

2023 Jefferson Co budget finalized

(KNZA)--The 2023 Jefferson County budget has been finalized.

That came following two separate hearings at the Jefferson County Commission's August 29 meeting.

The first hearing was held on the commission's intent to exceed the revenue neutral tax rate. About 30 people were present for the hearing. Comments were heard from many of those in attendance, with questions asked, and concerns expressed about the increase in property valuations and the proposed increase in property taxes. Commissioners noted the high cost of fuel, rock, asphalt and health insurance as contributing factors for the tax increase.

Following the hearing, the commission unanimously approved a resolution authorizing the county to levy a property tax rate exceeding the revenue neutral rate for the 2023 budget.

The regular budget hearing was then held, with no public comment received. The commission voted unanimously to adopt the 2023 budget as published, which contains a slight mill levy decrease.

It calls for the county to collect \$16.5 million in local tax revenue. Even though the property tax levy will decrease slightly, the county will collect \$1.8 million in additional tax revenue due to a more than \$26 million increase in the county's assessed valuation.

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