59.130 --> 1:51:16.750

Sophie Moiese Room

Those will be the few new positions that we're approving this year in Missoula County, Resource stewardship includes the cost for the enhancements to match and build out the piece of the fairgrounds related to the parking lot and the replacement of the grandstands at the fairgrounds.

1:51:16.760 --> 1:51:32.100

Sophie Moiese Room

As you are aware, Commissioners, but to remind the public, we received a very generous donation from the Community member here to help replace the grandstands and this will be Missoula County's contribution to the removal of the grandstands and then the installation of the new facility before next year's fair.

1:51:32.810 --> 1:51:42.140

Sophie Moiese Room

And then we will have some additional contributions and economic development as we look towards maintaining the variety of services in economic development.

1:51:42.150 --> 1:51:46.70

Sophie Moiese Room

But that includes our River River work and X.

1:51:46.110 --> 1:52:5.750

Sophie Moiese Room

Sorry, that includes work along the river and with the river ambassadors and others to help support that as well as contributions to Missoula Economic Partnership and other community partners in the areas of child care and other spaces to help make sure that workforce not only at Missoula County but across Missoula County and city are able to be supported.

1:52:8.540 --> 1:52:19.940

Sophie Moiese Room

So I just want to remind folks before I turn the presentation over to Andrew to go through some of the numbers and why we're seeing these shifts, that there are certain pieces of the budget that are in our control and certain pieces of the budget that are not.

1:52:20.690 --> 1:52:24.540

Sophie Moiese Room

And so Missoula County is a statutory piece of the state of Montana.

1:52:24.550 --> 1:52:30.240

Sophie Moiese Room

We are an arm of state government and the tasks that are performed by county governments are dictated by statute.

1:52:30.250 --> 1:52:32.810

Sophie Moiese Room

We don't have a choice but to provide the services that we provide.

1:52:34.170 --> 1:52:40.940

Sophie Moiese Room

There are a number of statewide mills that Missoula County is taxed or charged with collecting on behalf of the state.

1:52:40.950 --> 1:52:43.580

Sophie Moiese Room

We do not have any control over how those are set.

1:52:44.250 --> 1:52:51.840

Sophie Moiese Room

The state of Montana also is the one who sets the tax rates for the various classes of property that includes residential, industrial and agriculture.

1:52:51.850 --> 1:52:57.840

Sophie Moiese Room

And Andrew will spend a lot more time talking about how we're seeing that shift towards residential property.

1:52:58.190 --> 1:53:16.630

Sophie Moiese Room

We also don't control the reappraisal cycle or how people's homes are valued, or changes to the market that have to do that, nor do we have any control over the fact that when we go out to the marketplace to buy goods and services like tires, replacement parts for vehicles and those kinds of things, we have to buy them at the exact same cost that the public does.

1:53:16.640 --> 1:53:21.660

Sophie Moiese Room

And so when you see those inflationary pressures, when you go shopping, we see those exact same inflationary pressures.

1:53:22.210 --> 1:53:34.630

Sophie Moiese Room

And for folks who are unfamiliar with the cryptic language of budgets and taxes, the word mill does not refer to something in which you saw up to a lumber.

1:53:35.120 --> 1:53:39.450

Sophie Moiese Room

It's a unit of taxation, so that's what we mean by the word mill.

1:53:40.0 --> 1:53:40.490

Sophie Moiese Room

Thank you.

1:53:40.500 --> 1:53:41.480

Sophie Moiese Room

I appreciate that, Commissioner.

1:53:41.490 --> 1:53:42.10

Sophie Moiese Room

That's true.

1:53:42.70 --> 1:53:48.330

Sophie Moiese Room

I often forget that there's a lot of jargon in our presentations, so here's the piece that we are able to control.

1:53:48.340 --> 1:53:51.610

Sophie Moiese Room

So we are able to control the level of services that we provide.

1:53:51.900 --> 1:53:57.220

Sophie Moiese Room

We're able to control when we approve new positions or programs that need to be added and how that impacts property taxes.

1:53:58.120 --> 1:54:18.750

Sophie Moiese Room

We're able to control, as Dave mentioned, those increments of taxation which are called mills, that we levy and we are responsible for the way we try to explain that, and we spent a lot of time during the preliminary budget attempting to make sure that folks understood we were focused on the property tax piece because that is the part that has a direct impact to folks budget every day at home.

1:54:21.100 --> 1:54:44.820

Sophie Moiese Room

And it really matters this year because we are seeing an unprecedented shift in property taxes away from the things that we can control in how they're being levied and the fact that the tax burden continues to shift pretty heavily towards residential property taxes and that property tax shift doesn't doesn't equal out or every member of of classes.

1:54:44.830 --> 1:54:50.250

Sophie Moiese Room

And so that shifting burden to residential property taxes doesn't correlate for folks to a one to one.

1:54:50.460 --> 1:54:55.630

Sophie Moiese Room

And so the example that I think that I best heard was when we talk about things like telecom companies.

1:54:55.840 --> 1:55:9.420

Sophie Moiese Room

So when we see reductions in large commercial businesses or centrally assessed properties and those taxes get shifted down and shifted onto residential property taxes, we don't necessarily see a decrease correspondingly.

1:55:9.430 --> 1:55:26.730

Sophie Moiese Room

And the cost that it for that service, so an example that we could use is when Missoula County buys telephone service out on the market, when we make when the state makes changes to what each property class will pay for taxes, that doesn't necessarily mean the cost of Missoula County or to a homeowner for their home phone actually goes down or their cell phone for that matter.

1:55:27.640 --> 1:55:30.750

Sophie Moiese Room

The same is true when we talk about some of the big box retailers.

1:55:30.800 --> 1:55:43.950

Sophie Moiese Room

When Walmart sells a ball in Missoula County for 499 and in California for 499 and in Maine for 499 to pick pieces of all parts of our country, you know when there's a change in property taxes in the state of Montana.

1:55:43.960 --> 1:55:53.550

Sophie Moiese Room

When commercial property taxes are moved down and that piece is moved on to residential property taxes, Walmart doesn't change the cost of those goods in the state of Montana for that.

1:55:53.560 --> 1:55:59.30

Sophie Moiese Room

And so it is true that local property taxes and local businesses see those impacts more directly.

1:55:59.40 --> 1:56:3.260

Sophie Moiese Room

But in some of those categories, we're talking about national or multinational corporations.

1:56:3.500 --> 1:56:9.680

Sophie Moiese Room

There really isn't that correlation in property taxes in the way it impacts goods and services in the same way.

1:56:12.380 --> 1:56:29.150

Sophie Moiese Room

So I'm going to give Andrew Journey, our Chief Financial Officer, an opportunity to kind of walk you through both the tax impacts that are coming up and I want to give him a chance too to highlight for folks the fact that we are attempting to be as transparent as we can given the fact that this is a reappraisal year.

1:56:29.160 --> 1:56:33.430

Sophie Moiese Room

And so the numbers this year look pretty significantly different than they have in the past.

1:56:33.640 --> 1:56:34.990

Sophie Moiese Room

So, Andrew, thanks, Chris.

1:56:35.0 --> 1:56:36.210

Sophie Moiese Room

Andrew, good.

1:56:36.220 --> 1:56:36.540

Sophie Moiese Room

Thank you.

1:56:37.770 --> 1:56:38.680

Sophie Moiese Room

First light.

1:56:39.150 --> 1:56:39.540

Sophie Moiese Room

Ohh.

1:56:39.550 --> 1:56:42.300

Sophie Moiese Room

As everybody will remember, we, yes, Sir.

1:56:42.360 --> 1:56:42.610

Sophie Moiese Room

Do you have?

1:56:43.950 --> 1:56:45.360

Sophie Moiese Room

Well, we'll have time for comment.

1:56:45.410 --> 1:56:46.20

Sophie Moiese Room

Uh.

1:56:46.30 --> 1:56:48.420

Sophie Moiese Room

A little bit later, so just hang on to your question please.

1:56:48.430 --> 1:56:51.490

Sophie Moiese Room

Thank you, everybody.

1:56:51.500 --> 1:56:59.800

Sophie Moiese Room

Will remember we talked about a 5.4% decrease in or increase in tax revenue from 2023.

1:56:59.810 --> 1:57:4.40

Sophie Moiese Room

That's \$3.6 million in dollar value.

1:57:4.330 --> 1:57:7.890

Sophie Moiese Room

We tried to stay under the 12 year average rate.

1:57:7.900 --> 1:57:12.720

Sophie Moiese Room

They're 12 month average rate of inflation for CPI, which was 5.97%.

1:57:16.350 --> 1:57:16.990

Sophie Moiese Room

Next slide.

1:57:21.910 --> 1:57:23.370

Sophie Moiese Room

Are two issues to discuss here.

1:57:23.380 --> 1:57:26.800

Sophie Moiese Room

The first is reappraisal and the 2nd is a tax shift.

1:57:26.930 --> 1:57:33.620

Sophie Moiese Room

During this reappraisal cycle, residential Class 4 home, so an average increase of 37%.

1:57:36.140 --> 1:57:45.170

Sophie Moiese Room

If there were no increase in housing values at home, that would have a market price of 500 values, \$500,000 today would have paid \$310 less.

1:57:45.620 --> 1:57:50.420

Sophie Moiese Room

If it's market value to remained at six, 364,963.

1:57:57.350 --> 1:57:59.450

Sophie Moiese Room

That's, I don't think I'm sorry.

1:57:59.570 --> 1:58:4.570

Sophie Moiese Room

So, sorry about that, Commissioner, so I'll just jump in while for this slide really quickly.

1:58:4.580 --> 1:58:19.170

Sophie Moiese Room

So during the last legislative session, there was a requirement put in place for Missoula County and other local taxing jurisdictions from Senate Bill 3:30 to to show the impact on property taxes and 100,300 and \$600,000 increments.

1:58:19.830 --> 1:58:33.310

Sophie Moiese Room

One of the big challenges is the fact that because the values of homes increased dramatically, as Andrew mentioned, 37% across the county, the number of mills that we will levy to raise the same amount of revenue will actually decrease.

