

Big Lake Closure Affecting Holt County Budget

(KTNC) - Holt County Commissioners are beginning preparations for next year's budget.

County Clerk Kathy Kunkel says they're meeting with elected officials to review expenditures over the first 11 months of this year and look at what the budgets might be next year.

Holt County has seen a decrease in sales tax receipts recently. Kunkel attributes that partly to the loss of Big Lake State Park, which is closed for repairs incurred during the 2011 flood and won't reopen for at least another year.

Kunkel says the loss of Big Lake State Park costs the county about 15-to-20 jobs and a six-percent downturn in sales tax revenue over the summer months. That equals between \$80,000 and \$100,000 in sales tax revenue.

Kunkel says the budget is normally approved in mid-January and she's looking to have next year's budget approved by January 21.

Kunkel says commissioners are considering creating an Enhanced Enterprise Zone as a way to spur economic development in the county.

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