1. 9:30 A.M. Special Commission Meeting 8/19/2022

   Documents:

   8-19-2022 SM.PDF

1.I. 9:30 A.M. Special Commission Meeting 8/19/2022 Updated Agenda Docs

   Documents:

   8-19-2022 UPDATED AGENDA PACKET.PDF
Cascade County
Special Commission Meeting
August 19, 2022 @ 9:30 a.m.
Commission Chambers, Room 105
325 2nd Avenue North, Great Falls, MT

The Board of Cascade County Commissioners will be broadcasting the Commission Meeting via Zoom.
Webinar participants must register in advance for the Commission Meeting:
https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_jXjyvPPHTh2pqah9vEqHHw
After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.
If you need dial in access: 888 788 0099 (Toll Free) or 877 853 5247 (Toll Free) Webinar ID: 868 5702 5274 Passcode: 937280

Please note the agenda order is tentative and subject to change by the Board without prior notice.
Therefore, members of the public are encouraged to be in attendance at the time the meeting is scheduled to begin.
Public comment during public participation is limited to a maximum seven (7) minutes.

Call to Order

Chairman Joe Briggs

Pledge of Allegiance

1. Public Hearing
   Resolution 22-57:
   A Resolution for a Public Safety Mill Levy and Submit the Levy to a Vote of the Public.
   (Ref: Resolution 22-51: Resolution of Intention)

2. Public comment on any public matter that is not on the meeting agenda, and that is within the Commissioners’ jurisdiction. (MCA 2-3-103)

3. Adjournment.
August 19, 2022

Agenda Action Report
Prepared for the
Cascade County Commission

ITEM: Public Hearing
Resolution 22-57:
A Resolution for a Public Safety Mill Levy
and Submit the Levy to a Vote of the Public

PRESENTED BY: Josh Racki, County Attorney

GENERAL INFORMATION
Currently, monies dedicated to the Cascade County Sheriff’s Office and Cascade County Attorney’s Office are not sufficient to maintain necessary services of the Sheriff’s Office and County Attorney’s Office. As Cascade County continues to grow in population, so too do the demands on Sheriff and County Attorney services.

Additionally, the Cascade County Sheriff’s Deputies starting salary is approximately 26% less than the starting salary of the Great Falls Police Department and other competing law enforcement agencies. Similarly, the current starting salary for Deputy Cascade County Attorneys is 18% less than the starting salary of attorneys hired by the Office of Public Defender and are 17% below the market compensation-rate for a new prosecuting attorney in the state of Montana. Accordingly, both the Cascade County Sheriff’s Office and the Cascade County Attorney’s Office are currently having difficulty hiring and maintaining qualified and skilled deputy sheriffs and deputy attorneys to the extent that both offices are currently understaffed by approximately 20% in sworn personnel. Limited resources and personnel also limit the Sheriff’s Office’s ability to devote resources and personnel for additional school safety initiatives needed to protect county schools.

Further, Cascade County does not currently have a pretrial services/supervision program. Pretrial services and supervision programs provide a beneficial increase to public safety and provide rehabilitation services to pretrial offenders and such programs have been shown to increase public safety.
Based on the foregoing, and pursuant to MCA §15-10-420(2), the Cascade County Sheriff and County Attorney request the Board authorize the implementation of a perpetual Public Safety Mill levy at 14 mills and submit such for voter approval as authorized by MCA § 7-6-2513. The revenue raised would be approximately $2.46 million annually. This is a decrease from the 20 mills originally requested by the Sheriff and County Attorney. After reviewing public comment and having further discussion with the public after the Resolution of Intent was passed, the Sheriff and County Attorney re-worked the numbers and believe 14 mills is more appropriate given the amount of tax requested from each citizen. They request that the revenue raised by a Public Safety Mill levy be a dedicated source of revenue to fund Sheriff and County Attorney services for recruitment and retention services; public safety; school safety; and pre-trial services.

Two Motions Provided for Consideration:

MOTION TO APPROVE:
Mr. Chairman, I move the Cascade County Board of Commission approve Resolution #22-57: a Resolution for a Public Mill Levy and Submit the Levy to a Vote of the Public.