1:58:33.320 --> 1:58:49.240

Sophie Moiese Room

And again, those mills are units of taxation, so it doesn't really mean much to folks, but what it deceptively creates is a picture where it looks like \$100,000 home this next year would pay \$45.00 approximately \$45.56 less in taxes.

1:58:49.250 --> 1:58:55.620

Sophie Moiese Room

The problem is that \$100,000 home last year is worth more than \$100,000 home this year.

1:58:55.630 --> 1:59:3.870

Sophie Moiese Room

And so if your home was valued at \$100,000 last year and you went up 37%, your home is in the \$200,000 plus range at this point.

1:59:3.880 --> 1:59:8.870

Sophie Moiese Room

And so you will pay taxes now based off your house being 200,000, not 100,000.

1:59:8.880 --> 1:59:13.330

Sophie Moiese Room

And that, I think leads into what Andrew is saying, which is this next slide right here.

1:59:13.840 --> 1:59:14.470

Sophie Moiese Room

Thanks.

1:59:14.960 --> 1:59:16.930

Sophie Moiese Room

Sorry about that, missed it completely.

1:59:16.940 --> 1:59:17.200

Sophie Moiese Room

It.

1:59:17.740 --> 1:59:18.690

Sophie Moiese Room

Yeah, yeah.

1:59:18.700 --> 1:59:30.30

Sophie Moiese Room

If you could recap this again for us lower number or using the lower number of mills to calculate the lower number of no values so that no no surprise results in no lower value.

1:59:31.160 --> 1:59:52.790

Sophie Moiese Room

Anyway, the rest of the impact story, the reappraisal if if we'd stayed the same from last year, we'd actually have a mill value that decreased \$310 from from if it were of 364,963 house, which is a \$500,000 home today.

1:59:52.800 --> 2:0:2.90

Sophie Moiese Room

If there had been no increase whatsoever, we would have seen it \$310 decrease in in taxable value, 30 in actual taxes.

2:0:3.980 --> 2:0:9.890

Sophie Moiese Room

The second piece of the puzzle is the tax rate placed in the class for residential housing commercial properties.

2:0:10.160 --> 2:0:20.180

Sophie Moiese Room

So the tool given to the state and the MCA's for Class 3 and Class 4 and and MCA for folks who are interested, that's Montana code annotated.

2:0:20.190 --> 2:0:22.0

Sophie Moiese Room

That's the laws of the state of Montana.

2:0:22.440 --> 2:0:45.130

Sophie Moiese Room

Go ahead, Andrew, as a tool to navigate fluctuating markets in the last legislative session, the Dr sent a memo to the governor's suggested lowering the tax rate to .94% for the residential homes to make up for the majority of the rapid fluctuation and the residential home prices would be advisable.

2:0:45.840 --> 2:0:55.460

Sophie Moiese Room

The governor rejected the notion, and this is what would have been the outcome of \$349 decrease on a \$500,000 home.

2:1:0.590 --> 2:1:6.180

Sophie Moiese Room

Here's a copy of the MCA that was adopted by the Legislature and signed by the governor in 2015.

2:1:6.910 --> 2:1:17.920

Sophie Moiese Room

It is in the best interest of the state of Montana to mitigate the fluctuations in market value for the Class 3 and Class 4 properties that occur during the six year prison cycle.

2:1:18.110 --> 2:1:31.950

Sophie Moiese Room

This is the reason they implemented the two year reappraisal cycle it and it ends by saying that to adjust tax rates as needed to clump wishes attent to could.

2:1:32.320 --> 2:1:58.780

Sophie Moiese Room

So in this case, Andrew, if I can just summarize what what it is is by not making that change down in the tax rate from one point, excuse me from 1.35% to .94% is where it was recommended by Dr Folks will will not see an offset for the fact that reappraisal occurred is that that's absolutely accurate.

2:1:58.890 --> 2:2:7.620

Sophie Moiese Room

And my ORIS Department of Revenue, if anyones wondering, my understanding is that during the six month 3 appraisal cycles, these adjustments were made.

2:2:10.300 --> 2:2:33.550

Sophie Moiese Room

So in my quest to find the answer between them, the difference between I found that a 5.4% tax increase or tax for the county revenue translated onto a property tax bill in the city somewhere around 10% increase in the county, somewhere around the 12% increase and it just didn't make any sense to me.

2:2:33.560 --> 2:2:33.790

Sophie Moiese Room

What?

2:2:33.800 --> 2:2:35.50

Sophie Moiese Room

Why was this happening?

2:2:35.570 --> 2:2:41.180

Sophie Moiese Room

So I they asked the Dor for some information quite some time ago and I got it two nights ago.

2:2:41.550 --> 2:2:46.300

Sophie Moiese Room

And so I asked for the different categories of of taxation.

2:2:46.350 --> 2:2:50.40

Sophie Moiese Room

Different, but the big taxpayers?

2:2:50.80 --> 2:3:6.120

Sophie Moiese Room

Big tax categories within Missoula County, they're taxed at different rates, and there's eleven of them, and I asked for the property values that made up those tax categories in 2023.

2:3:9.990 --> 2:3:12.130

Sophie Moiese Room

I'm sorry, Andrew, would you mind just reading those 11?

2:3:12.140 --> 2:3:15.180

Sophie Moiese Room

Because I don't think folks in the room can see that slide.

2:3:15.870 --> 2:3:16.750

Sophie Moiese Room

Sorry, I don't.

2:3:16.830 --> 2:3:19.800

Sophie Moiese Room

I'm not hooked up to the slides here or or Chris.

2:3:19.810 --> 2:3:20.920

Sophie Moiese Room

Maybe whoever can see the.

2:3:22.570 --> 2:3:27.140

Sophie Moiese Room

Yeah, just run through the list of property class folks have an idea of what these property classes are?

2:3:27.630 --> 2:3:28.230

Sophie Moiese Room

There we go.

2:3:28.240 --> 2:3:29.440

Sophie Moiese Room

I'm sorry, I can say no.

2:3:29.950 --> 2:3:34.160

Sophie Moiese Room

The first class is agland, second class is commercial land.

2:3:34.250 --> 2:3:41.830

Sophie Moiese Room

3rd class is residential, third is pollution control equipment or teams, or the 5th is business equipment.

2:3:41.840 --> 2:3:45.380

Sophie Moiese Room

Then pipelines and non electrical generation.

2:3:45.390 --> 2:3:55.360

Sophie Moiese Room

These are generally centrally assessed or multinational corporations, forest land, airline, railroad, telecoms and electrical utilities.

2:3:55.370 --> 2:4:14.530

Sophie Moiese Room

When generation and carbon sequestration and these really make up the majority of the big tax categories within the Missoula County and then the first in the second column, you'll see they totaled \$1.9 million in 2023.

2:4:15.300 --> 2:4:24.420

Sophie Moiese Room

They told \$1.2 billion in 2024 and I just wanted to see what what kind of an increase that was.

2:4:24.430 --> 2:4:31.750

Sophie Moiese Room

Was the 3.4% increase and I was looking at the residential and well six.

2:4:31.760 --> 2:4:37.380

Sophie Moiese Room

It looked like a pretty hefty increase, but we all knew residential homes were coming up pretty quickly.

2:4:38.620 --> 2:4:47.970

Sophie Moiese Room

So next column I took a look and tried to figure out what how much of the 2023 portal was residential.

2:4:47.980 --> 2:4:50.170

Sophie Moiese Room

It was 15.7%.

2:4:51.240 --> 2:5:4.360

Sophie Moiese Room

It look took a look at 2024 and I was 20.94% and all this sort of made sense and what going along it took a look at what the percentage increase was by class.

2:5:5.370 --> 2:5:7.260

Sophie Moiese Room

Well, then we see the 37%.

2:5:7.270 --> 2:5:8.520

Sophie Moiese Room

We've all been talked about.

2:5:8.530 --> 2:5:13.690

Sophie Moiese Room

The average include increased by, you know, residential homes and that all made sense.

2:5:15.90 --> 2:5:25.720

Sophie Moiese Room

And then I had the aha moment, but we'll of all the tests coming out of Missoula County, how much is the residential homeowner paying Jesus?

2:5:25.730 --> 2:5:26.170

Sophie Moiese Room

Joseph.

2:5:26.180 --> 2:5:31.390

Sophie Moiese Room

Mary, what in the wide world of sports, 185% is what?

2:5:31.400 --> 2:5:39.100

Sophie Moiese Room

The residential homeowners now paying, so they're picking up not the only the taxes coming out of doesn't look county.

2:5:39.630 --> 2:5:58.980

Sophie Moiese Room

What portion of the additional taxes portion of the taxes that were decreased to the telecoms, to the utilities, to the airlines, the pipelines, the electrical generations, they've all had their taxes lowered, they've been shifted now onto residential omars.

2:5:59.570 --> 2:6:1.370

Sophie Moiese Room

This was a light bulb moment for me.

2:6:3.980 --> 2:6:6.670

Sophie Moiese Room

And not just shifted repeat the percentage again.

2:6:6.880 --> 2:6:7.230

Sophie Moiese Room

How?

2:6:7.240 --> 2:6:11.980

Sophie Moiese Room

How shifted 185% in just this one reappraisal cycle.

2:6:14.660 --> 2:6:17.260

Sophie Moiese Room

So that's that's solved that.

2:6:18.760 --> 2:6:22.310

Sophie Moiese Room

But I understood quite clearly what was really going on here.

2:6:22.320 --> 2:6:32.560

Sophie Moiese Room

Now the reductions in the business property tax, the reductions for all the central assessed uh folks that show up in Helen with their attorneys.

2:6:32.570 --> 2:6:38.640

Sophie Moiese Room

The reductions for northwestern energy, all these things are now being put on the residential homeowner.

2:6:38.970 --> 2:6:47.460

Sophie Moiese Room

That's why a 5.4% increase in our tax revenue does not equate to a 5.4% increase on our property.

2:6:47.470 --> 2:6:49.610

Sophie Moiese Room

Homeowners rap tax bill.

2:7:5.390 --> 2:7:6.780

Sophie Moiese Room

But what does it mean?

