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Lake commissioners talk budget, wages

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Lake County commissioners passed a swath of resolutions at their second to last meeting of the year, including a temporary budget for the early part of 2013.

A 2.5 percent salary increase for non-union workers is one of two big changes expected for the upcoming fiscal year.

"This is the first raise that these non-general fund employees have had since 2008," Commissioner Dan Troy said.

"Because of the cutback in size of the county's workforce, employee salaries ... have fallen from approximately

\$28 million in 2009 to now a little bit under \$22 million projected in 2013."

Commissioner Robert Aufuldish said the wage increases will be effective on Jan. 1, 2013.

"We'd like to thank all our non-union folks who have not had any compensations increase in the last four years," he said.

"We certainly appreciate everything they've done."

Lake County Finance Director Joel DiMare said the county is projecting \$50 million in revenues for 2013, and \$49,800 in expenditures. This is down about \$9 million from normal levels since the county changed how it accounts for the health

care plan.

"The health care is being paid out of a separate fund, so overnight that drops the expenditures of the general fund budget significantly," Troy said.

DiMare also noted that 2013 is also the first year for the inside millage rate drop on property taxes, down from 2.1 mills to 1 mill.

"This is a projected drop of \$6.45 million from the general fund," he said. "Also the Local Government Fund is anticipated to drop by \$200,000."

The commissioners also passed four resolutions authorizing department of job and family services to enter into contracts with various Lake County courts for services

that also receive federal money.

"These resolutions for the four-D contracts are federal funds that the county uses to provide services in different departments," Troy said.

"It requires a local match so we have to put up 34 percent and we get 66 percent from the federal government in terms of providing these services."

Troy added that the county has to be careful not to ask for more than needed because the 34 percent can add up.

The county's responsibility for the resolutions totals roughly \$498,500.

Lake County commissioners talk about the 2012 budget at News-Herald.com