MOTION TO DISAPPROVE:
Mr. Chairman, I move the Cascade County Board of Commission disapprove Resolution #22-57.

Attachment(s): Resolution #22-57
Proposed Ballot Language
BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
CASCADE COUNTY, MONTANA

RESOLUTION FOR A PUBLIC SAFETY MILL LEVY AND SUBMIT THE LEVY TO A VOTE OF THE PUBLIC

Resolution No. 22-57

WHEREAS, MCA §15-10-420 (2) provides authority to the Board of County Commissioners to submit for voter approval a County Public Safety Mill Levy as authorized in MCA §7-6-2513;

WHEREAS, the current monies dedicated to the Sheriff’s Office and the Cascade County Attorney’s Office are not sufficient to maintain necessary services of the Sheriff’s Office and County Attorney’s Office;

WHEREAS, Cascade County continues to grow in population and accordingly, the demands on Sheriff and County Attorney services continue to grow at an accelerated rate;

WHEREAS, the Cascade County Sheriff’s Deputies starting salary is approximately 26% less than the starting salary of the Great Falls Police Department and other competing law enforcement agencies:

WHEREAS, the Cascade County Attorney’s Deputies current starting salary is 18% less than the starting salary of the Office of Public Defender and 17% below the market compensation-rate for a new prosecuting attorney in the state of Montana;

WHEREAS, both the Cascade County Sheriff’s Office and the Cascade County Attorney’s Office are currently having difficulty hiring and maintaining qualified and skilled deputy sheriffs and deputy attorneys to the extent that both offices are currently understaffed by approximately 20% in sworn personnel;

WHEREAS, Cascade County does not currently have a pretrial services/supervision program and such a program would provide a beneficial increase to public safety and provide rehabilitation services to pretrial offenders; such programs have been shown to increase public safety;

WHEREAS, Cascade County currently lacks adequate resources and personnel for additional school safety initiatives needed to protect county schools;

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners received a request from the Sheriff and Cascade County Attorney to establish a perpetual Public Safety Mill levy at a rate of 20 mills;

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners Passed a Resolution of Intent on July 29, 2022, to place the Sheriff and County Attorney Public Safety Mill Levy on the ballot during the November 2022 general election;

WHEREAS, legal notice of the August 19, 2022, Public Hearing On The Proposed Mill Levy For The Support Of Sheriff And County Attorney Services To Cascade County Funded Through A Public Safety Mill Levy was advertised on August 3, 10 and 17 in the Great Falls Tribune;
WHEREAS, following passage of the Resolution of Intent on July 29, 2022, the Sheriff and the Cascade County Attorney reduced their Public Safety Mill levy request to 14 mills;

WHEREAS, revenue raised by a Public Safety Mill levy will be a dedicated source of revenue to fund Sheriff, County Attorney, and law enforcement services;

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Purpose:</th>
<th>Provide funding for the Sheriff’s Office and County Attorney’s Office in the enforcement and prosecution of crimes, including but not limited to: recruitment and retention; public safety; school safety; and pre-trial services.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amount:</td>
<td>Approximately $2.46 million annually</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mills:</td>
<td>14 mills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duration:</td>
<td>Perpetual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impact:</td>
<td>Fair Market Value $100,000 home = $18.90 per year (approximate) \nFair Market Value $200,000 home = $37.80 per year (approximate) \n</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Cascade County must establish the County Public Safety Mill Levy to continue to provide its necessary services by asking the voters of Cascade County to approve a 14 mill County Public Safety Mill Levy as authorized under MCA §7-6-2513. The mill levy shall be perpetual. The mill levy would be subject to the approval of the voters of Cascade County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Cascade County Board of Commissioners shall ask this issue to be placed on the ballot during the general election scheduled for November 8, 2022, and a ballot sample is provided as attached. The Board of County Commissioners hereby makes the request of the Cascade County Election Administrator to conduct the Sheriff and County Attorney Public Safety Mill Levy on the ballot during the November 2022 general election.
Passed and Adopted on the _____ day of ____________________, 2022.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
CASCADE COUNTY, MONTANA

__________________________
Joe Briggs, Chairman

__________________________
James L. Larson, Commissioner

__________________________
Don Ryan, Commissioner

Attest
On this _____ day of ________ 2022, I hereby attest the above-written signatures of the Board of Cascade County Commissioners.

