

MINUTES OF THE 2009 BUDGET HEARING AND ANNUAL MEETING
SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SOMERSET
SEPTEMBER 14, 2009
SOMERSET HIGH SCHOOL INSTRUCTIONAL MEDIA CENTER

Board members present: Tim Witzmann, Catherine Cranston, Marie Colbeth, Brian Moulton, Michael Connor, Marin Hansch, and Robert Gunther.

Community members present: Randy Rosburg, Tammie Wishard, Shawn Madden, Debbie Little, Rick Lange, Ryan Sicard, R. Bodlovick, Cherrie Wood, Kathy Brakke, Donna Eiring, Michele Bauer, Lori Baillargeon

Others present: Robert Avery, Ron Berg, Dave Newman

School Board President Tim Witzmann called the 2009 Budget Hearing to order at 7:00 p.m. Business Manager Robert Avery reviewed the budget planning calendar and 2009-2010 budget process timeline, and reviewed the 2009-2010 Summary Budget's revenues and expenditures. Avery also highlighted various fund expenditures throughout the budget. Avery reviewed other areas such as tax levy history, projected tax levy by municipality, five-year tax levy history, mil-rate history since 1994, as well as proposed property tax levy and the estimated property tax impact and debt service schedule.

Witzmann explained the procedures for the Annual Meeting, then opened the floor to elect a meeting Chairperson. Colbeth moved, with second by Cranston, to elect Tim Witzmann as Chairperson of the 2009 Annual Meeting. Motion carried.

Colbeth moved, with second by Brakke, to elect Tammie Wishard as Teller of the 2009 Somerset School District Annual Meeting. Motion carried.

Witzmann said the minutes of the 2008 Annual Meeting were provided in the packet for informational purposes as the 2008 minutes had been approved at the September, 2008 regular board meeting.

Sicard moved, with second by Lange, to dispense with the reading of and to approve the Treasurer's report. Motion carried.

Rosburg reviewed the business section of the packet including preliminary enrollment numbers, explaining that the numbers are not official until the September Third Friday count is taken. Rosburg also briefly reviewed the Strategic Plan and its supporting action plan, the 2009-10 District Goals, state testing scores and ACT results, along with the 2009-2010 school-year calendar. He then went on to explain the various on-going or completed projects including the middle school circulation pump, middle school masonry project, the relining or striping of school parking lots, classroom sizes and available space, soccer fields, irrigation systems for the athletic fields, and the north access school road and south exit road.

Brakke moved, with second by Eiring, to authorize the Somerset Board of Education to acquire real estate during the 2009-2010 school year. Motion carried.

Eiring moved, with second by Baillargeon, to authorize the Somerset Board of Education to designate sites for district buildings and provide for the erection of suitable school buildings during the 2009-2010 school year. Motion carried.

Connor moved, with second by Lange to authorize the Somerset Board of Education to direct and provide for the prosecution and defense of legal procedures during the 2009-2010 school year. Motion carried.

Sicard moved, with second by Lange to authorize reimbursement for actual and necessary expenses for travel of Somerset Board of Education members during the 2009-2010 school year. Motion carried.

Baillargeon moved, with second by Eiring, to approve a maximum allowed tentative tax levy of \$8,547.562 with a mill rate of \$10.51 per \$1,000 value, for the purpose of defraying the operation and maintenance of the public schools for the 2009-2010 school year. Collbeth asked that the record reflect a school teacher made the motion for this resolution. Discussion ensued regarding a maximum tax levy's affect on property taxes and the current economic conditions. A hand vote was taken, with four in favor of the resolution, and ten against, with five abstaining. Motion failed.

Moulton moved, with second by Colbeth to approve a tentative tax levy of \$8,087, 975.00 for the purpose of defraying the operation and maintenance of the public schools for the 2009-2010 school year. The projected mill rate shall be \$9.65 per \$1,000 value. A hand vote was taken, with eleven in favor of the resolution, and two against, with six abstaining. Motion carried.

Sicard moved, with second by Colbeth, to authorize selling tangible personal property no longer needed by the school district as determined by the Administration during the 2009-2010 school year. Motion carried.

Cranston moved, with second by Lange, to approve that the Board salaries remain as follows for the 2009-2010 school year: \$2000.00 for the Board President, \$1800.00 for the Vice President, the Clerk and the Treasurer, and \$1500 for all other members, and that all committee members will receive an additional \$25 per meeting for attending Special and Committee meetings. Rosburg stated this motion does not reflect an increase, and that board salaries have remained the same for three years. Motion carried.

Discussion then centered on setting the next Annual Board Meeting. Colbeth asked about the feasibility of moving the Annual Meeting back one month to minimize budget variables before the meeting. Avery stated the Board must certify the levy before October 31st. After further discussion, Colbeth moved, with second by Cranston to authorize the Board to hold the 2010 Annual Meeting on Monday, October 4, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in the Somerset High School IMC. Motion carried.

Brakke moved, with second by Baillargeon, to adjourn the 2009 Somerset School District Annual Meeting at 7:58 p.m. Motion carried

Tim Witzmann, President

Catherine Cranston, Clerk