

Village of Wauneta tax askings remain below \$100,000

Written by Wauneta Breeze

Friday, 23 September 2011 21:11 - Last Updated Friday, 23 September 2011 21:15

2011-2012 budget would allow for \$2.57 million in spending primarily generated from municipal electric, utilities sales

By Tina Kitt

The Wauneta Breeze

Increased valuations in Wauneta will generate an additional \$6,379 in tax revenue even with the levy of .499996 remaining at the same rate as it has for the past several years.

Last week the Wauneta Village Board of Trustees approved the tax request as well as authorizing a 1-percent increase in the allowable growth rate in spending authority. The action was taken as part of the annual budget hearing and approval process, held in conjunction with their regular monthly meeting.

This coming fiscal year property taxes will generate \$91,950 for Village of Wauneta operations, just a small percent of typical overall costs which last year totalled \$1.6 million.

This year's \$91,950 compares to property tax askings of \$85,571 last year marking a 7.66 percent increase.

Wauneta's total property tax valuations were recently pegged at \$18,390,155, up \$1,275,825 from last year's total valuation of \$17,114,360.

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The amount of the increase attributable to growth is \$1,139,937, according to certified numbers released recently, including commercial growth on real property of \$826,000 and a \$300,000 increase in the value of personal property, according to Chase County Assessor Dotty Bartels.

Increased value of land inside Wauneta's corporate limits accounts for an increase in total taxable valuation of \$135,888, noted Bartels.

Commercial growth in Wauneta is mostly due to the construction of additional grain storage facilities at Frenchman Valley Co-op in Wauneta, said Bartels.

Property taxes cover only a small portion of the Village's expenses with most revenue — and expenses — coming from the operation of Wauneta's municipal utilities, and primarily through the electrical department which accounts for \$1,062,100 of the 2011-12 budget. Profits from the electrical department are crucial in covering many other Village expenses.

This year's budget total for the Village of Wauneta is nearly the same as last year at \$2,578,338, just \$17 under the budget proposed for the 2010-2011 fiscal year.

Last year actual spending was far less than budgeted, with actual/estimated disbursements for 2010-2011 coming in at \$1,638,772.

Actual disbursements for the Village of Wauneta in 2009-2010 totalled \$1,177,789.

Within that \$2.57 million the Village has earmarked \$352,000 for capital improvements within the water department with plans in place to replace significant stretches of water mains in the east part of town, including a section that runs beneath the river.

Total budgeted numbers for each department are included below.

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The total budget for the Village of Wauneta for the 2011-12 fiscal year is pegged at \$2,578,338.

Total budgeted expenditures for each major category/department: General Government
\$282,450

Police & Fire \$103,650

Streets \$349,500

Culture & Recreation \$123,700

Community Development \$35,000

Electric Utility \$1,062,100

Water \$473,388

Wastewater \$118,000 Public Safety misc. \$12,250

Public Works misc. \$18,300 Total \$2,578,338

Fiscal information for 2011-12

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provided in the budget summary:

Projected budget \$2,578,338 Property Tax asking \$91,950 Necessary cash reserve
\$1,004,640 Resources available \$3,582,978 Total valuation \$18,390,360 Tax rate .499996