

### Falls City Council Approves Tax Levy

(KTNC) - The Falls City Council set the property tax levy and approved the budget for the next fiscal year Monday night.

Property valuations in Falls City increased by 14-percent from 2012 to 2013, allowing the property tax levy to decrease by 1.4-cents per \$100 valuation.

The city's property tax request increased by 12-percent, or more than \$73,000, from last year to \$638,277 for 2013-2014.

There is a projected increase of three-percent in expenditures, including nearly \$330,000 for capital improvements and a three-percent increase in wages.

Health insurance costs will not increase in the next year, while the city's property, liability, and workers' comp insurance will increase by 10-percent.

Revenues for utilities are projected from the rate increase in the current rate study. Utility capital improvements include construction of water wells, equipment replacement, and infrastructure improvements.

On a related note, the council reconsidered the one-percent allowable growth for the next year. The council had previously voted against the allowable growth, but First Ward Councilman Mike Dougherty requested it be reconsidered.

City Administrator Gary Jorn explained that the one-percent allowable growth helps grow the city's use of restricted funds. He says it has no effect on how much property tax the city can levy, but increases the amount of the restricted funds the city can use.

The council approved the one-percent allowable growth on a 6-0 vote, with council members Dougherty and Steve Scholl absent. Six council members were required to approve the one-percent allowable growth in order for it to be approved.