

**BUDGET HEARING MEETING  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
July 16, 2018**

Chairman King called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. Others in attendance included the following: Commissioners Connelly and Harmon; Deputy County Clerk, April Brunski and Commissioner's Secretary Corey Roberts.

**Discussion items:** **1. Chairman King** opened the public hearing for the 2018/2019 fiscal year budget. He commented that the budget amount is \$19,599,809. **2. City of Kemmerer Administrator, Andrew Nelson** commented that the amount they are being given for the Airport meets their needs and they appreciate it. **3. Teri Picerno with the Fossil Country Museum** asked the Commissioners to reconsider the amount they are proposing for the museum. They asked for \$15,000 and the tentative amount in the budget is \$7,000. She stated anything they could do to help them would be greatly appreciated. **4. Chairman King** commented that this is one those years that they've realized there have been significant cuts and there's probably going to be more. **5. Commissioner Connelly** commented that the budget is up over 1.5 million dollars in spending but we did not receive that much help. He stated that the assessed valuation did go up, but it only amounts to \$144,000 and that does not offset inflation of 1.5 million. He commented that they will be giving the county employees a 2% increase which is a \$250,000 hit to the budget as well as an increase in retirement and FICA for another \$150,000 totaling \$400,000 that had to be absorbed. He commented that he appreciates the employees and hates that we are the poor county of the west. He stated that the economic outlook does look up and that the boom will come back and thanked everyone for being there. **6. Commissioner Harmon** thanked everyone for being there and gave thanks for all they do. He thanked the Clerk's Office and the Treasurer's Office and the other Commissioners and Corey Roberts for their work and help in preparing the budget. He also commented that he thinks better days are ahead. **7. Commissioner Connelly** also mentioned the 6<sup>th</sup> penny tax and that the county would put it on equipment because we are running extremely old equipment that is extremely expensive to maintain. He stated that the cities came to them for the request of the 6<sup>th</sup> penny tax and they honored that request and in turn put in for 1.4 million for equipment they believe will impact the whole county. **8. Chairman King** also thanked the employees and other departments in the county and one of the things they have been able to do is work as a team as County Commissioners and come up with this budget. He stated that he expects things to get better and that we are seeing more sales tax and that helps out. He also commented that there have been a lot of questions on the 6<sup>th</sup> Penny and he wanted to make sure that it made it to the ballot because it is up to the voters to decide. He stated that it does mean a lot to our communities and cities where we don't have the mechanisms to help pave roads. Hopefully there will legislation in the next year where towns are allowed to assess a tax that strictly goes to transportation, that way they can build a fund to help the towns maintain the streets because they are used by everyone in the county. He thanked everyone for attending.

Meeting adjourned at 5:09 p.m.