



News Release

Contact: Cindy Harger, Public Information Specialist

Phone: 307-732-5786

Email: charger@TetonWyo.org

Teton County would create designated 'Community Priorities Fund'

Jackson, Wyo. – Oct. 18, 2016 – Teton County commissioners agreed today to create a special fund for the 1 cent General Revenue Sales and Use Tax if the tax is approved by voters on Nov. 8.

With a unanimous vote of 5 to 0, the Teton County Board of County Commissioners approved a resolution to create a "Community Priorities Fund" to make it easier for officials and the public to track proceeds and expenditures from the tax, which is on the November ballot.

"With the creation of the special revenue fund, Teton County will continue to uphold its high level of transparency and accountability with taxpayer dollars as we address the community priorities of affordable housing and transportation," said County Commissioner Natalia D. Macker, who made the motion to adopt the resolution.

The Community Priorities Fund would function similarly to the county's other special revenue funds, such as Fire/EMS, Parks and Recreation, and Teton County Fair. According to the resolution, 50 percent of the 1 cent General Revenue Sales Tax funds would go toward affordable housing needs and 50 percent for transportation needs, per the Jackson/Teton County Workforce Housing Action Plan and Jackson/Teton Integrated Transportation Plan.

On Sept. 20, the Jackson Town Council approved a similar special revenue fund structure for the town's portion of the potential tax funding.

In June, the Board of County Commissioners and Jackson Town Council passed additional resolutions pledging that the 1 percent General Revenue Sales Tax would be split 50-50 between housing and transportation programs. By taking the additional step of setting up special revenue funds, the elected officials are aiming to provide an additional layer of public accountability, councilors and commissioners said.

Currently, Jackson sales taxes are at 6 percent. If it passes, the General Revenue Sales Tax measure would not go into effect until a 1 percent Special Purpose Excise Tax (SPET) expires in the spring, maintaining the 6 percent rate.

###