

***By Jan Rahn***

***Managing Editor***

Perkins County Commissioners were able to maintain approximately the same tax rate when they approved their 2010-11 fiscal year budget last week.

Perkins County Assessor Bonnie Appel prepared the budget which was adopted Sept. 7 with a new tax rate for the county of 45.24 cents per \$100 of valuation. The previous rate was 45.07 cents per \$100 of valuation in the 2009-10 budget.

This year's budget carries a total figure of \$7.5 million compared to last year's \$7.0 million budget.

Of last year's \$7.0 million budget, approximately \$5.2 million was actually spent by the county. Of that amount, approximately half was from sources other than tax dollars.

"The same scenario will most likely be true this year," said Appel.

The new budget carries a proposed property tax request of \$2,850,656.

Valuation in Perkins County increased from \$549 million to \$630 million.

Appel said \$26 million of the total valuation increase was due to the Rockies Express pipeline.

An increase in agricultural land accounted for a \$51 million valuation increase and the remainder was due to an increase in either residential or commercial valuations.

Appel said the county commissioners requested for the third fiscal year that all county officials maintain their office budgets, except for salaries, which increased three percent.

The complete budget summary is available to anyone who has questions during regular business hours at the Perkins County Clerk's Office.