2:7:6.970 --> 2:7:31.320

Sophie Moiese Room

We're still living in 5.44% for the increase, but because of the continued shift in the Class 4 residential homes and 5.4% increase to the Five Counties Tax revenue, it will appear on some tax bills larger percentage than the 5.4% because of the increase in 37% in tax value in the 185% shift.

2:7:32.10 --> 2:7:37.580

Sophie Moiese Room

Umm, I'm not coming to the county and lost for residential homes.

2:7:38.960 --> 2:7:40.960

Sophie Moiese Room

It won't equate to the same percentage.

2:7:45.10 --> 2:7:45.670

Sophie Moiese Room

Thank you, missionaries.

2:7:45.680 --> 2:7:56.810

Sophie Moiese Room

I think just to emphasize what Andrew is saying, I think that's why it's really important for folks to understand how these tax impacts are and tax shift is impacting residential property homeowners.

2:7:56.820 --> 2:8:8.730

Sophie Moiese Room

Normally we're able to come to you and say, you know, this year, if you want a \$500,000 home, here's how much the increase will be so that we can show what that would look like for the average homeowner.

2:8:8.740 --> 2:8:19.510

Sophie Moiese Room

But this year, because of reappraisal and this shift that's happening, it's different for every single home in Missoula County, based on how much the value of that home change.

2:8:19.520 --> 2:8:31.590

Sophie Moiese Room

So there is no one universal number which we have historically seen because the shift is so great this year, even in years where values went up 5678 percent, we were able to get to that number.

2:8:31.600 --> 2:8:39.930

Sophie Moiese Room

But this average 37% makes that number unattainable from a mathematic stand mathematical standpoint for us to give that that number.

2:8:42.440 --> 2:8:53.90

Sophie Moiese Room

So a few last points just for folks here and then I'll address some of the public comment that has happened previously and then we'll open it up for public comment here for folks in the room and online.

2:8:53.540 --> 2:9:24.940

Sophie Moiese Room

So as Andrew mentioned, we will be levying an additional 5.4% increase in countywide taxes to be able to support the ongoing operations of Missoula County and that includes the 3% increase for operational cost to be able to cover the goods and services that we buy in the marketplace, just like everyone else, as well as a cost of living increase across the board, which averages between 2 1/2% and 4% for our various collective bargaining agreements to make sure that we're able to fill the positions that Missoula County needs to have filled.

2:9:25.470 --> 2:9:28.920

Sophie Moiese Room

But there are real world impacts for folks related to that, and I apologize.

2:9:28.930 --> 2:9:30.990

Sophie Moiese Room

The PowerPoint got away from me there.

2:9:33.940 --> 2:10:4.820

Sophie Moiese Room

Just as a reminder, and I borrowed this slide from the City of Missoula, but for folks to understand that there has been since 1999 when we went, when we started down this road related to property taxes under the bill that was passed in 1998 as a constitutional initiative, we have seen residential property taxes as a piece of the pie of who pays taxes move from 42% to over 63% of the total taxes that are collected, while those other sectors, commercial, centrally assessed and others continue to decrease.

2:10:7.440 --> 2:10:15.750

Sophie Moiese Room

So as part of your budget process, we went through the comments that you've received online just for folks who aren't here in person to be able to hear those.

2:10:15.800 --> 2:10:28.270

Sophie Moiese Room

Generally, the theme of the emails and comments that we got were that any increases to property taxes were straining and already strained household budget, and that any increases should be kept as small as possible and related to core services.

2:10:28.820 --> 2:10:51.950

Sophie Moiese Room

Several of the comments that we received were actually directed to the City of Missoula's budget, but the one question I did want to make sure that we address is why people pay both city and county taxes when they live inside the city limits, and that is because not only are city residents residents of the county, which is true, but also because the county provides several services that the city of Missoula does not provide to those residents.

2:10:52.280 --> 2:10:59.530

Sophie Moiese Room

And so some of those services include things that you heard earlier today from Bradley, our Elections office, Missoula County conducts all elections in Missoula County.

2:10:59.660 --> 2:11:3.610

Sophie Moiese Room

So that includes the city primary that's occurring now and the city general election that will occur.

2:11:3.800 --> 2:11:7.350

Sophie Moiese Room

Those are not provided by the city, but are actually hosted by the County of Missoula.

2:11:7.640 --> 2:11:17.990

Sophie Moiese Room

In addition to that, we're responsible providing District Court, so felony cases all are dealt with by the County Attorney's office and our District Court staff here at Missoula County as opposed to through the city limits.

2:11:18.40 --> 2:11:18.500

Sophie Moiese Room

Limits.

2:11:18.720 --> 2:11:22.630

Sophie Moiese Room

And that's just two examples of services that are provided by that.

2:11:22.640 --> 2:11:31.770

Sophie Moiese Room

In addition, folks who live outside the city limits receive their public works service through us, so there are county only mills that we levy for folks to be able to get their roads plowed.

2:11:32.60 --> 2:11:44.690

Sophie Moiese Room

In addition to that, the health Department and Animal Control services outside the city limits are paid for by those county only mills that folks see on their bill when they live in the county, but they do not see if you live only in the county, the city portion on their tax bill.

2:11:47.280 --> 2:11:51.190

Sophie Moiese Room

Several comments asked the Commission consider not funding the Johnson St Shelter.

2:11:51.240 --> 2:12:5.730

Sophie Moiese Room

Many of these comments indicated that it was unfair for taxes collected from county residents to go towards what it was seen as primarily a city service, just as a reminder, the Johnson St Shelter is being funded out of an remittance from the tax Increment Finance District.

2:12:5.740 --> 2:12:9.630

Sophie Moiese Room

So those taxes are only collected inside the city limits, not from county residents.

2:12:10.60 --> 2:12:13.490

Sophie Moiese Room

And those those funds are being spent only inside the city limits.

2:12:14.520 --> 2:12:25.440

Sophie Moiese Room

UH-1 commenter understood that budgets were stretched thin, but asked that we increase funding to law enforcement this year to allow for additional traffic patrols in and around the county, specifically related to speeding and other things.

2:12:25.450 --> 2:12:40.160

Sophie Moiese Room

And they stated that they would believe that the fine revenue that might be collected could help offset some of the costs, just As for folks to know most of the revenue that's generated from fines other than a very small portion actually goes to the state of Montana and is not returned to local government.

2:12:41.760 --> 2:12:47.750

Sophie Moiese Room

Several commenters asked that the commissioners keep the rate of growth two or less than the inflation that is currently happening.

2:12:47.760 --> 2:12:51.270

Sophie Moiese Room

And as Andrew mentioned during his presentation, we are below inflation.

2:12:51.280 --> 2:12:58.460

Sophie Moiese Room

Inflation's about 6% in Missoula County, and the increase that we are looking at is approximately 5.4% in total tax revenues that will be collected.

2:12:59.410 --> 2:13:7.440

Sophie Moiese Room

Several commenters stated that increase in property taxes on businesses would just lead to greater costs for consumers and potentially slower job growth.

2:13:7.790 --> 2:13:10.240

Sophie Moiese Room

Certainly local businesses do that.

2:13:10.310 --> 2:13:24.840

Sophie Moiese Room

Property taxes do have a direct impact on, but again, many of the national chains be at Walmart, Verizon, AT&T, or others don't actually pass those costs on in a one to one ratio because they balance those across their entire market, which spans the the country.

2:13:27.300 --> 2:13:40.110

Sophie Moiese Room

So just as a reminder for folks, if you were home, did not change value this year, then you would be actually looking at a tax decrease based on the way the state of Montana requires us to calculate property taxes.

2:13:40.120 --> 2:13:45.110

Sophie Moiese Room

But that really is only part of the story, because the fact is, reappraisal did happen.

2:13:45.120 --> 2:13:52.610

Sophie Moiese Room

And so folks who previously had a home valued at \$300,000 now have a home that is most likely valued closer to \$500,000.

2:13:52.920 --> 2:13:58.910

Sophie Moiese Room

And so that decrease won't actually happen, but we are required to report uh based on state law.

2:13:58.920 --> 2:14:7.430

Sophie Moiese Room

The numbers, as they would have us present them and that would show a tax decrease based on the fact that we will be lower levying fewer mills.

2:14:7.440 --> 2:14:11.520

Sophie Moiese Room

But that is only a piece of the story, and certainly not all of it.

2:14:12.920 --> 2:14:21.570

Sophie Moiese Room

So the reality is the rest of the story is Andrew mentioned that because that home that was worth about \$300,000 actually is now worth \$500,000.

2:14:22.0 --> 2:14:32.930

Sophie Moiese Room

Most folks will see an increase in their taxes in Missoula County because of that, but you need to be able to calculate your taxes for each of those properties individually.

2:14:32.940 --> 2:14:50.570

Sophie Moiese Room

And so we've done that here as I wrap up our budget presentation for every \$100,000 of value that a house is, the total taxes that Missoula County will collect for county wide taxes is \$251.63.

2:14:50.720 --> 2:15:4.430

Sophie Moiese Room

So if you're home is valued at \$300,000 now you can take that 251 and multiply it by three to get your new countywide tax amount that you would see on your 24 tax bill.

2:15:5.700 --> 2:15:5.980

Sophie Moiese Room

Stop.

2:15:7.130 --> 2:15:9.310

Sophie Moiese Room

That's not the increase that is the total tax.

2:15:9.320 --> 2:15:10.500

Sophie Moiese Room

Thank you, Andrew, for that reminder.

2:15:10.510 --> 2:15:19.330

Sophie Moiese Room

That is not the increase, that is the total tax, not the increase for folks for media in the room.

2:15:19.340 --> 2:15:21.710

Sophie Moiese Room

That was the total tax.

2:15:21.760 --> 2:15:22.330

Sophie Moiese Room

OK.

2:15:22.340 --> 2:15:22.810

Sophie Moiese Room

Thank you.

2:15:22.880 --> 2:15:23.40

Sophie Moiese Room

Yeah.

2:15:23.940 --> 2:15:31.390

Sophie Moiese Room

And so just our last slide here is a reminder that our budget is going to increase and collect more revenue this year from taxes to cover those ongoing expenses.

2:15:31.400 --> 2:15:38.490

Sophie Moiese Room

It's about 5.4% consumer price index shows inflation for the last 12 months in Missoula at about 6%.

