

**OFFICE OF
MINNEHAHA COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

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MEMORANDUM:

TO: All Media News Directors

FROM: Ken McFarland
Commission Administrative Officer

DATE: September 15, 2009

RE: FY 2010 Final Minnehaha County Budget Adoption Press Release

**PRESS RELEASE:
For Immediate Release**

Minnehaha County Approves Final FY2010 County Budget

On Tuesday, September 15, 2009, the Minnehaha County Commission approved the Final FY2010 Minnehaha County operating budget of \$64,108,594. This is an increase of \$1,699,653 over the FY 2009 Budget of Minnehaha County. This budget increase is supported by new revenues that include a 2.83% growth in property taxes due to new construction within the county, a 3 % CPI adjustment allowed by the property tax limitation statutes in total county property taxes collected, and growth in various non-property tax revenues.

The costs associated with the legal system and public safety continues to be major components of the county budget – representing approximately 54% of total county expenditures. The FY 2010 Final Budget has a total of 5 new positions. The Public Defender, States Attorney and Information Technology Departments will each gain one employee. The cost of the five new employees in 2010 will be \$280,123. One position was eliminated in the Treasurer's Office due to the shift of duties for on-line vehicle registration to the State of South Dakota. The 2010 Provisional Budget also includes a general increase (cost of living raise) of 1.8% for county employees – amounting to \$488,667.

The new positions in the Public Defenders Office and States Attorney are a direct result of a steady increase in the number of new cases opened during the last year. Case loads in both departments have increased approximately 8% over last year. During the last state fiscal year which ended July 1, 2009, every judicial circuit's caseload in the state of South Dakota, with the exception of the Second Judicial Circuit which comprises Minnehaha and Lincoln County,

either dropped or stayed statistically flat. In comparison, the caseload in the Second Judicial Circuit rose from 78,546 cases to 81,895 cases, an increase of 3,349 cases in the last twelve months.

The Minnehaha County Human Services Department will gain two employees in anticipation of moving forward with the Housing First Project beginning July 1, 2010. The Housing First Project is the result of a pilot project operated by Minnehaha County during the last eighteen months. The pilot project provides housing and intensive case management for the most chronic homeless in our community. The results of the pilot have been very encouraging and have resulted in substantial cost savings in providing services to this segment of the homeless population. The County Commission has approved moving forward both with the operational expenses associated with Housing First as well as proceeding with the preparation of documents to finance the construction of a 32 bed facility for the chronic homeless. Housing First was originally conceived to be a joint project with the City of Sioux Falls, however the City has not included the project in their own 2010 budget. The County Commission has determined, based on the merits and importance of the project, to proceed with Housing First within the confines of the county budget.

The owner of a \$100,000 property will see an increase of \$5.06 in county taxes in 2010 as a result of this provisional budget.

For more information, please contact Ken McFarland, Commission Administrative Officer, at 367-4206 or Sue Roust, County Auditor, at 367-4220.