____________________________
Rina Fontana Moore, Cascade County Clerk and Recorder

* APPROVED AS TO FORM:
  Josh Racki, County Attorney

DEPUTY COUNTY ATTORNEY

* THE COUNTY ATTORNEY HAS PROVIDED ADVICE AND APPROVAL OF THE FOREGOING DOCUMENT LANGUAGE ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD OF CASCADE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, AND NOT ON BEHALF OF OTHER PARTIES OR ENTITIES. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THIS DOCUMENT BY THE COUNTY ATTORNEY WAS CONDUCTED SOLELY FROM A LEGAL PERSPECTIVE AND FOR THE EXCLUSIVE BENEFIT OF CASCADE COUNTY. OTHER PARTIES SHOULD NOT RELY ON THIS APPROVAL AND SHOULD SEEK REVIEW AND APPROVAL BY THEIR OWN RESPECTIVE COUNSEL.
Shall the voters of Cascade County authorize a County Public Safety Mill Levy of 14 mills to support the Sheriff’s Office and County Attorney’s Office in the enforcement and prosecution of crimes, including but not limited to: recruitment and retention; public safety; school safety; and pre-trial services?

Passage of the Mill Levy will result in an increase of property taxes of $18.90 (approximate) on a home with a taxable valuation of $100,000 or $37.80 (approximate) on a home with a taxable valuation of $200,000. The mill levy will raise approximately $2.46 million dollars annually.

☐ FOR THE LEVY

☐ AGAINST THE LEVY
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON A PROPOSED MILL LEVY FOR THE SUPPORT OF SHERIFF AND COUNTY ATTORNEY SERVICES TO CASCADE COUNTY FUNDED THROUGH A PUBLIC SAFETY MILL LEVY

On July 29, 2022, the Cascade County Board of Commissioners passed a resolution of intent to impose a mill levy of 20 mills that would generate approximately $3.52 million for the provision of funding for the Sheriff’s Office and County Attorney’s Office in the enforcement and prosecution of crimes, including but not limited to: recruitment and retention; public safety; school safety; and pre-trial services. A public hearing regarding the mill levy has been set for August 19, 2022 at 9:30 a.m. in the Commission Chambers, 325 2nd Avenue N, Great Falls, MT 59401, across from the Cascade County District Courthouse in Great Falls, Montana. At the public hearing, the Board will receive comments on the proposed levy. A copy of the proposed mill levy resolution may be obtained from the Cascade County Clerk and Recorder’s Office located at 121 4th St. N #1B1, Great Falls, MT 59401. If you would like to submit a written comment on the proposed mill levy, please send them to the Cascade County Clerk and Recorder, Attn: Public Safety Mill Levy, 121 4th St. N #1B1, Great Falls, MT 59401. If you would like more information about the proposed mill levy, please contact publicsafetylevy@cascadecountymt.gov or (406) 454-6915.

Dated this 29th day of July, 2022.

Board of County Commissioners
Cascade County

/s/ Joe Briggs, Chairperson

Publication: 8/3/22, 8/10/22, 8/17/22
RESOLUTION OF INTENT TO IMPLEMENT A PUBLIC SAFETY MILL LEVY AND SUBMIT THE LEVY TO A VOTE OF THE PUBLIC

WHEREAS, MCA §15-10-420 (2) provides authority to the Board of County Commissioners to submit for voter approval to establish a County Public Safety Mill Levy as authorized in MCA §7-6-2513, and

WHEREAS, the monies dedicated to the Cascade County Sheriff’s Office and Cascade County Attorney’s Office are not sufficient to maintain necessary services of the Sheriff’s Office and County Attorney’s Office,

WHEREAS, Cascade County continues to grow in population and accordingly the demands on Sheriff and County Attorney services continue to grow at an accelerated rate;

WHEREAS, the Cascade County Sheriff’s Deputies starting salary is approximately 26% less than the starting salary of the Great Falls Police Department and other competing law enforcement agencies;