2:15:38.500 --> 2:15:40.270

Sophie Moiese Room

So we are trying to stay below that number.

2:15:40.320 --> 2:15:54.510

Sophie Moiese Room

I know it's closer than many would like, but that helps to ensure the Missoula County will be able to fill those critical needs around public safety and other services that Commissioners I'd ask you to open it up to public comment in the room, and of course we'll answer any questions that Commission might have as well.

2:15:54.520 --> 2:15:57.640

Sophie Moiese Room

And I'm going to stop sharing my screen just so that we can see a little bit easier.

2:15:58.270 --> 2:16:0.280

Sophie Moiese Room

The folks online who might have questions.

2:16:0.930 --> 2:16:1.620

Sophie Moiese Room

All right.

2:16:1.690 --> 2:16:5.460

Sophie Moiese Room

Thank you, Chris and Andrew for that presentation.

2:16:5.470 --> 2:16:33.700

Sophie Moiese Room

So we're going to begin in the Sophie Moe's room in the Missoula County Courthouse and open it up for public comment on, and we'll take comment on not only the overall budget that Chris and Andrew just presented on, but also this is a chance if anyone does want to comment on any of those rural special improvement districts and their budgets or the Missoula Local government building.

2:16:34.590 --> 2:16:39.40

Sophie Moiese Room

Chris, did I miss it, or were you gonna talk about the fairgrounds?

2:16:39.50 --> 2:16:47.800

Sophie Moiese Room

So I'm I'm sorry, Commissioners, that was in the ongoing tax increase in the culture and recreation section of our budget to cover the cost of removing the grandstands.

2:16:47.930 --> 2:16:55.880

Sophie Moiese Room

Got and the construction of the new ones, thanks to the generous, we did hear that, yes, OK.

2:16:56.50 --> 2:16:57.460

Sophie Moiese Room

Public comment, anyone?

2:16:57.530 --> 2:17:0.400

Sophie Moiese Room

Sir, do you have a question or a comment?

2:17:0.810 --> 2:17:2.360

Sophie Moiese Room

Yeah, come on up to the microphone.

2:17:2.370 --> 2:17:4.660

Sophie Moiese Room

And if you could restate your name, that would be great.

2:17:4.670 --> 2:17:5.930

Sophie Moiese Room

I'm Gary koprivica.

2:17:6.540 --> 2:17:16.870

Sophie Moiese Room

As inflation goes down, which it is down to 3.2% now and a property values go down my home.

2:17:16.880 --> 2:17:20.920

Sophie Moiese Room

Now, according to Realtors, is down 7%.

2:17:21.450 --> 2:17:31.780

Sophie Moiese Room

So how are we going to get, uh, a property decreased because of inflation going down and values going down?

2:17:32.310 --> 2:17:39.240

Sophie Moiese Room

I think the short answer is, until the next reappraisal cycle, what was what?

2:17:39.350 --> 2:17:41.460

Sophie Moiese Room

Uh, that will not happen, Chris.

2:17:41.820 --> 2:17:51.80

Sophie Moiese Room

So Commissioners, that is, that is correct, although just as a reminder for folks, if they are seeing changes in the valuation of the their home, the Department of Revenue has a form that you can fill out online.

2:17:51.90 --> 2:17:54.750

Sophie Moiese Room

I'm going to get the name of it wrong, but I believe it's a B24 in a B24.

2:17:54.800 --> 2:18:5.160

Sophie Moiese Room

Thank you, Commissioner Strohmeier that you can fill out, which would allow the DVR to reevaluate the value of your home, and if they find that it has gone down in value, then they can make that adjustment.

2:18:5.170 --> 2:18:13.720

Sophie Moiese Room

And then in the 20 fiscal year 2025, because 24, their review is over fiscal year 25, then that amount would go down based on the new value of the home.

2:18:13.890 --> 2:18:15.150

Sophie Moiese Room

Now, who do we see for that?

2:18:15.270 --> 2:18:23.270

Sophie Moiese Room

That is, the Department of Revenue that the state and there's a web their form is available both online as well as if you have difficulty finding it, let me know what I can help you.

2:18:23.280 --> 2:18:28.410

Sophie Moiese Room

I appreciate that now and also heard you talk about the prices that you pay.

2:18:28.640 --> 2:18:34.390

Sophie Moiese Room

Let's take for example tires and that you pay what we pay now.

2:18:34.400 --> 2:18:37.780

Sophie Moiese Room

Is there a reason that the city and county can't negotiate prices?

2:18:41.110 --> 2:18:46.990

Sophie Moiese Room

So we do attempt to negotiate prices where where we can, but we still have to buy in that market that marketplace.

2:18:47.0 --> 2:18:48.610

Sophie Moiese Room

And so excuse me.

2:18:48.620 --> 2:18:50.510

Sophie Moiese Room

I apologize, I'm getting dry throat. Here.

2:18:50.700 --> 2:18:56.660

Sophie Moiese Room

We do have Shane Stack on who might be able to speak to this more directly from our public Works department.

2:19:2.140 --> 2:19:2.470

Shane Stack

It does.

2:19:2.530 --> 2:19:6.80

Sophie Moiese Room

In bulk, but the reality is the number of tires that we go through is pretty significant.

2:19:6.90 --> 2:19:12.700

Sophie Moiese Room

If you think about one Sheriff's Department vehicle driving several 100,000 miles per year, it burns through tires pretty quickly.

2:19:14.160 --> 2:19:14.450

Shane Stack

Yeah.

2:19:12.710 --> 2:19:14.790

Sophie Moiese Room

Shane, can you, Shane?

2:19:14.460 --> 2:19:29.280

Shane Stack

And I think obviously Chris too, I mean we've got a purchasing policy that the we we've also gotta follow, you know and and we do you know we are looking for the best price we can get for everything regardless of what it is.

2:19:28.480 --> 2:19:31.730

Sophie Moiese Room

But do you have somebody that negotiates these prices?

2:19:32.280 --> 2:19:41.390

Sophie Moiese Room

I was in retail business for 38 years here in Missoula and we negotiated everything because we had to really pay attention to our costs.

2:19:41.500 --> 2:19:41.970

Sophie Moiese Room

So.

2:19:41.900 --> 2:19:42.160

Shane Stack

Yeah.

2:19:41.980 --> 2:19:44.790

Sophie Moiese Room

So, Sir, I and I'm going to cut you off, Shane.

2:19:44.800 --> 2:19:56.600

Sophie Moiese Room

I I think we we get the gist of your point that when when feasible, we absolutely look for economies of scale and what we're purchasing and try to get as low a price as possible.

2:19:58.690 --> 2:20:10.320

Sophie Moiese Room

So it's not just us going down to Les Schwab tires or somewhere else and and doing a A1 off necessarily, but we're still subject to the same market forces as everyone else.

2:20:10.330 --> 2:20:15.850

Sophie Moiese Room

So we can't just go in and say, you know what, cut us a deal here and give us half of the rate of inflation.

2:20:16.380 --> 2:20:18.110

Sophie Moiese Room

Uh, no.

2:20:18.160 --> 2:20:18.720

Sophie Moiese Room

Well, why not?

2:20:20.290 --> 2:20:21.220

Sophie Moiese Room

That someone should.

2:20:24.700 --> 2:20:25.50

Shane Stack

Ah.

2:20:21.230 --> 2:20:40.190

Sophie Moiese Room

Well, I mean, if these prices well, Sir, we we get you we get your point that we're we we do currently and will always look for ways in which we can get bulk deals or pricing that is as low as possible for the taxpayer but who's responsible for that.

2:20:41.230 --> 2:20:43.490

Sophie Moiese Room

So I can I can try and answer Chris go.

2:20:43.610 --> 2:20:45.630

Sophie Moiese Room

It varies on what the good or service is.

2:20:45.640 --> 2:20:48.310

Sophie Moiese Room

So and it depends on how much of it we're talking about buying.

2:20:48.320 --> 2:20:58.630

Sophie Moiese Room

So state law sets out a process by which, depending on the cost of it, starting at \$80,000, which is the high end of what I'm going to talk about, we have to go out for what's called an RFP.

2:20:58.640 --> 2:21:3.90

Sophie Moiese Room

And that allows businesses to respond directly to that and about \$20,000.

2:21:3.100 --> 2:21:12.720

Sophie Moiese Room

We have to go out and solicit quotes from businesses to get the lowest price for for those and then we purchased based off whoever the lowest price supplier is at that particular piece.

2:21:12.730 --> 2:21:21.300

Sophie Moiese Room

But what we have seen is no matter how you look at that, while we're still attempting to get that price, those prices are higher today in 2023 than they were in 2019.

2:21:21.310 --> 2:21:22.900

Sophie Moiese Room

And that's just true across the board.

2:21:22.910 --> 2:21:24.100

Sophie Moiese Room

No, I understand that.

2:21:24.490 --> 2:21:27.140

Sophie Moiese Room

But that doesn't mean we're going to have to move on.

2:21:27.150 --> 2:21:30.580

Sophie Moiese Room

We get the gist of your point, but how?

2:21:30.650 --> 2:21:33.550

Sophie Moiese Room

How can I address other than you cutting me off?

2:21:34.430 --> 2:21:39.770

Sophie Moiese Room

So please state your comment and and we need to move on to other public comment.

2:21:41.30 --> 2:21:41.500

Sophie Moiese Room

OK.

2:21:41.510 --> 2:21:57.490

Sophie Moiese Room

Then also I believe that if we were to hire three more police officers, 10 more police officers, we could pay for their their cost by just letting them check how many people are on their phones.

2:21:57.500 --> 2:22:7.610

Sophie Moiese Room

You look like to reserve St and they would find 100 a day and again Sir, we are not the city of Missoula Police Department.

2:22:8.120 --> 2:22:17.500

Sophie Moiese Room

Enforcing the cell phone ordinance within the city and we are not collecting revenue from tickets that go into our general fund of Missoula County.

2:22:18.160 --> 2:22:18.690

Sophie Moiese Room

OK.

2:22:18.980 --> 2:22:26.660

Sophie Moiese Room

Is it possible for me to have a or get a quote on on the cost of different items and?

