

Polk County Board of Supervisors Office News



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Polk County Board of Supervisors Approves Budget for Upcoming Fiscal Year

DES MOINES, Iowa – March 13, 2012 —At today’s meeting, the Polk County Board of Supervisors approved a \$241.3 million budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2012. The budget reduces general fund expenditures by \$4.7 million compared to the current fiscal year and eliminates 59 positions. For the fifth consecutive year, the County has held constant or reduced its tax levy rate from the prior year.

Budget deliberations began in early January with a projected deficit of \$7.8 million. Major factors contributing to the deficit included an unprecedented decline in taxable property valuation, continued suppression of interest earnings, reduced state reimbursement for human services, and projected increases in salary and retirement costs.

To manage the deficit, the Board of Supervisors instituted numerous cost saving measures such as an early retirement and voluntary separation program and a vacancy review committee. Elected officials and department heads also trimmed budgets significantly, while employee unions agreed to increase employee contributions to the cost of health care. The resulting budget utilizes \$3.5 million of reserves to manage the remaining deficit and draws down non-general fund balances by just \$800,000.

Despite the staffing and expenditure reductions, Polk County anticipates minimal impact on services to citizens. The Board will continue to seek efficiencies to manage the budget and respond to legislative developments.

“This budget reflects a lot of hard work to reduce costs without raising taxes while minimally impacting service levels,” said Angela Connolly, Polk County Board Chair. “Local governments are operating in a difficult environment, but the Board of Supervisors, management, and rank-and-file employees—some of whom now face more work because of reduced staff—are working cooperatively to ensure that we weather the storm with the least impact on taxpayers.”

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