

BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING**MINUTES****WELLSBORO AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT**

May 27, 2015 12:00 PM Administration Office- Conference Rm.

Start Time: 12:05 PM

Present

Carl Chambers, Stewart Burrous, Lana Shabloski, Chris Morral, David Krick, Rob Kreger, Michael Pietropola, Steve Adams, Ben Largey, Bonnie Thompson, Pat Hewitt, Bryan Murphy, Amy Repard,

Public

Ashley Redell

Diana Eaton, Reporter, Sun Gazette

Anna Vail

Agenda

Chris Morral opened the meeting reviewing the current status of the 2015-16 budget as it is known today with Total Expenditures at \$24,196,070 and Total Revenues at \$24,196,070. Mr. Morral noted several facts reflected in this budget such as:

- This budget is to the Act 1 index of 2.4% and does not use any of the Exceptions that the district was approved for.
- Governor Wolfe's proposed Education Funding totaling \$273,189.43.
- The offer from Susquehanna Health for Occupational Therapy Services. This proposal is less than the contract with Blast IU#17 for 2015-16 services, therefore, the district will be contracting Occupational Therapy Services with Susquehanna Health.

Mr. Morral noted this budget could change with updated Assessed Values from the counties.

Ben Largey discussed the psychologist intern position that has been budgeted. The person approved to fill this position has rescinded her application and therefore, Mr. Largey is requesting to leave the funding in place to hire a part-time person to continue the after school tutoring and counseling duties that were assumed this year by the intern position. The committee discussed this and agreed to leave the funding in place.

Mr. Morral stated the lease for the 1:1 initiative did not include mice and cases. Bryan Murphy states the cost of these items is included in the original budget amount. Bryan is obtaining a quote for these items to be added to the lease.

Review of Revenues:

- Mrs. Thompson stated the district was notified by the state of the Property Tax Relief for Homestead and Farmstead properties will total \$378,521.65. This is a reduction of \$886.00 from last year.
- The debt service reimbursement decreases \$158,971 due to the refinance. However, the district will receive the same amount of reimbursement as was originally established. It will be spread out over the debt service repayment time.
- Pat Hewitt discussed the reduction in the Federal Programs funding. This is a decrease of \$70,574.

Review of Expenditures:

- Mrs. Thompson stated a reduction in the debt service payments due to Robert Baird ongoing restructuring of the district's bond payments. She has used the figures prepared by the district's financial advisor, Robert Baird Company. This is an estimated reduction of \$1,152,317. Mr. Chambers commented the restructuring would only take place if the rates were low.
- Decrease in federal programs budgeting for professional development and inservice of \$20,437
- Mrs. Thompson discussed several payroll changes that increase expenses \$62,027. These changes are: an increase in dental rates of 4.5% for all employees, change in employee insurance coverage, retiree insurance, changes due to new contract agreement with support association and custodial staff changes
- A decrease of \$7,034 in Special Education expenses due to Blast contract increase of \$900 and Susquehanna Health Occupational Therapy services savings of \$7,934
- An increase of \$478.00 to Technology expenses due to adding PA-Estep (PA Electronic Teacher Evaluation Portal) and removing SubFinder.

The Hartman Budget Model was displayed and discussed. This planning model shows 5 year financial projections. For 2015-16 PSERS is 25.84%, and increases in 2016-17 is 29.69%, 2017-18 is 30.63% and by 2019-20 is 32.23%.

It was the recommendation of the committee to take the Final Budget to the June 9th board meeting.

Mrs. Thompson stated the three listed items would be on the June 9th Board Meeting:

- Final Budget Adoption
- Resolution authorizing Farmstead and Homestead
- Adoption of Tax Resolution

Meeting was adjourned at 1:20PM