2:22:27.840 --> 2:22:32.470

Sophie Moiese Room

Check and see how much negotiation is being done yet.

2:22:32.480 --> 2:22:33.210

Sophie Moiese Room

Certainly I can.

2:22:33.220 --> 2:22:36.970

Sophie Moiese Room

I can connect you with our county auditor who overseas all the procurement from Missoula County.

2:22:37.220 --> 2:22:38.90

Sophie Moiese Room

I'd appreciate it.

2:22:38.100 --> 2:22:38.650

Sophie Moiese Room

Yeah, you bet.

2:22:38.920 --> 2:22:39.390

Sophie Moiese Room

Thank you.

2:22:40.140 --> 2:22:46.830

Sophie Moiese Room

And if and Sir, if you could please leave, Commissioner, your contact information before you leave, we can be in touch with you.

2:22:46.840 --> 2:22:48.30

Sophie Moiese Room

Thank you missioners.

2:22:48.40 --> 2:22:49.550

Sophie Moiese Room

I did want to make one quick correction.

2:22:49.560 --> 2:22:54.330

Sophie Moiese Room

I said it was an AB24 and luckily one of our folks who is online quickly corrected me.

2:22:54.340 --> 2:23:2.390

Sophie Moiese Room

It's actually an AB26 is the name of the form and so I just want to make sure that I correct that as a B26 not a B24 for the form.

2:23:2.750 --> 2:23:3.540

Sophie Moiese Room

OK.

2:23:3.680 --> 2:23:5.200

Sophie Moiese Room

And important correction.

2:23:5.210 --> 2:23:5.870

Sophie Moiese Room

Thank you for that.

2:23:7.490 --> 2:23:10.100

Sophie Moiese Room

Anyone else in the room like to comment on the budget?

2:23:10.190 --> 2:23:11.440

Sophie Moiese Room

So did you have a comment?

2:23:11.450 --> 2:23:12.790

Sophie Moiese Room

Come on up to the microphone, please.

2:23:12.800 --> 2:23:17.190

Sophie Moiese Room

And if you could state your name, my name is Mike paternity.

2:23:17.200 --> 2:23:19.230

Sophie Moiese Room

And actually I have a question, if that's OK.

2:23:19.240 --> 2:23:24.420

Sophie Moiese Room

Sure, I didn't quite catch everything about the 185% shift.

2:23:25.140 --> 2:23:27.810

Sophie Moiese Room

Uh, maybe you could explain that again.

2:23:27.820 --> 2:23:33.230

Sophie Moiese Room

I'm I'm hard of hearing and apparently harder vision too, so I it's it's a great slide.

2:23:33.240 --> 2:23:34.20

Sophie Moiese Room

Bring the slide back.

2:23:36.10 --> 2:23:36.430

Sophie Moiese Room

OK.

2:23:46.680 --> 2:23:49.230

Sophie Moiese Room

Thank you for asking this because this is this is important.

2:23:49.240 --> 2:23:50.530

Sophie Moiese Room

Well, it's kind of complicated.

2:23:50.720 --> 2:23:51.890

Sophie Moiese Room

Is complicated.

2:23:59.920 --> 2:24:8.600

Sophie Moiese Room

But while while Mr Sonny's looking at did I, or excuse me, I don't know if I'm calling people, you know, that's fine.

2:24:8.810 --> 2:24:9.560

Sophie Moiese Room

Go ahead, Andrew.

2:24:9.570 --> 2:24:9.980

Sophie Moiese Room

Over there.

2:24:9.990 --> 2:24:11.910

Sophie Moiese Room

Yeah, yeah, sure.

2:24:12.450 --> 2:24:12.880

Sophie Moiese Room

I don't know.

2:24:15.160 --> 2:24:15.540

Sophie Moiese Room

All right.

2:24:15.550 --> 2:24:29.420

Sophie Moiese Room

So like, yes, so this is the different classes of property is 11 major classes of property within the county and in 2023 he here were all the their taxable values, right.

2:24:30.600 --> 2:25:5.530

Sophie Moiese Room

And I think we cut the total off, but there was a total down below and this was 2024 and those are their total taxable values and the one I keep kind of keep an eye on is residential see it's 188,000, 2020, 308 million, 2023 25769 million dollar increase, so 15% increase over 2023 and we we went knowing I'm sorry this is a percent that this was of the total 12023.

2:25:5.540 --> 2:25:7.450

Sophie Moiese Room

So that's that's percent of the total.

2:25:7.460 --> 2:25:13.230

Sophie Moiese Room

So it is 15% of total in 2023 moved up to 20% of the total in 2020.

2:25:13.240 --> 2:25:15.120

Sophie Moiese Room

420% of that total right?

2:25:17.440 --> 2:25:21.790

Sophie Moiese Room

And then we're looking what what was the actual increases from these classes?

2:25:23.40 --> 2:25:26.760

Sophie Moiese Room

Well, 137% that's that average increase we've been talking about.

2:25:26.770 --> 2:25:27.250

Sophie Moiese Room

I got it.

2:25:27.540 --> 2:25:32.280

Sophie Moiese Room

OK, here's the decreases that that makes sense.

2:25:32.290 --> 2:25:34.550

Sophie Moiese Room

Here, here's the what, what the change is.

2:25:34.560 --> 2:25:41.690

Sophie Moiese Room

When I looked at the total taxes kind of my other county, what what was the residential portion of that was honored 85%.

2:25:41.700 --> 2:25:42.170

Sophie Moiese Room

Thank you.

2:25:42.560 --> 2:25:43.160

Sophie Moiese Room

Thank you very much.

2:25:43.170 --> 2:25:44.50

Sophie Moiese Room

I understand now.

2:25:44.580 --> 2:25:45.90

Sophie Moiese Room

Yes, Sir.

2:25:45.160 --> 2:25:56.180

Sophie Moiese Room

That is a change in taxable value and what I struggle with is the ultimate decision is how many miles you're gonna apply or charge, not the assessed value that that number.

2:25:56.190 --> 2:25:57.230

Sophie Moiese Room

That's information.

2:25:57.340 --> 2:25:58.290

Sophie Moiese Room

That's all that is.

2:25:58.660 --> 2:26:6.250

Sophie Moiese Room

No, no, I I I'm probably fuzzy on statutory regulations regarding assessed value.

2:26:6.260 --> 2:26:10.590

Sophie Moiese Room

I know you're required to show it, but there's no requirement.

2:26:10.640 --> 2:26:15.700

Sophie Moiese Room

I mean the amount you of tax you apply to assess values is entirely up to the county, right?

2:26:16.930 --> 2:26:30.360

Sophie Moiese Room

Well, excuse me, the the property tax part on residential, I understand all the stuff above the line, the the stuff that you get through grants and you know one time funding sources and all that.

2:26:30.440 --> 2:26:37.320

Sophie Moiese Room

But the amount of mills you apply to come up with the property tax is is up to you guys.

2:26:38.30 --> 2:26:40.260

Sophie Moiese Room

I I think yes and no.

2:26:40.270 --> 2:26:45.840

Sophie Moiese Room

So there's a different tax rate applied to all of those different classes of property.

2:26:45.850 --> 2:26:57.860

Sophie Moiese Room

So we don't get to determine that the state of Montana does we we get to determine the overall number of mills that we levy across all of those property classifications.

2:26:57.870 --> 2:27:0.640

Sophie Moiese Room

Chris or Andrew for county?

2:27:0.650 --> 2:27:2.450

Sophie Moiese Room

Yes, OK.

2:27:2.460 --> 2:27:7.90

Sophie Moiese Room

We have no jurisdiction over Fire City.

2:27:7.100 --> 2:27:10.850

Sophie Moiese Room

Yeah, I understand schools and I I wouldn't criticize on that basis.

2:27:11.320 --> 2:27:12.550

Sophie Moiese Room

Thank you for the information.

2:27:12.560 --> 2:27:25.670

Sophie Moiese Room

I I I am just curious though I noticed on the news the other night that Flathead County managed to reduce their property taxes in this year's excellent about that off.

2:27:25.680 --> 2:27:27.50

Sophie Moiese Room

Yes, excellent question.

2:27:27.200 --> 2:27:28.530

Sophie Moiese Room

Actually no.

2:27:28.590 --> 2:27:39.730

Sophie Moiese Room

And and and this is by virtue of the fact of the the reporting format is that the state of Montana requires us to use Chris.

2:27:40.460 --> 2:27:42.430

Sophie Moiese Room

Do you wanna recap this again?

2:27:42.700 --> 2:27:46.850

Sophie Moiese Room

It's it's a little, it's not entirely accurate.

2:27:47.20 --> 2:27:52.940

Sophie Moiese Room

So, so Commissioners that what Flathead County is not taking into consideration as reappraisal.

2:27:53.270 --> 2:28:1.440

Sophie Moiese Room

And so the fact is, this year from Missoula County, if your house is still worth \$100,000, you will pay less money on it this year than you did last year.

2:28:1.530 --> 2:28:4.400

Sophie Moiese Room

But your home is no longer worth \$100,000.

2:28:4.910 --> 2:28:9.430

Sophie Moiese Room

So Flathead County is using \$500,000, for example, as the cost of a home.

2:28:9.440 --> 2:28:14.160

Sophie Moiese Room

Missoula County we use \$600,000 because that's closer to the median home price this year.

2:28:14.170 --> 2:28:21.310

Sophie Moiese Room

If you have a \$600,000 home, you will pay \$273.38 less then you paid last year.

2:28:21.660 --> 2:28:25.210

Sophie Moiese Room

If you're home, last year was also worth \$600,000.

2:28:27.580 --> 2:28:27.970

Sophie Moiese Room

So.

2:28:27.980 --> 2:28:35.850

Sophie Moiese Room

So basically, if you're home value went up anywhere in the state of Montana, including Flathead or Missoula County, you make no mistake about it.

2:28:35.860 --> 2:28:38.300

Sophie Moiese Room

You will be paying more taxes this year.

2:28:38.310 --> 2:28:40.810

Sophie Moiese Room

So does this relate to the point you made earlier about?

