

**PUBLIC HEARING – 1999-2000 BUDGET
CARBON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MONDAY, JULY 19, 1999
8 P.M.
COMMISSIONERS MEETING ROOM**

Those County officials attending the public hearing were Commissioners Lee Meacham, Linda Fleming and Chairman Artlin Zeiger; Linda Smith, Carbon County Clerk; Cindy Baldwin, Carbon County Treasurer; Alice Garvin, Chief Deputy County Clerk and Susan Vasey-Haynes, Deputy County Clerk.

The public hearing was opened by Chairman Zeiger at 8:00 p.m.

WEED AND PEST SPECIAL DISTRICT

Larry Justesen presented his budget for Weed and Pest Control special district to the Commissioners. His budget proposal required approximately 1 mill, or \$303,055.00. He stated that they are in pretty good shape, but that they are in need of vehicles. They do have \$25,000 in a cash reserve, and \$3000 in another account for weed control at Medicine Bow. The weed management area does not have a full-time monitor, and so they have cut some costs. Copies of his budget were presented to the Commissioners.

Linda Fleming commented that Mr. Justesen's budget is not under the jurisdiction of the County, but are a special district only. By statute, they are allowed to levy up to one mill, at the approval of the Commissioners. They are allowed to levy a second mill, but only in an emergency situation, and then the funds must be earmarked for a special project.

The Commissioners will entertain his budget for a motion at the regular meeting on July 20, 1999.

BUDGET

Mr. Zeiger read the final Budget Appropriation Resolution for the 1999-2000 Fiscal Year to those present.

Mr. Zeiger then read the 1999-2000 Budget Summary to those present and explained the restricted funding as it pertains to the construction and maintenance of roads. The Fair Board has a mill levy of .200, the museum is at .024, the Library mill levy is at .770, and the Jeffrey Center at .160. It equals out to 12 mills.

Mr. Zeiger explained that 12 mills will generate \$3,363,721.00. One mill will generate \$303,060.00, as the County valuation is down.

Mr. Zeiger expressed his frustration, and that of his fellow Board members concerning the budget cuts. The Commissioners approved a 3% raise in each department, but the elected officials will determine who will receive those raises, as the Commissioners do not propose to run their departments for them.

Ms. Fleming stressed that each elected official is given a certain amount of money, but it is up to them to determine how those funds are spent.

Linda Fleming expressed that one of the most difficult cut was the severance tax, and those special interest groups were cut severely.

Cindy Baldwin explained that severance tax comes from mineral taxes and are distributed per capita. The severance tax was extremely low this year, and once the severance tax is gone, there will be no more funding for special interest groups.

Linda Fleming stated that there are several health services around the County that are all trying to get funding. The public will not see renovations throughout the County buildings, except for the new roof on the County Courthouse.

Vicki Hitchcock requested that the Commissioners explain how they made their decisions concerning the budget.

Mr. Zeiger, first and most important is to run the county. Second is health and safety and if funds are available, they go into social services. Every elected official's office was cut.

Linda Smith addressed the group stating that in May, she is required to present a tentative budget to the Commissioners, with estimated cash carry-overs. Those first figures are only estimates. As June 30 arrives, they will know for certain how much cash carry-over there is available. They estimated that they would lose \$1.2 million left, however that wasn't what happened. The Commissioners then start paring down to make up for the lower valuation

Linda Fleming stated that in the Road and Bridge Department, they were fortunate to be able to move some of the equipment into the SC funds, which are earmarked for road maintenance and construction only.

Being there no further discussion, the public hearing was closed at 8:47 p.m.