



BUDGET HEARING MINUTES

October 29, 2024

Pursuant to the regulations, the budget hearing was held on the above date in the Waupaca High School Community Room and was live streamed via YouTube.

The purpose of the Board Meeting Minutes is to capture the essence of discussions through the actions voted on. These minutes should not be interpreted to represent a transcription of the meeting. To watch a recording of this meeting, please click [here](#).

President's Comments and Pledge of Allegiance:

Ron Brooks welcomed everyone. He noted that we need community involvement and everyone needs to do their due diligence to bring in families and businesses to the Waupaca area. We cannot solely depend on the Waupaca Foundry, we need diversification to share the burden of the taxes. He then asked Lori Verhalen to lead the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by President Ron Brooks at 5:32 p.m.

Roll Call:

Present in the WHS Community Room: Ron Brooks, Dale Feldt, Betty Manion, Steve Klismet, Bob Adams, and Lori Verhalen.

Excused: Molly McDonald.

Also Present:

Present in the WHS Community Room: Austin Moore, Mark Flaten, Laurie Schmidt, Sandy Lucas, Jay Seefeldt, and Sandy Robinson.

Approval of Agenda:

A motion was made by Bob Adams and seconded by Dale Feldt to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

Review of Board Meeting Norms:

The Board reviewed their collective commitments.

Budget Hearing and Tax Levy Certification:

Director of Business Services Austin Moore advised that the budget presented tonight was slightly revised from the published budget and what was presented at the October 8th meeting because the revenue limit worksheet is updated every day by the DPI. The changes in revenue included a decrease in the local tax levy (Fund 10) and increases in state aid, in other revenue (Act 12, personal property tax set by the state), and in DPI special projects grants (to help with English Learner students). The changes in expenses included a shift from one account to another, increases in activities and technology funding, as well as an increase in instructional services (related to open enrollment and private schools). In addition, there was an increase in Fund 39 of \$1.5 million (the planned defeasance which is included in the budget and levy), as well as a small

bookkeeping adjustment in Fund 50. These adjustments resulted in a net decrease in the projected shortfall, so the new projected shortfall for the 2024-2025 school year is \$1,121,165.58.

Mr. Moore further advised that the tax levy for the District increased to \$13,374,262 and includes the \$1.5 million defeasance to pay off the referendum early. This results in an estimated tax mill rate of \$4.95 per \$1,000 of property valuation, which is a decrease of \$0.06 per \$1,000 from last year. He pointed out that the equalized property values increased significantly. Mr. Moore set out the major budgetary factors which include general state aid, student enrollment (which is based on FTE on a three year rolling average), equalized property values, and the per member increase of \$325 as determined by the state. The projected year end Fund 10 fund balance is \$8,122,401 (which includes \$500,000 designated for athletic turf replacement). Mr. Moore also provided supporting documentation outlining how the budget calculations were determined.

In response to inquiries received from the Board, Administration advised that many school districts in the state have declining enrollment reflecting the fact that there are fewer school age students. In the past, the District had declining enrollment, it then plateaued, and now it is increasing. Our lowest number in the three year rolling average will fall off next year and hopefully enrollment continues to increase. Whether virtual students are considered homeschooled depends on how many classes they take. However, Rural Virtual Academy (RVA) helps to pull some of those students back into the schools as well. The mobility rate of families/students is increasing as well.

Board President Brooks asked Mr. Seefeldt and Mrs. Robinson if they had any questions, particularly with regard to defeasance, and they did not.

Approval of Change in Adopted Budget From Published Budget:

A motion was made by Betty Manion and seconded by Dale Feldt to approve the amended 2024-2025 budget as presented, which represents a \$1,121,165.58 budgetary shortfall. The motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

Approval of 2024-2025 Revenues and Expenditures:

A motion was made by Dale Feldt and seconded by Bob Adams to adopt the 2024-2025 all-funds revenue budget of \$38,305,702.08 and the all-funds expense budget of \$39,360,577.71 as presented. The motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

Approval of 2024-2025 Tax Levy:

A motion was made by Dale Feldt and seconded by Lori Verhalen to approve and set the School District of Waupaca's 2024-2025 tax levy in the amount of \$13,374,262.00 (General Fund 10 - \$11,411,262.00; Debt Service Fund 39 - \$1,963,000.00). The motion carried unanimously on a voice vote. (Note: The above approved tax levy generates a tax mill rate of \$4.95 per \$1,000 of property valuation.)

Approval of Designation of Fund Balance:

A motion was made by Bob Adams and seconded by Dale Feldt to designate the District's 2024-2025 General Fund 10 fund balance (\$9,743,566.00) as follows: \$500,000.00 for future athletic turf replacement (as designated and approved by the Board on 10/27/22) and \$9,243,566.00 for general fund cash flow purposes, from which the projected shortfall will be deducted. The motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Betty Manion and seconded by Dale Feldt to adjourn the meeting at 5:54 p.m. The motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

Date _____
Ron Brooks, President
Board of Education

Date _____
Betty Manion, Clerk
Board of Education