2:28:40.900 --> 2:28:42.840

Sophie Moiese Room

It's a case, but individual house by house.

2:28:45.120 --> 2:28:47.850

Sophie Moiese Room

So in aggregate, Missoula County.

2:28:50.420 --> 2:28:54.60

Sophie Moiese Room

Yeah, I it's confusing, but anyway, well, it is that, Sir.

2:28:54.230 --> 2:28:54.700

Sophie Moiese Room

Thank you.

2:28:54.930 --> 2:28:55.370

Sophie Moiese Room

Thank you.

2:28:57.240 --> 2:29:7.610

Sophie Moiese Room

Anyone else in the room want to comment, but that's that's just to to your point about the report that you heard out of Flathead, that the math was accurate.

2:29:7.880 --> 2:29:11.860

Sophie Moiese Room

It's just that it's not the complete story.

2:29:11.870 --> 2:29:16.680

Sophie Moiese Room

The complete story is that reappraisal has happened, and that wasn't what was shared in that report.

2:29:17.10 --> 2:29:26.100

Sophie Moiese Room

So that's what makes it if you're home value did not increase, you would be paying less because we're leaving fewer mills.

2:29:26.190 --> 2:29:34.60

Sophie Moiese Room

If your home value has increased, which I know mine has a significantly and and many other folks.

2:29:34.340 --> 2:29:43.60

Sophie Moiese Room

Uh in Missoula County and Flathead County, for that matter, have seen increases in their assessed values notwithstanding.

2:29:43.70 --> 2:29:48.980

Sophie Moiese Room

If you have some take exception with that and actually did see a reduction in your home value, that's a different story.

2:29:48.990 --> 2:29:54.580

Sophie Moiese Room

But if it did increase, you will be paying more, Andrew.

2:29:54.770 --> 2:29:56.280

Sophie Moiese Room

Give this one more try.

2:29:56.290 --> 2:29:58.230

Sophie Moiese Room

OK, take let's take another run at this.

2:29:59.440 --> 2:30:5.290

Sophie Moiese Room

Last year, the mill values were higher and we're limited by the number of mills we can levies.

2:30:5.420 --> 2:30:9.490

Sophie Moiese Room

So because it was a higher mill value, we could let levy less mills.

2:30:9.500 --> 2:30:13.590

Sophie Moiese Room

Alright, so uh, I'm sorry.

2:30:13.660 --> 2:30:15.100

Sophie Moiese Room

What's your excuse?

2:30:15.110 --> 2:30:15.190

Sophie Moiese Room

Me.

2:30:15.200 --> 2:30:16.870

Sophie Moiese Room

It was lower mill value.

2:30:17.0 --> 2:30:18.950

Sophie Moiese Room

Last year was good.

2:30:19.20 --> 2:30:19.710

Sophie Moiese Room

We could have.

2:30:19.720 --> 2:30:22.70

Sophie Moiese Room

We could have higher mills this year.

2:30:22.80 --> 2:30:24.910

Sophie Moiese Room

It's a higher mill value and we have less mills.

2:30:25.260 --> 2:30:25.630

Sophie Moiese Room

What?

2:30:25.640 --> 2:30:27.240

Sophie Moiese Room

What they've done is combine the two.

2:30:27.280 --> 2:30:31.930

Sophie Moiese Room

They've used the less mills and they've applied it against the lower mill value.

2:30:32.260 --> 2:30:41.880

Sophie Moiese Room

They've combined the two years, so this year we have Iron Mills hire mill values so we can levy less.

2:30:41.890 --> 2:30:43.30

Sophie Moiese Room

They've used that number.

2:30:43.550 --> 2:30:49.560

Sophie Moiese Room

Last year we had lower mills and we could levy more, but they didn't use that one.

2:30:49.730 --> 2:30:52.90

Sophie Moiese Room

They used the lower mills so they lower mills.

2:30:52.920 --> 2:30:57.390

Sophie Moiese Room

Laura Miller value multiplied the two, you get a decrease in home value.

2:30:59.800 --> 2:31:0.150

Sophie Moiese Room

You're up.

2:31:0.160 --> 2:31:3.60

Sophie Moiese Room

There's home, still still complicated, without a doubt.

2:31:3.70 --> 2:31:3.500

Sophie Moiese Room

I'm sorry.

2:31:3.780 --> 2:31:4.630

Sophie Moiese Room

No, that's OK.

2:31:4.640 --> 2:31:5.20

Sophie Moiese Room

Thank you.

2:31:5.870 --> 2:31:11.80

Sophie Moiese Room

Alright, we're going to go to public comment online or on the phone, we will.

2:31:11.90 --> 2:31:16.170

Sophie Moiese Room

It looks like we have a phone number ending in 1829.

2:31:16.180 --> 2:31:21.450

Sophie Moiese Room

Caller, would you like to unmute yourself and state your name and provide your comment?

2:31:23.30 --> 2:31:27.860

f0c85970-16e5-4337-a720-5157f1e4250c

This is Keith Copper beacon, and I'm gonna ask you to bear with me because I have quite a bit to say.

2:31:28.800 --> 2:31:40.190

f0c85970-16e5-4337-a720-5157f1e4250c

I'm first of all, Chris, you said that if home values didn't change, then our property taxes would go down well, yes and no.

2:31:40.200 --> 2:31:46.490

f0c85970-16e5-4337-a720-5157f1e4250c

That's not necessarily true, because you've asked for an increase in the budget 5.4% increase in taxes.

2:31:46.500 --> 2:31:48.770

f0c85970-16e5-4337-a720-5157f1e4250c

So umm if the.

2:31:50.830 --> 2:31:55.740

f0c85970-16e5-4337-a720-5157f1e4250c

You, you you would have had to have not asked for any increase for our property taxes not to go down.

2:31:56.110 --> 2:32:1.660

f0c85970-16e5-4337-a720-5157f1e4250c

I'd also like to address on the issue that actually my brother talked about earlier.

2:32:1.830 --> 2:32:2.900

f0c85970-16e5-4337-a720-5157f1e4250c

His name is Gary.

2:32:3.830 --> 2:32:7.370

f0c85970-16e5-4337-a720-5157f1e4250c

He was talking about wondering why you don't negotiate.

2:32:7.850 --> 2:32:8.910

f0c85970-16e5-4337-a720-5157f1e4250c

I have a good friend.

2:32:8.920 --> 2:32:11.900

f0c85970-16e5-4337-a720-5157f1e4250c

That's a procurement manager for a Fortune 500 company.

2:32:11.910 --> 2:32:14.760

f0c85970-16e5-4337-a720-5157f1e4250c

And I just talked to him this past week about this.

2:32:15.350 --> 2:32:24.230

f0c85970-16e5-4337-a720-5157f1e4250c

He said that a good procurement manager will save a business or a county that they work for UH-10 times, their annual salary.

2:32:24.660 --> 2:32:26.790

f0c85970-16e5-4337-a720-5157f1e4250c

Missoula County needs a procurement manager.

2:32:27.120 --> 2:32:34.750

f0c85970-16e5-4337-a720-5157f1e4250c

You spend over \$200,000 a year on consultants, maybe the first consultant you should pay is a procurement consultant.

2:32:35.740 --> 2:32:36.950

f0c85970-16e5-4337-a720-5157f1e4250c

Let me give you an example.

2:32:37.240 --> 2:32:48.530

f0c85970-16e5-4337-a720-5157f1e4250c

The Missoula County, uh purchasing policy says the anything under \$20,000 doesn't require an RFP or even a limited solicitation process.

2:32:48.960 --> 2:33:5.30

f0c85970-16e5-4337-a720-5157f1e4250c

Missoula County Auditors Office issued a Quick guide to purchasing and it says, and I quote and this was distributed to Missoula County departments and I quote under \$20,000 any reputable county vendor don't contact auditor, just buy it.

2:33:5.870 --> 2:33:6.260

f0c85970-16e5-4337-a720-5157f1e4250c

So what?

2:33:6.270 --> 2:33:15.390

f0c85970-16e5-4337-a720-5157f1e4250c

I ask is how many hundreds of thousands of dollars are spent on purchases of less than 20,000 bucks without even a competitive price comparison?

2:33:15.920 --> 2:33:19.180

f0c85970-16e5-4337-a720-5157f1e4250c

As I said, Missoula County needs a procurement manager.

2:33:20.170 --> 2:33:27.780

f0c85970-16e5-4337-a720-5157f1e4250c

Many of the funding requests that you're making would use money from savings, and these savings were once taxes.

2:33:28.30 --> 2:33:40.360

f0c85970-16e5-4337-a720-5157f1e4250c

So you're planning on increasing spending a lot more than the 5.4% increase in property taxes, more like about \$10 million including savings and ARPA funds.

2:33:40.690 --> 2:33:42.120

f0c85970-16e5-4337-a720-5157f1e4250c

And that's all from taxes.

2:33:42.630 --> 2:33:49.200

f0c85970-16e5-4337-a720-5157f1e4250c

Commissioner Vero, thank you for forwarding to me the link of flames lists from the past several years.

2:33:49.810 --> 2:34:14.670

f0c85970-16e5-4337-a720-5157f1e4250c

I spent the last week combing over the last fiscal years spending and I guess maybe the most alarming thing I found was the amount that Missoula County spends on 50 at least last year on meals, lodging and incidentals \$1,757,041.07 it comes out to about \$2000 per employee.

2:34:14.750 --> 2:34:29.720

f0c85970-16e5-4337-a720-5157f1e4250c

If you have 880 employees now, that friend of mine that works for a Fortune 500 company told me that their spend on meals, lodging and incidentals per employee last year was 607 dollars, 70% less than Missoula County.

2:34:31.480 --> 2:34:39.520

f0c85970-16e5-4337-a720-5157f1e4250c

In addition, there was \$20,000 in food purchases and that doesn't include the detention center or the animal shelter.

2:34:40.600 --> 2:35:0.650

f0c85970-16e5-4337-a720-5157f1e4250c

It was one food purchase attributed to the Commissioners and the amount of \$44116.89 and another in the amount of \$11139.54 within the claims lost millions of dollars in credit card charges with little or no description of what products were purchased or vendor.

