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Title: Reserves

Policy No: 1008

Approval: County Council

Effective Date: September 27, 2006



Mountain View  
COUNTY

Supersedes Policy No: Section E 6. (a) – Section E 7(c)

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**Policy Statement:** Mountain View County (the County) will establish reserve funds. The reserve funds will be set aside and used under the direction of County Council.

**Purpose:** The purpose of the policy is for Council to set the overall direction concerning why the County has reserves and how they are used.

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**Principles:**

1. The general purpose of reserves is to 'smooth out' the normal fluctuations in the level of County expenditures from budget year to budget year. This gives rate payers greater certainty concerning their tax rates and works to avoid large tax rate changes in any given year.
2. The items that would generally cause fluctuations in expenditures would be:
  - a. large expenditures that only happen periodically (e.g. large capital projects),
  - b. initiatives that were planned and funded for a particular year but delayed till a future year (e.g. road re-chipping that could not be completed due to weather),
  - c. items that have large unpredictable variances from year (e.g. snow removal costs), or
  - d. items related to one time start up costs for an initiative (e.g. start up costs related to the provision of a GIS system).
3. Reserves will be used so that in most cases the County will not need to use long term financing to complete initiatives. This means that when we know of a large future initiative the County will start building reserve funds over a number of years in order to have collected funds in advance to pay for the initiative. Current tax payers will be paying for future initiatives but would receive the benefits of past initiatives and the benefit of earning rather than paying interest. However the need to use long term financing should not necessarily cause an initiative to be rejected.
4. The secondary goal of holding reserves is to avoid short term borrowing. Reserve funds are expected to be used to provide internal short term financing between January 1 and when taxes are collected. However, reserve funds should not be specifically collected and held to provide short term financing.
5. Attached in Appendix A are descriptions for each reserve which lists the purpose of the reserve, regulations specific to the reserve and background information.

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End of Policy:

Approved: October 11, 2006

Amended: August 8, 2007