

Dickinson County Courthouse Newsletter

March 15, 2013



Employee Spotlight!

Let's get to know our County employees!



The February Newsletter featured the picture of the little girl to the left. Did you guess JoLynn Harms? Jo has worked for Dickinson County in the Auditor's office since 2000.

The following is a little personal information provided by JoLynn.

Start date with Dickinson County:

July 5, 2000

Where born: Titonka, Iowa

Places Lived: Titonka & Spirit Lake, Iowa

Hobbies, talents, special interests: Gardening & Photography

Favorite Travel Spots: Colorado

Favorite Food: Tacos (preferably from the Taco House)

Least Favorite Food: Asparagus

If I were stuck on an island, I would bring (3 things): A computer, a camera and a Friend

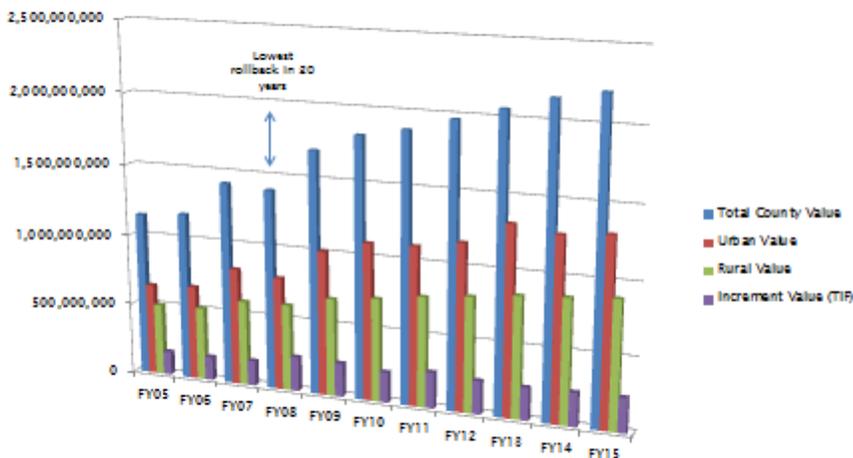
Something Few Know About Me: I LOVE horror movies

Favorite thing to do in Dickinson County: Drive around the lakes & shop at the gift shops

The 2015 County Budget:

