

# AITKIN COUNTY BOARD – BUDGET HEARING

December 4, 2012

The Aitkin County Board of Commissioners met this 4<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2012 at 6:06 p.m. in Courtroom One of the Aitkin County Courthouse with the following members present: Chairperson J. Mark Wedel, Commissioners Laurie Westerlund, Don Niemi, and Brian Napstad. Commissioner Anne Marcotte was absent. Also present were County Administrator Patrick Wussow, County Auditor Kirk Peysar, Environmental Services Director Terry Neff, Sheriff Scott Turner, County Treasurer Lori Grams, IT Director Steve Bennett, County Attorney Jim Ratz, Economic Development Coordinator Ross Wagner, and Administrative Assistant Sue Bingham.

Patrick Wussow, County Administrator explained how the budget is developed for the purpose of Budget & Levy meeting.

Kirk Peysar, County Auditor presented information on Aitkin County's 2013 budget, including:

- Programs and changes from 2012 to 2013
- Proposed revenues
- Proposed expenditures
- Proposed effects on fund balance
- Costs of wages and benefits
- Reasons why taxes vary from year to year
- Comparison of levies for pay 2012 and pay 2013 taxes

Business owners Bob Cummings, Tony Cummings, Ray Morris, Steve Wilson, Galen Tveit, and Aitkin City Clerk Kathy Brophy all voiced their opinions and concerns on fiscal disparity and state general tax for commercial properties.

Ray Morris, William Kast, Wally McFarlane, Rodney Damar, Lon Helgemo, and Galen Tveit voiced their opinions and concerns on the proposed 2013 budget and levy.

The County Board responded to comments.

Kirk Peysar, County Auditor announced that the County Board will adopt the final levy at the December 18, 2012 County Board meeting.

Motion by Commissioner Westerlund, seconded by Commissioner Napstad and carried, all members voting yes to adjourn the meeting at 7:37 pm.

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J. Mark Wedel, Chairperson  
Aitkin County Board of Commissioners

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Patrick Wussow, County Administrator

**CALL TO ORDER**

**EXPLANATION OF BUDGET PROCESS**

**BUDGET AND LEVY PRESENTATION**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**BOARD RESPONSE**

**ADOPTION OF FINAL LEVY**

**ADJOURN**