

Members Voice – Golden Valley County

The Golden Valley County budget is tight. Last fall, the fiscally conservative county commissioners looked ahead to align income and expenses. The county treasurer told commissioners that without changes, the county could be out of money by fiscal year 2019. Golden Valley County Commission Chairman Troy Tescher said the commission cut budgets, laid off county employees and increased taxes. “We all three (commissioners) believe if you don’t have the money, you don’t spend it.” The county laid off the Deputy Recorder.

The county hopes to save money, effort and time in its road department in the near future. Tescher said, the county is making personnel changes to allow staff to focus and specialize. He said they are spread so thin that by trying to multi-task, they lose efficiencies.

“We’ve lost a lot of revenue,” Tescher said. Oil income is down and with lower ag commodity prices, some of the local economy has slid, especially those businesses dealing with farmers and ranchers such as implement dealers.

Thanks to help from federal funds, the county last year re-graveled large portions of its county roads. The road crew stayed busy through the winter and now the snow is soaking in to the ground. Tescher said it’s dry where he ranches, northeast of Beach. He said last fall he dug down four feet before he hit moist soil.

Looking ahead, the county will replace a township bridge, perhaps in 2019 thanks in a large part to federal funding. Planning and designing work is underway to replace the pony truss bridge on a gravel road to a ranch north of Beach.

