

Dickinson County Board of Supervisors
March 31, 2025

9:00 A.M. Present are Supervisors Kim Wermersen, Stephen Dullard, Levi Markwardt, Steve Clark vice-chairperson, and Chairperson Bill Leupold.

The pledge of allegiance to the flag was recited by those present.

Time for the Public Hearing on the Proposed Property Tax Levy for Fiscal Year '26. Chairman Leupold opened the Public Hearing then turned the discussion over to Dan Croft and Curtis Rouse from the Dickinson County Taxpayers Association (DCTA) who presented a Power Point Presentation highlighting county spending, levies, property valuation assessments, and county carry-over balances. DCTA would like to see the county lower the General Basic Fund to 2.45% from the proposed 2.83143%, and see the county prioritize expenses when applicable. Several other members of the audience spoke as well, voicing concerns such as deficit spending, surplus in carry-over, acceleration of valuations, and accountability. Chairman Leupold then turned it over the Board of Supervisor's for further discussion.

Supervisor Clark explained how a lot of the decisions and outcomes are out of their hands, especially when it comes to valuations when an individual is willing to pay far more for property than its actual assessed value. Auditor Pedersen then went on to say that the "surplus" in the carry-over balance is not truly surplus, as there are 36 separate funds that are included in this total that are restricted/committed funds and cannot be used for general county purposes. Kris Rowley also spoke to the fact that some of our county investments are tied to bonds/investments that are not allowed to be withdrawn periodically without a heavy penalty. She also addressed new and pending legislation regarding property tax relief for individuals that fall within as certain monetary income.

Dan Croft from DCTA thanked the county for the opportunity to be heard and one of their main goals is to just all work together and keep the lines of communication open.

There being no further comments, Chairman Leupold closed the Public Hearing. Supervisor's Markwardt and Dullard thanked the audience for the great communication and for voicing their opinions and concerns.

There being no further items presented to the board, moved by Clark, seconded by Wermersen, to adjourn. All voted aye. Meeting adjourned to the call of the Chairperson at 10:18 a.m.

William Leupold, Chairperson

Lori Pedersen, Auditor