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## County Council approves plan for using revenues

By Jenny Hartley-Senior Reporter

County Council approved a plan Monday on how building permit revenue and taxes from homes appraised and sold in 2007 would be used for other county expenses.

Assessable transfer of interest, or ATI, money comes from homes sold in 2007 that were appraised at a higher value. The county was able to factor in the higher property taxes from new appraisals on those homes, totaling \$768,264.

The county is using \$437,877 to give employees a 2.85 percent raise. The raise had already been approved to come from reserves, but County Administrator Steve Willis suggested using the ATI funds instead.

Another \$100,000 in ATI funds will bring the salaries of 84 county employees to the minimum salary suggested in a recent study of county employee salaries.

ATI money will also cover \$113,566 in state budget cuts and \$15,000 to supplement the Emergency Medical Services salary account.

Building permit revenue will cover various capital needs for the county, including: safety equipment for human resources, \$4,000; furniture for probate court, \$9,850; a vehicle-tracking device system for the sheriff's office, \$45,000; kitchen equipment and painting for the detention center, \$36,000; annual radio and battery change-outs for the fire service, \$30,000; equipment for EMS, \$26,000; additional pipe for roads and bridges, \$25,000; maintenance equipment for building and grounds, \$11,000; building and infrastructure upgrades for building and grounds, \$56,200; and kennel repairs at Lancaster County Animal Shelter, \$20,000.

The building permit revenue will also pay for a small utility vehicle for the coroner's office, a service truck for the vehicle maintenance department and a roll-off transport truck for the solid waste department.

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