2:35:1.600 --> 2:35:2.390

f0c85970-16e5-4337-a720-5157f1e4250c

We're an example.

2:35:2.400 --> 2:35:9.390

f0c85970-16e5-4337-a720-5157f1e4250c

There's 200 claims charged to credit cards with the only product purchase description is contracted services.

2:35:9.860 --> 2:35:18.270

f0c85970-16e5-4337-a720-5157f1e4250c

No vendor listed over 76,000 charged on Citibank credit cards with no vendor and vague descriptions of the product purchased.

2:35:20.210 --> 2:35:20.830

Sophie Moiese Room

Hey, Keith.

2:35:18.840 --> 2:35:22.80

f0c85970-16e5-4337-a720-5157f1e4250c

There are 57193 purchases for yes.

2:35:20.840 --> 2:35:23.340

Sophie Moiese Room

Keith, you're you're beginning to run a little long.

2:35:23.350 --> 2:35:25.880

Sophie Moiese Room

I'd ask you to please wrap up your comments please.

2:35:24.740 --> 2:35:33.210

f0c85970-16e5-4337-a720-5157f1e4250c

Well, for Dave, you've got a you've got a \$110 million budget here and you're only gonna give me 3 minutes to comment on it.

2:35:33.220 --> 2:35:34.220

f0c85970-16e5-4337-a720-5157f1e4250c

Come on, I I wouldn't.

2:35:34.300 --> 2:35:39.450

f0c85970-16e5-4337-a720-5157f1e4250c

I'm asking for a little bit of leniency to maybe let me expound a little bit.

2:35:39.460 --> 2:35:41.790

f0c85970-16e5-4337-a720-5157f1e4250c

I spent a week digging through this stuff.

2:35:41.800 --> 2:35:43.590

f0c85970-16e5-4337-a720-5157f1e4250c

I would hope that you give me a little bit more time.

2:35:44.260 --> 2:35:45.970

Sophie Moiese Room

I will give you one more minute, Keith.

2:35:45.20 --> 2:35:48.570

f0c85970-16e5-4337-a720-5157f1e4250c

Umm, that's ridiculous.

2:35:48.580 --> 2:35:49.160

f0c85970-16e5-4337-a720-5157f1e4250c

One more minute.

2:35:50.150 --> 2:35:50.840

f0c85970-16e5-4337-a720-5157f1e4250c

OK.

2:35:51.10 --> 2:35:55.40

f0c85970-16e5-4337-a720-5157f1e4250c

Well, if that's, you know, I mean I guess are you, let me ask you this then.

2:35:55.170 --> 2:36:1.790

f0c85970-16e5-4337-a720-5157f1e4250c

Are you really interested in transparency, or are you just taking public comment for show?

2:36:2.720 --> 2:36:5.970

f0c85970-16e5-4337-a720-5157f1e4250c

There's a lot of information in here that the general public needs to know.

2:36:5.980 --> 2:36:20.490

f0c85970-16e5-4337-a720-5157f1e4250c

Here's what I here's what I will say if I were in the general public, I would request the same information that I dug through and take a look and see what Missoula County spending their money on the it's it's appalling.

2:36:20.540 --> 2:36:21.830

f0c85970-16e5-4337-a720-5157f1e4250c

The waste of money.

2:36:22.360 --> 2:36:35.920

f0c85970-16e5-4337-a720-5157f1e4250c

Everything from purchases with supposedly Lee Enterprises for soil conditioner to food purchases, to clothing purchases for the the commissioners made supposedly to greater good tactical.

2:36:35.930 --> 2:36:40.970

f0c85970-16e5-4337-a720-5157f1e4250c

I mean, you guys paid off this today.

2:36:57.530 --> 2:36:58.80

Sophie Moiese Room

Thank you.

2:36:41.260 --> 2:36:58.200

f0c85970-16e5-4337-a720-5157f1e4250c

You paid off several \$1,000,000 in claims there was about 8 pages of charges to MasterCard with the amount what it vague, vague description, no vendor descriptions like operating supplies, printing supplies.

2:36:58.90 --> 2:36:59.120

Sophie Moiese Room

Thank you, Keith.

2:36:59.130 --> 2:37:0.480

Sophie Moiese Room

I'm gonna cut you off here.

2:37:5.760 --> 2:37:6.970

f0c85970-16e5-4337-a720-5157f1e4250c

No, I haven't gave.

2:37:7.20 --> 2:37:7.530

f0c85970-16e5-4337-a720-5157f1e4250c

I haven't.

2:37:7.620 --> 2:37:8.910

f0c85970-16e5-4337-a720-5157f1e4250c

I have not supplied you.

2:37:0.490 --> 2:37:9.350

Sophie Moiese Room

We you've already supplied us with those questions previously and as I've told you outside this meeting, we are we are working on getting you some answers.

2:37:13.690 --> 2:37:13.830

Sophie Moiese Room

But.

2:37:9.280 --> 2:37:16.290

f0c85970-16e5-4337-a720-5157f1e4250c

I have not supplied you with those questions and you don't wanna hear what's real, real realistically going on in this county.

2:37:16.780 --> 2:37:17.200

Sophie Moiese Room

Thank.

2:37:16.300 --> 2:37:17.230

f0c85970-16e5-4337-a720-5157f1e4250c

That's sad.

2:37:17.260 --> 2:37:17.650

Sophie Moiese Room

Thank.

2:37:17.660 --> 2:37:18.400

Sophie Moiese Room

Thank you.

2:37:17.300 --> 2:37:18.970

f0c85970-16e5-4337-a720-5157f1e4250c

That is a sad state of affairs.

2:37:18.450 --> 2:37:21.260

Sophie Moiese Room

Mr Koprivica next commenter.

2:37:24.380 --> 2:37:25.30

Sophie Moiese Room

I know, Sir.

2:37:25.80 --> 2:37:28.80

Sophie Moiese Room

We're going to folks online who would like to comment.

2:37:31.560 --> 2:37:32.570

Sophie Moiese Room

Do we have any?

2:37:32.580 --> 2:37:41.720

Sophie Moiese Room

Well, one else on the line or joining us virtually, who would like to comment today?

2:37:49.660 --> 2:37:52.160

Sophie Moiese Room

OK, seeing none.

2:37:54.390 --> 2:37:57.630

Sophie Moiese Room

Sir, I'm going to give you just a little bit of grace.

2:37:57.770 --> 2:37:59.530

Sophie Moiese Room

Do you have a quick comment?

2:38:2.200 --> 2:38:3.770

Sophie Moiese Room

Come come to the microphone, please.

2:38:4.290 --> 2:38:8.570

Sophie Moiese Room

Not here to cause conflict, but when and could you state your name for the record?

2:38:8.580 --> 2:38:10.620

Sophie Moiese Room

Harry koprivica uh.

2:38:10.950 --> 2:38:20.560

Sophie Moiese Room

When you have citizens that are here listening and then have comments and they cut us off, how do we know that you're gonna pay attention?

2:38:20.870 --> 2:38:23.900

Sophie Moiese Room

Unless we get feedback from all of you.

2:38:25.80 --> 2:38:25.510

Sophie Moiese Room

Thank you, Sir.

2:38:27.330 --> 2:38:36.380

Sophie Moiese Room

And I think just in in Keys case where we're working on getting him answers to his comments, he's written those specific comments.

2:38:36.390 --> 2:38:36.880

Sophie Moiese Room

I didn't.

2:38:36.890 --> 2:38:38.230

Sophie Moiese Room

I didn't realize that though.

2:38:38.240 --> 2:38:38.740

Sophie Moiese Room

Thank you.

2:38:38.850 --> 2:38:39.10

Sophie Moiese Room

Yeah.

2:38:39.20 --> 2:38:39.380

Sophie Moiese Room

Thank you.

2:38:42.550 --> 2:38:44.540

Sophie Moiese Room

Anyone else online like to comment?

2:38:46.250 --> 2:38:46.670

Sophie Moiese Room

OK.

2:38:48.240 --> 2:38:53.520

Sophie Moiese Room

We will close the public hearing on the FY24 budget and we will.

2:38:54.950 --> 2:38:57.100

Sophie Moiese Room

Yeah, I think that's Keith again.

2:38:57.150 --> 2:39:3.750

Sophie Moiese Room

So we will have questions from the Commission well.

2:39:2.700 --> 2:39:4.620

f0c85970-16e5-4337-a720-5157f1e4250c

May I make a 10 second statement please?

2:39:7.60 --> 2:39:7.680

Sophie Moiese Room

Go ahead, Keith.

2:39:9.170 --> 2:39:15.220

f0c85970-16e5-4337-a720-5157f1e4250c

I did not raise the questions that, Commissioner, this Commissioner Vero just indicated no, I had.

2:39:15.230 --> 2:39:20.420

f0c85970-16e5-4337-a720-5157f1e4250c

I had a lot of stuff to say today that I have not presented to you and you cut me off.

2:39:20.510 --> 2:39:21.190

f0c85970-16e5-4337-a720-5157f1e4250c

That's all I have to say.

2:39:21.720 --> 2:39:22.630

Sophie Moiese Room

Thank you, Keith.

2:39:22.640 --> 2:39:34.340

Sophie Moiese Room

And I do believe that you had some questions about potentially miscoded claims related to clothing that you mentioned and some other items.

2:39:34.570 --> 2:39:40.760

Sophie Moiese Room

And we I have provided that to the Auditors Office and we are looking into that as we speak.

2:39:40.850 --> 2:39:56.450

Sophie Moiese Room

So, Commissioner Barrow, I just wanna know if Andrew or Chris, if you hit us again with the highlights to really beat the dead horse here, sure you back Commissioners.

2:39:56.460 --> 2:40:3.450

Sophie Moiese Room

So just as a reminder, you know there will be a tax increase for most folks because of reappraisal and that's that is just the reality.

2:40:3.460 --> 2:40:14.310

Sophie Moiese Room

In order to be able to raise the additional \$3.6 million to cover those increases in costs for personnel and operations, that is a 5.4% increase in property taxes.

