

SESSION OF THE MOWER COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Budget & Levy Hearing

December 11, 2023

The Mower County Board of Commissioners in and for the County of Mower, Minnesota, met in Regular Session December 11, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. at the Government Center in Austin, Minnesota.

All members present, viz: Chair Mike Ankeny, Vice-Chair Jerry Reinartz, John Mueller, Polly Glynn and Dan Sparks. Staff present: County Administrator Trish Harren Gjersvik, Executive Assistant Denise Barthels, Finance Manager Loni Swenson, Land Records Taxpayer Services Director Joy Kanne, Property Tax Administrator Laurie Clendenning, Auditor-Treasurer Scott Felten and Assessor Michael Harvey.

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Overview of 2024 Budget and Levy Recommendations

County Administrator Trish Harren Gjersvik provided an overview of the 2024 Budget and Levy recommendations through a PowerPoint presentation. The recommended budget is \$64,116,443 with a levy of \$25,004,366 which is a 5.5% increase over the 2023 levy. Ms. Gjersvik also indicated that key cost drivers for the 2024 budget were a labor contract negotiated wage increase, health insurance premium increase and inflation impacting purchase of service contracts, road and bridge materials, and equipment purchases. Lastly, Ms. Gjersvik informed those present that a record number of ag land sales (76) at record high sales prices (up to \$15,000 per acre) led to an overall ag land value increase.

Five people presented public comment. The comments were concerning the large increases in their ag land property valuations. Mower County Assessor Michael Harvey scheduled meetings with individuals to further discuss their concerns pertaining to property valuation.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 7:32 p.m.

THE MOWER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BY: _____

Chairperson

Attest:

By: Trish Harren Gjersvik
Clerk/Administrator