Introduction to Redwood County Government

Vicki Knobloch Kletscher, County Administrator
Redwood County
Overview

- Redwood County Administrator - 14 years
- Works directly with Redwood County staff and the Redwood County Board of Commissioners
- Experience in financial and operational aspects of County
Today's Presentation

Introduction to Redwood County

Overview of County Decision-making

Redwood County Budget
County government overview

Mission: Committed to stewardship, respect and shared responsibility in providing improved cost-efficient services to all.

Service Values to our County:

- Public Safety
- Core Human Services
- Transportation Improvements
- Technology
- Accountability
County government overview

- Essential services:
  - Public infrastructure
  - Transportation & economic development assets
  - Resident health
  - Public safety
  - Public information & elections
  - Array of programs

- Services that build, maintain, protect our homes, schools, and neighborhoods

- Minnesota Statutes outline what County government is responsible for
We do...

- Examples of the services we provide include...
  - Law enforcement & correctional services
  - Plans for parks & recreation
  - Promote economic development
  - Comprehensive planning, zoning & development controls
  - Human services & income maintenance programs
Who’s Involved in the Decision-making Process?

1. County Commissioners
2. Planning Commissions & Other Committees
3. Administrative Staff
4. Citizens
Role of County Commission Overview

- 5 Commissioners
  - 1: Lon Walling
  - 2: Jim Salfer
  - 3: Dennis Groebner
  - 4: Robert Van Hee
  - 5: Dave Forkrud

- Make decisions on County-operated programs
  - Programs and Services for Citizens
  - Operating Budget

- Obtain information from administrator & department heads
Role of Committees Overview

- Advisory committees that bring recommendation to County Board of Commissioners
- Over 100 different committees
  - Vary in size and focus
  - Some are local, some are multi-county joint powers agreements
- Include Planning Commission, Law Library, Extension, Redwood/Renville Regional Solid Waste, Redwood County Historical Society, Area II Minnesota River Basin, Plum Creek Library Governing Board, Southwest Health and Human Services
Role of County Staff Overview

- Department Heads are in charge of the day to day operations of their Departments
  - Road and Bridge; Law Enforcement; County Attorney; Recorder; Auditor/Treasurer; Assessor; Environmental Services; Technology; Administrator; Extension; Veterans Service; Maintenance; Restorative Justice; Child Advocacy Center; A.C.E.

- Operate under Minnesota Statute §375A.06 Administrator form of Government. The Administrator is the chief executive officer for Redwood County, responsible for county operations and expenditures, future development, and implementing decisions of the County Board.
Role of Citizens Overview

- Active participation in county government
  - Board meeting attendance
  - Participate in public hearings e.g. Board of Equalization and Truth-In-Taxation

- Decisions are made in the best interest of the public

- Voting is another way to participate in your County Government. Citizens elect their officials to represent them when support or law changes are needed at the legislative level.

- Contact your elected official and make your voices heard.
Setting the budget is one of the most important decisions the Board of Commissioners makes. It directly impacts citizens through services and it’s a tool to realize the county’s goals. Each time you drive our roadways, a road is plowed, you call 911 or visit a library, or access child/family programs or the Courthouse, you are witnessing your tax dollars at work.

Where does the money that funds county government come from?

- State revenues
- Property tax levy
- Fees
- Grants
In last 2 decades, less from state revenues and more from local taxpayer

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<thead>
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<th>Category</th>
<th>Expense</th>
<th>Other Revenue</th>
<th>Levy</th>
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<td>Public Health</td>
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<td>Building</td>
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<td>Regional Library</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Expense</th>
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<td>Debt Service</td>
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<td>Solid Waste</td>
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<td>Ditch</td>
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<td>Less Levy Reduction Aids</td>
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<td>Budgeted Expenditures and Revenues</td>
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Redwood County Budget - Annual

- Needs:
  - All budgetary needs have increased in last 2 decades
  - More mandates, no new funding streams

- Results:
  - Fewer staff
  - Unable to keep up even minimum maintenance/reconstruction of roads/bridges
Thank you.