2:40:14.320 --> 2:40:37.790

Sophie Moiese Room

That number does continue to be below what the inflationary rate is firm Missoula County and and we would just want to be transparent about that because the fact is based on just a sheer mill calculation, when we look at just those units of taxation and we don't consider the effects of reappraisal, it would look like there was going to be a tax decrease for folks and that is not a complete picture for folks to have.

2:40:37.800 --> 2:40:52.10

Sophie Moiese Room

The fact is, reappraisal did happen and we can't use just, say \$500,000 home and and talk about it as though it was always \$500,000 because it didn't used to be \$500,000 in the in the year past.

2:40:53.940 --> 2:40:56.910

Sophie Moiese Room

So we are looking at increases in spending.

2:40:57.200 --> 2:41:12.930

Sophie Moiese Room

Much of that is from cash savings that that is intentional money that has been put aside because when we budget for things like replacing a cooling tower at the detention facility or changes to air handlers and buildings or boilers and buildings, we know what the lifespan is of those.

2:41:12.940 --> 2:41:22.530

Sophie Moiese Room

And by putting a little money aside each year, then we're prepared for when those costs come instead of having to increase taxes dramatically in any one given year to be able to cover all of those things.

2:41:22.540 --> 2:41:47.40

Sophie Moiese Room

Because Missoula County does contribute to the welfare of a significant amount of the property or owns a significant number of properties here in Missoula County, including the courthouse here and the annex, as well as the administrative Building, Health Department, and other facilities that were responsible for maintaining, including the fairgrounds and others, the other big highlights to point out for folks is that a lot of that one time funding is coming from federal tax dollars to the American Rescue Plan Act.

2:41:47.170 --> 2:41:56.60

Sophie Moiese Room

We are continuing to support our partners in law enforcement and in public safety and attempting to address some of their real recruitment and retention challenges in this budget.

2:41:56.70 --> 2:42:4.480

Sophie Moiese Room

Including, you know, increases in salary items for those to help make sure that we can maintain a quality workforce here in Missoula County.

2:42:4.810 --> 2:42:7.570

Sophie Moiese Room

So those those would have what I is what I would put out for the highlights.

2:42:8.940 --> 2:42:9.350

Sophie Moiese Room

Thank you.

2:42:11.100 --> 2:42:15.720

Sophie Moiese Room

Well, comments, well, we have a comment from Commissioner Slotnick who couldn't join us.

2:42:15.730 --> 2:42:19.40

Sophie Moiese Room

Yeah, if you could share that please and find it.

2:42:21.650 --> 2:42:37.600

Sophie Moiese Room

He apologizes that he can't be here, but he wanted to share that he he approves of this budget proposal and he's very proud of the staff for getting us under that rate of inflation of Herculean lift.

2:42:38.50 --> 2:42:48.990

Sophie Moiese Room

And there aren't words to describe the amount of work that has gone into what you guys have been able to create, and it's hard for people to appreciate even with the increase that we have.

2:42:51.940 --> 2:43:4.660

Sophie Moiese Room

Yeah, I would just, I guess piggyback on that a shout out to staff who have been working on this for literally months and burning the midnight oil.

2:43:5.140 --> 2:43:5.480

Sophie Moiese Room

Uh.

2:43:6.140 --> 2:43:15.190

Sophie Moiese Room

Literally, to get this budget to where it is today, this is a a huge lift and I'm immensely grateful for that.

2:43:15.360 --> 2:43:22.840

Sophie Moiese Room

I want to thank the folks who've taking the time to provide their input on on our budget.

2:43:24.0 --> 2:43:24.480

Sophie Moiese Room

Uh.

2:43:24.520 --> 2:43:35.220

Sophie Moiese Room

We've frequently asked folks to provide input, and folks certainly have this year, and as a result of that, we certainly it is not lost on me.

2:43:37.150 --> 2:43:41.840

Sophie Moiese Room

The burden that residential property uh tax.

2:43:42.120 --> 2:44:10.710

Sophie Moiese Room

Uh, uh and and the shift in in burden from other classifications of property to residential has caused or is causing our constituents here in Missoula County, which it's exactly why we've instructed staff and staff have delivered on this is to keep any tax increases as close to or below the rate of inflation as possible.

2:44:10.720 --> 2:44:51.170

Sophie Moiese Room

And and that is what we have today with a budget that contemplates an increase less than 5.4%, less than the rate of inflation as you have a spokes have heard today, there is a fair amount of misinformation that abounds including and I'll call it out, it's the frontier institutes, uh graphics that have been used and and repeated again and again that are just erroneous by conflating spending with tax increases.

2:44:51.180 --> 2:45:20.180

Sophie Moiese Room

And as I think, uh, Andrew and Chris have accurately pointed out today spending in and of itself does not have any necessary connection to what we are levying by way of property taxes, because that includes grant dollars from the federal or state governments for that matter that have nothing to do with local property taxes.

2:45:20.340 --> 2:45:54.30

Sophie Moiese Room

And I think it's also the case that and as far as, uh, uh, trying to clear up misinformation that's been abounding, getting to the the root cause of this shift in tax burden, which falls squarely in the the lap of the legislature in saddling residential property tax payers with a significant increase that otherwise would be shared across other classifications, tack tax classifications.

2:45:55.10 --> 2:46:9.220

Sophie Moiese Room

We've heard a number of folks in the comments that we've received, I think, uh and it's and again it's clear that folks are feeling the pinch in their residential property taxes.

2:46:9.230 --> 2:46:23.10

Sophie Moiese Room

But I've heard the comment that I think is a fundamental misunderstanding of representative democracy, and that is that we should be putting to a referendum any tax increase.

2:46:23.20 --> 2:46:31.580

Sophie Moiese Room

Well, clearly that's not the case with state government nor federal government, and unless otherwise required by law.

2:46:32.240 --> 2:46:33.990

Sophie Moiese Room

Uh, weird.

2:46:34.40 --> 2:46:41.520

Sophie Moiese Room

The body, the board of County Commissioners here is the body that ultimately decides on our fiscal year budget.

2:46:43.150 --> 2:46:52.860

Sophie Moiese Room

So for me at least, it comes down to what is the role of local government and what's our role and in shaping a budget.

2:46:52.990 --> 2:47:0.670

Sophie Moiese Room

Again, as our staff pointed out, this budget I believe aligns with the mission and vision of Missoula County.

2:47:0.940 --> 2:47:40.100

Sophie Moiese Room

I think it's a prudent and actually a fiscally conservative budget and trying to still deliver at a minimum the level of service that folks have requested and demanded of us and in fact some of the expenses that I've seen in public comment questioned are actually services that allow us to get at root the root problems that otherwise would find themselves manifested in the detention facility or or uh in our emergency rooms.

2:47:40.730 --> 2:47:45.150

Sophie Moiese Room

And how do we how do we nip those in the bud as opposed to simply?

2:47:49.440 --> 2:48:6.290

Sophie Moiese Room

Dealing with the symptoms of problems, and I think it's not an either or proposition, I think we can do both and ultimately it boils down to what what's the value that folks feel like they're receiving from their tax dollars.

2:48:7.160 --> 2:48:13.110

Sophie Moiese Room

We have control over the county portion of folks, tax bills we do not control.

2:48:13.120 --> 2:48:31.30

Sophie Moiese Room

As I mentioned earlier, the City of Missoula, if you live in the city of Missoula school districts, fire districts, et cetera, uh, ultimately, I would say that we hear the phrase kicked around a lot as far as I'm a taxpayer.

2:48:31.40 --> 2:48:33.310

Sophie Moiese Room

Well, yeah, we are that.

2:48:33.320 --> 2:48:34.650

Sophie Moiese Room

But we're a lot more than that.

2:48:34.660 --> 2:48:56.660

Sophie Moiese Room

We're citizens who are members of our community and we are doing certainly those of us who are serving on this board of County Commissioners, doing our level best to align the expectations of our community members, our constituents, with the revenue that we have available to deliver on those services.

2:48:56.670 --> 2:49:1.350

Sophie Moiese Room

So with that, I will stop talking wanta do you have anything you'd like to add?

2:49:2.490 --> 2:50:16.530

Sophie Moiese Room

Just against my gratitude to staff or the the bird dogging the the education, the sleuthing, umm, the I see our comms team here that you all had to do some was pretty impressive for this year and it's it's not mentioned not appreciated not captured in this presentation the kind of the lengths that you guys all had to go through or to to to get this to us with the complete story and also it's not said enough but how much we've had to say no to and almost \$2,000,000 in requests and and that was really hard to do because umm the services that the public demands and requires a those requests weren't frivolous I guess is what I'm trying to say those were necessary to really complete the jobs that are being asked and we actually had to say no and that's that's difficult and we don't take that lately and again it's just something that isn't isn't captured.

2:50:18.690 --> 2:50:20.530

Sophie Moiese Room

So with good job.

2:50:22.300 --> 2:50:27.350

Sophie Moiese Room

So with that, the motion would be Chris.

2:50:28.660 --> 2:50:29.510

Sophie Moiese Room

Sorry, commissioners.

2:50:29.520 --> 2:50:34.940

Sophie Moiese Room

So the motion would be to close the public hearing and then adopt the budget and special district budgets as presented.

2:50:36.380 --> 2:50:50.930

Sophie Moiese Room

OK, I would make motion to close the public hearing and adopt the 2024 budget as as as presented and the special districts and the special districts.

2:50:50.940 --> 2:50:57.440

Sophie Moiese Room

Excuse me any further discussion on the motion? See none.

2:50:57.450 --> 2:50:59.0

Sophie Moiese Room

Let's go ahead and vote all those in favor.

2:50:59.10 --> 2:51:0.360

Sophie Moiese Room

Please signify by saying aye.

2:51:0.410 --> 2:51:0.860

Sophie Moiese Room

Aye, aye.

2:51:2.330 --> 2:51:8.400

Sophie Moiese Room

OK, the FY24 budget and special district budgets has been approved.

2:51:8.410 --> 2:51:11.90

Sophie Moiese Room

Is there any other business to come before the Commission today?

2:51:12.850 --> 2:51:13.740

Sophie Moiese Room

See none.

2:51:13.750 --> 2:51:14.670

Sophie Moiese Room

We will be adjourned.

2:51:14.680 --> 2:51:14.970

Sophie Moiese Room

Thank you.