Official Proceedings of the Stutsman County Final Budget Hearing – October 6, 2022

At 4:30 p.m., the Stutsman County budget hearing was called to order by Chairman Mark Klose. Dennis Ova, Joan Morris, Steven Cichos, Mark Klose and Ramone Gumke (via telephone) answered the roll call.

Jessica Alonge, Auditor/COO, presented the proposed 2023 County Budget and 2022 Property Tax Levy. Budget challenges included employee and fringe benefit costs. The budget includes a 4% cost of living increase and a 2% step increase for all eligible employees. Workforce Safety and Insurance premiums increased by 42% over last year.

Revenues increased by $5,208,405. This is mainly due to Prairie Dog funds for road and bridge, state aid and state highway aid. Expenditures increased by $3,246,555. The total proposed mill levy is 74.81 and the total 2022 taxable value is $136,151,116. The total mill levy increased by 0.87 from 2021. This would result in a $5.87 increase for a $150,000 residential property and a $6.53 increase for a commercial or agricultural property.

Klose opened the meeting for public input.

James Beyer, Woodbury township states the value of his home went up 44.17%. He stated that a majority of the increase came from the school and the township and the county. Alonge informed Beyer the County Equalization meeting is held in June each year where commissioners approve the values for the upcoming year, and township meeting is held in March.

Judy Sund stated that the value of her double wide trailer in Gray Township went from $14,000 to $235,000. Klose stated the change is because they no longer qualify for the farm exemption program.

A motion was made by Cichos, seconded by Ova, to adopt the proposed 2023 County Budget. Roll call vote: Cichos, Klose, Morris, Ova and Gumke voted aye. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Morris, seconded by Cichos, to certify the 2022 property tax levies. Roll call vote: Cichos, Klose, Morris, Ova and Gumke voted aye. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Morris, seconded by Ova, to adopt the 2023-2027 Capital Improvement Plan. Roll call vote: Cichos, Klose, Morris, Ova and Gumke voted aye. Motion carried. Klose requested that Alonge edit some of the dates in the plan when time allows.

Alonge discussed the 2023 Budgeted Transfers. The only new item is the Prairie Dog Infrastructure Fund out and into the Road and Bridge fund. A motion to approve the transfers was made by Ova, seconded by Morris. Roll call vote: Cichos, Klose, Morris, Ova and Gumke voted aye. Motion carried.

Approval is needed for the Auditor to certify the Central Valley Health District mill levy with the Logan County auditor. A motion to approve was made by Cichos, seconded by Ova. Roll call vote: Cichos, Klose, Morris, Ova and Gumke voted aye. Motion carried.

Cichos recognized and thanked Alonge and Shannon Larson, Human Resource Director, for their hard work on the budget process and for doing an excellent job.

At 4:57 p.m., A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ova, seconded by Morris. Motion carried.

ATTEST:

Jessica Alonge	Mark T. Klose
Auditor/COO	Commission Chairman