

Budget Hearing

May 11, 2021 – 5:30 PM

Northern Adirondack Central School District

Held in the Middle/High School Auditorium, Ellenburg, NY

Board Members Present:

Phalon Miner- President
Bryan Trombley- Vice President
Steven Bartlemus

Board Members Absent:

Trevor Finley
Mark DeCoste
Willie Venne

Others Present:

James Knight, Jr. - Superintendent , Brian Tousignant - Business Manager, Jay Bouchard- Building & Grounds, Richard Harriman Sr., Kathy Rego, Stephanie Donahue, Mark Reif, David Randall, Brynn Ghostlaw, Heather Magoon, Richard Moore, Brett Smith, Amanda Coryea, Jessica Damour, Tiffany Leonard, Kiersten DeCoste, Tyler Pombrio, Peggy Hogan, Lisa Silver, Sandy Smith, Stewart Smith, Nicole Myers, Richard Trombley, Justin Rider, Amanda Rider, Tousha Smith, Wendy Nichols, Robert Hogan, Melissa Reif, Beth Randall, Mike Loughman, Jenny Gilmore, Jane Nichols, Pam Fleury, Sarah Watts, Erica Nelson

Mr. Knight, Superintendent of Schools started the meeting at 5:30 pm. Three board members were present for tonight's meeting with three excused absences, Mr. Trevor Finley, Mr. Mark DeCoste, and Mr. Willie Venne.

Board Meeting Postponed for May 11, 2021:

Mr. Knight informed all attendees' the Regular Board Meeting scheduled for this evening is postponed and rescheduled this Friday, May 14, 2021. This meeting will be in the Middle/ High School Auditorium at 6:00 pm.

Inform:

Mr. Knight invited all present to stay after the Budget Hearing to discuss three major topics.

Budget Presentation:

Mr. Knight presented 2021-2022 budget information and annual election through a power point presentation. (See Attachment)

Closing

Question & Answer:

Stephanie Donahue- When you are talking about the assessed value and when you pass the budget for the \$18.06 per thousand and my assess vaule goes up, how are you taking it away because last year it went up too.

Mr.Knight- the district can only collect the \$7,700,000 the levy amount. The assessment information we do not have untill the end of July. Last year our budget vote was in June at that point we were able to collect more inforamtion than any given year because of the extra time. With that being said the tax rate went down and very well might go down this year too once we get the assessments back in July.

Stephanie Donahue- So you can only collect what is on the school budget the \$7,700,000.

Mr. Knight- Yes, thank you that is probably the best way to explain it after talking through it with you. The three numbers we hear are tax cap, tax rate and tax levy out of the three the only one that means the most is the tax levy the levy is the key.

Kiersten DeCoste- What is the benefit of paying CVES more on our debt this year?

Mr. Knight- Right now we have an outstanding bill of 1.8million dollars and supposed to be paid down in a 10-15 year period. Like anything we had to borrower money to pay that bill, we are not paying BOCES any more they have their money. We are paying debt collectors and they add interest to us yearly. One benefit to paying more on that now is we will be cutting down on the total sum that we owe. The super benefit is that is BOCES aidable because it is going toward a BOCES project so will get money back. Out of \$500k we are expected to get back \$240k. Our goal is to use that \$240k to help pay for next year payment towards our loan. If all goes well and we stay to this plan we could have this debt paid off in four to five years. A good example is someone who changes their mortgage to a bi-weekly payment compaired to a 30 year mortgage and saves them tremendously.

Kiersten DeCoste- that money that you are getting back in guaranteed?

Mr. Knight- Yes

Kathy Rego- Am I right to think that you, the teachers, and the board of education are all getting raises?

Mr. Knight- The board of education is not paid. The teachers and myself these are part of our contract negotiation. My contact goes into the next year with about a three percent increase for this year. Those contracts are negotiated obligations.

Kathy Rego- When you look at the tax rate you are saying \$18.06 but when you look at the budget and calculated those numbers you get \$18.20.

Mr. Knight- that \$18.20 was what we had for a tax rate at our last meeting and should be updated. Remember when I said some on the tax assessment information has not all came in well some has and now and has rightfully impacted that rate to change to the \$18.06. It is the \$18.06 currently and after July, it will change again.

Kathy Rego- What is your adjustment on the assess value on the Budget you have \$423,126,166? What did you adjust it to in order to come up with the \$18.06?

Mr. Tousignant- We had received the tentative total of assess value for the district. We replaced that with what we would normally do is take the prior year and assume a 1% increase across the entire district and that figure is what was used to come up with the \$ 18.20. Then we were able to as of May 1st get attentive tax values and tax role which allowed us to plug in that number and

brought us to the \$18.06. This was based on both Franklin and Clinton County.

Kathy Rego- the Town of Ellenburg went up in some cases as high as 10%. Now that is not going to reflect what you are saying.

Mr. Knight- I stressed this evening that the rate per thousand is kind of a false hope. The rate now is a guest-mated rate based on the information that we have as of now. Once the County get us the rest of the information, that rate will only reflect on the total of \$7,700,000 tax levy.

Public- did any money go into this budget to hire additional instructional staff to assist in the tech. piece.

Mr. Knight- This is the perfect opportunity for me to propose to the board and very important position to the district that we have not had is a technology education coordinator.

Mark Reif- I did not get the budget newsletter in the mail yet it needs to be mailed out earlier. In addition, we should have done a phone call to everyone letting him or her know of the upcoming budget hearing.

Mr. Knight- I can tell you we certainly met all of the State requirements on getting the budget information out. It has been in the Newspaper. The reasoning on the not doing the phone call is we do not have a list of number in the district of register voters and we can't be calling it can be seen as soliciting votes. On the mailing piece I would like to ask Britany our District Clerk in enlighten us on this.

Mrs. LaBombard- I went today and dropped off newsletters to every post office within the district except the Center post office they would not let me leave them there. All the mailings went out on Thursday or Friday last week through EDDM (every door mailings) and should be getting them today or tomorrow the latest.

Brett Smith- The meeting is tonight and we did not have the information we need time to prepare.

Mr. Knight- The budget was voted on and passed at last month's board meeting. Everyone can attend those meeting. In addition, the information has been posting on our website since then.

Budget Hearing ended at 7:36 pm

Brittany LaBombard, District Clerk