



## Kingman County Commission

Fred Foley, County Commissioner District #1  
Carol F. Voran, County Commissioner District #2  
John Steffen, County Commissioner District #3

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### **County's 2017 budget keeps mill levy the same as 2016**

The Kingman County Commission has approved a budget that will keep next year's county mill levy the same as 2016.

After several lengthy budget discussions over the past few weeks that concluded Monday afternoon, commissioners voted to publish a 2017 county budget with a total mill levy of 62.041 mills. This is the only mill levy set by Kingman County government.

A mill is \$1 for every \$1,000 of assessed valuation (assessed valuation and appraised valuation are not the same thing). From year to year, the value of a mill to the county for tax purposes is determined by the total assessed property valuation.

In 2016, the county's assessed property valuation was \$110.6 million. In 2017, the county's assessed property valuation is \$103.6 million, a drop of approximately 7 percent. The 62.041 mills raised \$6.87 million for the county in 2016 but the same mill levy will raise only \$6.43 million for the county in 2017 – a decrease of approximately \$438,000.

Commissioners committed to use \$762,000 of the \$2.2 million one-time payment received from the newest commercial wind farm (Kingman Wind Energy 1, LLC) to hold the county mill levy steady. Commission Chairman Fred Foley said he wanted everyone in the county to benefit from the wind farm payment.

All department budgets remained flat from 2016 to 2017 and funding for two departments – Public Works and Sheriff – was cut. The 2017 budget includes funding for a 2.5 percent salary increase for county employees. Commissioners have not yet decided whether the salary increase will be given.

The county's bottom-line budget for 2017 is \$10.9 million. It was \$12.4 million in 2016.

Justin Mitchell, county auditor, noted the county is in good financial shape.

A state-mandated tax lid coming for the 2018 budget year and beyond will limit how much the county can increase its budget each year without approval by taxpayers via a special election.

The county will hold its public budget hearing at 8 a.m. Aug. 29 as part of its regular weekly meeting.

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