

## Tax askings up just \$25,000 or 0.4 percent

**By Russ Pankonin**

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Property tax askings for Chase County Schools for the proposed 2012-13 budget year will remain within \$25,000 of last year's request.

The school board will hold a hearing and act on the budget at their next meeting, Tuesday, Sept. 11, at 5 p.m.

This year, the school is requesting property taxes of \$6,048,100, which is just \$25,000 more than last year's request of \$6,023,000. This represents an increase of 0.4 percent.

The proposed general fund request decreased \$11,900 to \$5,808,100.

While there is no tax request for the building fund, there is a request for capital funds to pay for the new heating/cooling system project. The amount budgeted in the coming year for that payment is \$240,000. Last year, the budget included \$203,000 in property taxes for the building fund.

This year's budget includes the second year of a two-year salary package for teachers and certified staff.

The new base for teachers will be \$31,400, up from \$31,000 last year. Salaries represent more than 70 percent of the school's budget.

Negotiations on the next two-year agreement are expected to begin in the next several months.

### Property valuation up

The overall property valuation of the school district increased \$28.74 million this year. This brings valuation within the district boundaries to \$652,858,946.

With the combination of the increase in property valuation and only a slight increase in tax requests, the tax levy for the school will be \$0.924931 per \$100 of valuation.

This compares to last year's levy of \$0.965 per \$100 of valuation.

### Special meeting last week

The board held a special meeting last Thursday when they gave Supt. Brad Schoeppe authority to spend \$150,000 for negotiating the purchase of a "new" used over the road bus for activities. The funds are included in the 2012-13 proposed budget, and has been a topic of board discussion the past year.

Two smaller buss-es will be traded in as part of the deal to purchase the 2008 bus from Kearney. They are expecting it to be here next week for possible use as the football team travels to Chadron.

Other action at last week's special meeting included moving \$100,000 from the general fund into the depreciation fund.

### County budget set for hearing Sept. 11

Chase County commissioners will hold their annual budget hearing for the 2012-13 budget at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Sept. 11, at their regular meeting.

The commissioners are proposing property tax requests of \$2,508,250. This amounts to a

growth in taxes of \$185,020 over last year.

Percentage-wise, this growth in property tax request represents an increase of 7.96 percent.