

# Board approves budget; revenue declining

BY DANIELLE TYLER  
SENTINEL NEWS STAFF

MT. VERNON — County finances continue to trouble the Jefferson County Board due to declining revenue and late payments from the state.

During the county's regular Fiscal Committee meeting Thursday night, Treasurer Debbie Marlow said the second distribution property tax payments have been fewer and slower than in previous years, which she called "very unusual."

"The taxes are not coming in the same as they usually do," Marlow said.

Between \$28 million and \$29 million was billed for the property taxes, and Marlow said while she did not have any solid figures as to how much had been collected thus far, she estimated the number to be below \$20 million.

"I think the slow economy is hitting Jefferson County," she said.

The committee also learned the county is waiting on thousands from the state, including \$61,948.75 for the state's attorney salary, \$11,187.50 for the supervisor of assessments and \$328,000 in probation reimbursement.

Payroll for county employees needs to be paid next week, Marlow explained, and other bills, such as the health care premiums, need to be held until revenue, including the local use tax and the state income tax, are received.

"Our financial situation is not good," Chairman Ted Buck said.

Also last night, the Fiscal Committee approved to recommend the approval of a balanced 2009-10 tentative budget. The projected

Please see **Budget**, Page 3A

## Budget:

*Continued From Page 1A*

\$13,236,665 budget includes cuts requested from each office holder.

According to Sentinel archives, office holders were recently asked to cut budget requests by 12 percent after expenses were projected in September to total \$13,829,856.

"The budget was posted for 30 days and not one item has been contested," Buck said.

[dtyler@morningsentinel.com](mailto:dtyler@morningsentinel.com)