WHEREAS, the Cascade County Attorney’s Deputies current starting salary is 18% less than the starting salary of the Office of Public Defender and 17% below the market compensation-rate for a new prosecuting attorney in the state of Montana;

WHEREAS, both the Cascade County Sheriff’s Office and the Cascade County Attorney’s Office are currently having difficulty hiring and maintaining qualified and skilled Deputy Sheriffs and Deputy Attorneys to the extent that both offices are currently understaffed by approximately 20% in sworn personnel;

WHEREAS, Cascade County does not currently have a pretrial services/supervision program and such a program would provide a beneficial increase to public safety and provide rehabilitation services to pretrial offenders and such programs have been shown to increase public safety;

WHEREAS, Cascade County currently lacks adequate resources and personnel for additional school safety initiatives needed to protect county schools;

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners has received a request from the Cascade County Sheriff and County Attorney to implement a Public Safety Mill levy at 20 mills;

WHEREAS, revenue raised by a Public Safety Mill levy will be a dedicated source of revenue to fund Sheriff, County Attorney, and law enforcement services;

Purpose: Provide funding for the Sheriff’s Office and County Attorney’s Office in the enforcement and prosecution of crimes, including but not limited to: recruitment and retention; public safety; school safety; and pre-trial services.

Amount: Approximately $3.52 million annually

Mills: 20 mills

Duration: Perpetual

Impact: Fair Market Value $100,000 home = $27.00 per year (approximate)
Fair Market Value $200,000 home = $54.00 per year (approximate)
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Cascade County must implement a County Public Safety Mill Levy to continue to provide its necessary services by asking the voters of Cascade County to approve 20 mills for the County Public Safety Mill Levy as authorized under MCA §7-6-2513.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Cascade County Board of Commissioners intends to pass a mill levy that will implement 20 mills for the support of the Cascade County Sheriff’s Office and Attorney’s Office operations. That it is hereby ordered that a public hearing is set for August 19, 2022 at 9:30am in the Cascade County Commissioners Board Room, 325 2nd Avenue N, Great Falls, MT 59401, to determine whether to implement the Sheriff and County Attorney Public Safety Mill Levy for 20 mills for support of public safety. The mill levy would be perpetual. The mill levy would be subject to the approval of the voters of Cascade County. At the hearing, the Commission would take comment on whether to place the public safety mill levy on the November 8, 2022 general election ballot. The Board orders the Cascade County Clerk and Recorder to provide notice of the hearing, make copies of the proposed resolution available to the public and accept public comments on the proposed levy. After the public hearing, should the Board of County Commissioners find that it is in the best interests of the public, it will pass a resolution to impose the mill levy subject to the approval of the voters on the November 8, 2022 general election ballot.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners hereby makes the request of the Cascade County Election Administrator to conduct the Sheriff and County Attorney Public Safety Mill Levy on the ballot during the November general election.

Passed and adopted this 29th day of July, 2022.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
CASCADE COUNTY, MONTANA

Joe Brieske, Chairman

James L. Larson, Commissioner

Don Ryan, Commissioner

Attest
On this 20th day of July, 2022, I hereby attest the above-written signatures of the Board of Cascade County Commissioners.

Rita Fontana Moore, Cascade County Clerk and Recorder

* APPROVED AS TO FORM:
Josh Racket, County Attorney

DEPUTY COUNTY ATTORNEY

* THE COUNTY ATTORNEY HAS PROVIDED ADVICE AND APPROVAL OF THE FOREGOING DOCUMENT LANGUAGE ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD OF CASCADE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, AND NOT ON BEHALF OF OTHER PARTIES OR ENTITIES. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THIS DOCUMENT BY THE COUNTY ATTORNEY WAS CONDUCTED SOLELY FROM A LEGAL PERSPECTIVE AND FOR THE EXCLUSIVE BENEFIT OF CASCADE COUNTY. OTHER PARTIES SHOULD NOT RELY ON THIS APPROVAL AND SHOULD SEEK REVIEW AND APPROVAL BY THEIR OWN RESPECTIVE COUNSEL.