Dickinson County Property Taxable Valuations by year

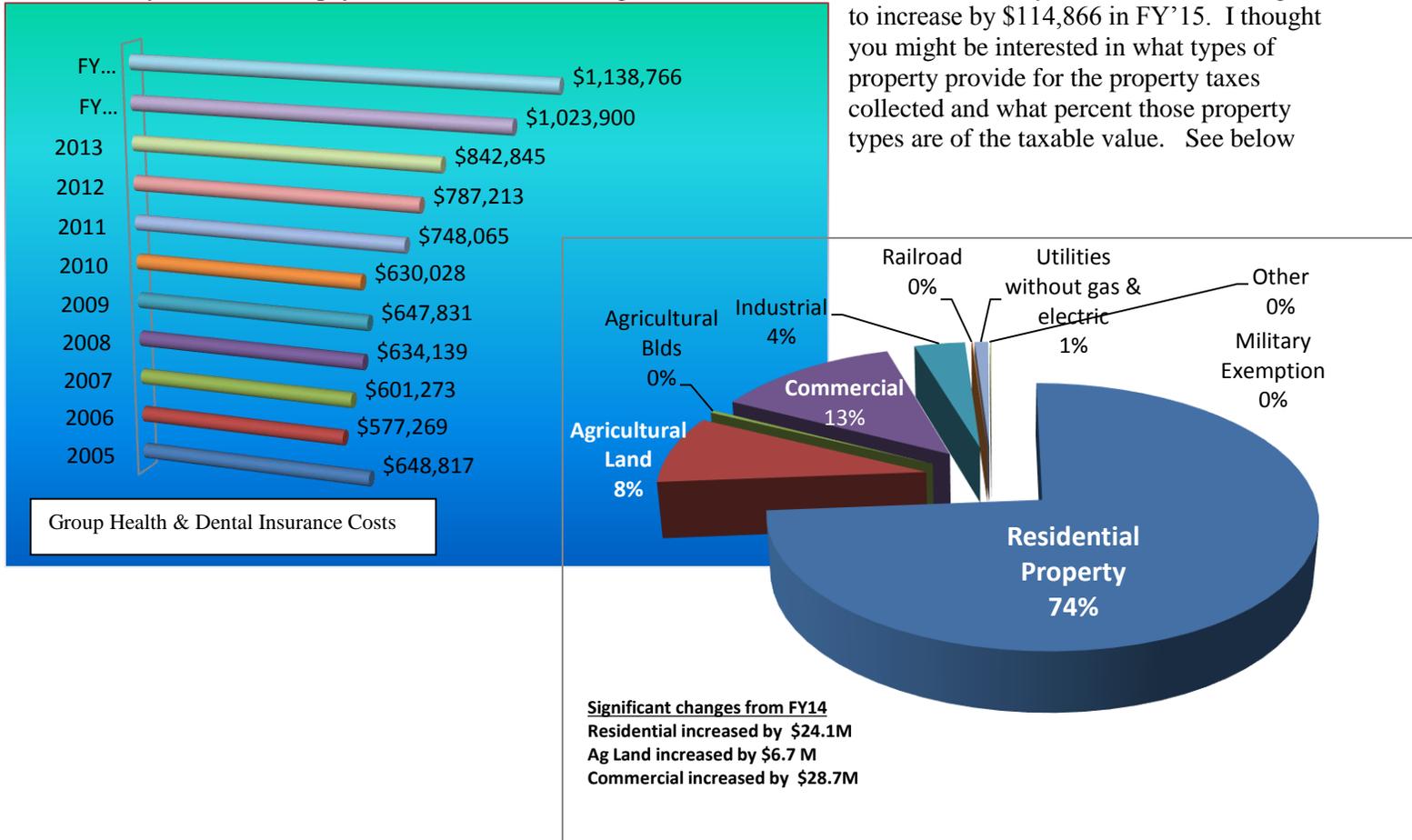
Including gas & elec utilities



The Dickinson County FY'15 Budget was approved Tuesday, March 11 with little comment during the public hearing. The following are some of the charts and graphs presented during the public hearing. You can find the full presentation on the County website.

The chart to the left shows the taxable value in Dickinson Co over the past 11 years. Total county taxable value grew from \$2,148,369,605 to \$2,205,566,281 for taxing asking for FY'15. You might think that \$53,000,000+ in growth should cover the County tax asking without any problem but it didn't and does not once you calculate the levy against it. That increase will generate about \$177,000 in additional tax dollars with the same

overall levy. The FY'15 payroll increase itself is budgeted at \$145,174 more than this fiscal year. Insurance is budgeted to increase by \$114,866 in FY'15. I thought you might be interested in what types of property provide for the property taxes collected and what percent those property types are of the taxable value. See below



Personnel Policies:

Many months ago the Board of Supervisors along with the Auditor, Nancy Reiman at that time, reviewed the changes to the County personnel policies suggested by the Ahlers & Cooney Law Firm. Many of their recommendations were minor language changes so those were accepted by the Board as changes to be made right away. The Auditor was going to make those changes while at the same time, the Board was to ask The Ahlers & Cooney Law Firm to review laws and policies related to Smoking, Drug use, Building Use, Grounds Use, Comp Time, Paid Time Off and IT policies. Since Nancy retired the policies have remained unrevised. Recently, after meeting with Mike Galloway of The Ahlers & Cooney Firm, the policies are being re-addressed and it is a goal of the Board of Supervisors to get the minor revisions done soon. The Board also expects to receive direction from the law firm and review those policies mentioned above with Department Heads and Offices before the end of this fiscal year. In addition to that, recently the Board of Supervisors discussed the policy suggestions provided by county individuals, also some time ago, and hope to act on some of those requests over the next calendar year. The Board plans to discuss those changes with the Department Heads & Offices before action is taken.

9 Things Happy People Don't Do:

This article was given to me and suggested that it be shared in the county newsletter. Although some of the article might be condensed for the newsletter, one thing happy people don't do will be in each of the next 9 newsletters. The article was written by Dan Baker, PhD of the Bottom Line Publications.

NUMBER 1: Happy people DON'T blame other people for their problems. They take responsibility when things go wrong – even when those problems truly are largely someone else's responsibility.

Better: If we take responsibility for our problems, then we take responsibility for solving those problems. We are more likely to effectively manage our lives and our happiness - and see that we have the power to set things right.

March Employee Spotlight



Let's get to know our County employees!
Find out more about this Dickinson
County employee in the April issue.
In the meantime, can you guess who this is?

Motivational quote for the month:

Dream it. Wish it. Do it!