

Board of County Commissioners

Stephen A. Wantz, President
C. Richard Weaver, Vice President
Dennis E. Frazier, Secretary
Doug Howard
Richard S. Rothschild



Carroll County Government

225 North Center Street
Westminster, Maryland 21157
410-386-2043; 1-888-302-8978
fax 410-386-2485
MD Relay 711/800-735-2258

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Deborah Lundahl
410-386-2043

Board of County Commissioners Budget Overview

Westminster, Thursday, March 17, 2016 –The FY17 budget cycle began today with the Board of County Commissioners hearing a report from Ted Zaleski, Director of Management and Budget, on the county’s financial position as preparation for next week’s sessions on the FY17 Recommended Budget.

“We still have not left the recession,” cautioned Mr. Zaleski. “However, the county is in a better than anticipated financial position.” Revenue growth remains modest and uncertain as pressures on services and infrastructure continue to grow. Income tax revenue experienced the largest increase this year. Property tax revenue also showed some growth. However, assessments are not as high as anticipated and are capped by the Homestead Tax Credit.

The recommended budget does not reflect the state’s contributions. This information will not be known until the state passes their budget, which is the day before the county begins budget deliberations. In addition, there are several pieces of legislation pending which may impact future revenues.

The state has changed the Maintenance of Effort (MOE) calculation to include the teacher pensions. The county had planned for increases to the teacher pension fund, but since the state will no longer record this as a separate line item the operating plan will not include any increases for this item. Commissioner Wantz expressed concern that this change will make it difficult to track the added pension obligation.

Overall, Mr. Zaleski expressed confidence in the FY17 budget projections. Fleet Management has benefited from the lower fuel prices and the county has experienced savings in employee healthcare costs. These savings will help to offset increases in Public Safety and Technology Services, primarily due to the cost of maintenance agreements for software and aging technology. The FY17 Recommended Budget will also include salary increases for county staff and the Sheriff’s Department.

CARROLL COUNTY

The Americans with Disabilities Act applies to the Carroll County Government and its programs, services, activities, and facilities. Anyone requiring an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication or who has a complaint should contact The Department of Citizen Services, 410.386.3600 or 1.888.302.8978 or MD Relay 7-1-1/1.800.735.2258 as soon as possible but no later than 72 hours before the scheduled event.

The next phase of the budget cycle will occur on March 22, 2016 and March 24, 2016, when the Department of Management and Budget will present the FY17 Recommended Operating and Capital Budgets.

#

Upcoming Budget Sessions

3/22/16 and 3/24/16	Recommended Budget	10:00 a.m.
3/29/16, 3/31/16, 4/5/16 and 4/7/16	Agency meetings with the Commissioners	
4/28/16	Proposed Budget News Conference	10:00 a.m.

Community Budget Meetings

4/28/16	County Office Building – Reagan Room	7:00 p.m.
5/2/16	Eldersburg Branch Library	7:00 p.m.
5/3/16	Mt. Airy Branch Library	7:00 p.m.
5/9/16	Taneytown Branch Library	7:00 p.m.
5/10/16	North Carroll Branch Library	7:00 p.m.

Residents are encouraged to attend the session most convenient for their schedule.

Budget Public Hearing

5/12/16	Scott Center – Carroll Community College	7:00 p.m.
---------	--	-----------

Residents are reminded that all budget meetings are open to the public.