

**ADAMS COUNTY BUDGET NARRATIVE  
2009**

2008 presented many opportunities for the Adams County Board of Commissioners as they strived to continue to maintain the fiscal strength of the county while providing the services needed to support the residents of our communities.

With the time and talents of the entire staff, the 2009 budget was assembled with the current economic state of our communities and nation viewed as the highest priority. The budget includes no cuts to essential services, no additional staff and minimal capital expenditures. Vacant positions currently not posted or filled will be addressed on a priority basis as we enter 2009. The need for strong long range financial planning is a major objective which the county is currently addressing. Increased healthcare costs, the support of a defined benefit employee pension plan, stagnant or decreasing revenues from State and Federal sources and increase demand for services have dramatically affected the bottom line.

The 2009 budget includes:

- New spending for a two year (2009/2010) countywide property evaluation with 21<sup>st</sup> Century Appraisals.
- Space needs for a fourth judge to be elected in 2009 will require additional space which is not available in our existing courthouse facility.
- The Adams County General Election ballot included a question which asked the county residents if they would approve \$10 million to be borrowed for the purpose of water resource protection, open space, recreation and agriculture land preservation. This was approved by a 72% voter support of the majority of those voting.
- 911 emergency radio system upgrades for the public safety of our citizens.
- With the hiring of our very own Nursing Home Administrator and reorganization of staff we should begin to operate the facility in a more cost effective manner. We will continue to subsidize Green Acres Rehabilitation Center until they become self sufficient.
- Proposed additional revenue from federal inmates being housed at the County Prison is being finalized and hopefully will be underway in the first quarter.

The world wide economic downturn has not left Adams County unblemished. With the economic situation and the above stated expenditures, a 1.3 mill tax increase has been approved to become effective January 1, 2009. Of the 1.3 mill increase, .4 mills will be restricted for Open Space project financing and .9 mills will be used for county general fund expenditures. Short term financing will be utilized to appropriate for the county wide property reevaluation and a Tax Anticipation Note to address 2009 expenses which will need paid before 2009 tax revenues become available. Long term financing will be used to fund the Open Space Initiatives which were overwhelmingly supported by the fall 2008 ballot referendum.

Total Revenues = \$52,353,006

Total Expenses = \$51,449,134

General Fund

\$39,873,190

Fund Balance = \$903,872

Children and Youth Services

\$ 8,173,383

911 Communications Fund	\$ 1,971,478
Domestic Relations	\$ 1,270,478
Hazardous Materials Fund	\$ 74,274
Green Acres	\$10,160,509

The budget is made available for public inspection at the Commissioners Office, Room 201, Adams County Courthouse, 111-117 Baltimore Street, Gettysburg, PA during the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.