

ANNUAL MEETING of the SCHOOL DISTRICT of REEDSBURG

Official notice of meeting given and posted.

August 15, 2011

Central Office Building Board Room

8:00 p.m.

Present:

- Board of Education: Steve Balda, Gary Woolever, John Pearson, Mike Hartje, LuAnn Brey, Shaun Luther, Jim Wieczorek
- Administration: Tom Benson, Patrick Ruddy, Jeff Bindl, Linda Bruun, Rob Taylor, Matt Terry, Bryan Yager, Casey Campbell, Clint Beyer, Paul Bierman, Jenny Gehri, Tammy Hayes
- Media: Jeff Seering, Reedsburg Independent; Tom Demmin, The New Radio Group; Ken Leiviska, Reedsburg Times Press; Tommy Lee Bychinski, Reedsburg Utility
- Others: Barbara Sand - see list for others in attendance (total attendance – approximately 35)

— Budget Hearing —

Mr. Balda, president of the Board of Education, called the Budget Hearing to order at 8:02 p.m. Approximately 32 district residents and 3 non-residents were in attendance. Following welcoming remarks and introductions Mr. Balda reviewed the materials distributed and noted the rules of order for this hearing. Mr. Balda called on Mr. Ruddy, director of business services, to review the proposed budget.

Mr. Ruddy reviewed the Budget Summary, identifying an expenditure decrease of 2.21 percent to \$31,880,359 (all funds) and revenues of \$31,880,637 creating a slight surplus of \$278. The proposed tax levy for 2011-2012 is \$13,855,911, a 2.44 percent increase over 2010-2011. The 2011-2012 tax rate for the School District of Reedsburg is predicted to be \$9.80, a \$0.31 increase from 2010-2011. This means that the taxpayer is predicted to pay, for school purposes, \$9.80 for each \$1,000 of equalized property valuation, which he or she possesses. The tax rate last year was \$9.49.

The proposed budget does include a projected increase in enrollment of 75 Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) students, due to the addition of Four-Year-Old Kindergarten this year. If the actual enrollment count varies significantly, that will have a dramatic impact on our Revenue Limit for 2011-2012.

The proposed budget also includes a reduction in expenses of nearly \$431,000. This is in addition to the reduction of expenses in 2008-2009 of \$416,675, in 2009-2010 of \$1,003,900 and in 2010-2011 of \$1,416,317. **To date we have made reductions totaling over \$3 million dollars.**

Mr. Ruddy stated that the preliminary budget is based on a number of factors (enrollment figures, finalization of property values, receipt of the final aid certification, etc.). Final numbers are due in October and the Board will review and finalize the 2011-2012 budget at that time.

There were no questions or comments regarding the proposed budget and the Hearing was adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

— Annual Meeting —

Mr. Balda called the Annual Meeting to order at 8:18 p.m. and called for nominations for a temporary chairman. Motion by Bryan Yager to nominate Kevin Runde for temporary chairman. With no other nominations motion carried with a voice vote.

Kevin Runde assumed the chair and called on District Administrator Thomas Benson for a district report.

Mr. Benson began by welcoming everyone and thanking them for coming. The transition from the 10-11 school year to the 11-12 school year has been anything but "business as usual" or "routine". We have done the traditional things such as the cleaning of our school buildings and the hiring of new staff but we have also had to make some adjustments due to the changes that were recently made by our state government. Changes that the state has mandated will cause us to do some of our business differently but we must embrace this new direction and continue to do the kind of work that we can be proud of.

Some of the changes that have been recently implemented include the addition of summer school and a 4-Year-Old-Kindergarten program, which will start this fall. We are excited about both of these new opportunities and look forward to the continuation of both for years to come. We also reconfigured our elementary schools this past summer, which will provide a stronger set of programs for all children, especially for our 4th and 5th grade students. This change came with some growing pains but we believe we are providing the best opportunities we can for the children we serve.

You have heard from Mr. Ruddy regarding the financial condition of our district, which continues to be of concern. We can all be proud of the fact that the work of the district continues to focus on preserving quality programs and a strong staff as we make decisions aimed at serving the needs of students. We were forced to reduce or eliminate programs and

services in order to bring forward a budget with a slight surplus for this year. Throughout the development of this budget, our staff, our Administrative TEAM, and our School Board have maintained a commitment to our children. Some cuts may have been less difficult than others, but no cuts have been easy. The responsibilities we face in this business seem to grow larger every day. As our workforce is reduced, more will be asked of our administrators, teachers, support staff and our partners, including volunteers, local and area businesses and of course the parents of our students. Unless something changes that allows us to generate additional revenue, the budget forecast clearly demonstrates that we will be forced to make further cuts for next year and the years that follow. I am proud of the work done by our school board, our administrative TEAM and our staff in the preparation and presentation of this budget. I encourage you to support it as well. Similarly, I am extremely proud of the plans that are in place to implement significant change for the coming school year. The plans that are in place will help ensure that this will be a tremendous school year.

Again, thank you for being here this evening and for your continued support of our schools.

Old Business - None

New Business – Kevin Runde read each of the following resolutions that were presented for action and called for their adoption.

1. *Resolution – School Board Salaries:* **Be it resolved** by the electors of the School District of Reedsburg that school board members will be compensated at the rate of \$ 2,500 for the 2011-2012 fiscal year.

Motion by Bryan Yager, second by Casey Campbell. Motion carried by a voice vote.

2. *Resolution - Tax for Operation and Debt Service:* **Be it resolved** by the electors of the School District of Reedsburg that a tax be levied on all taxable property of the district for:

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| the General Fund expenditures in the amount of | \$ 11,682,236 |
| and for Debt Service in the amount of | \$ 2,068,785 |
| and for the Community Service Fund in the amount of | \$ <u>104,890</u> |
| Total Proposed Levy to be | \$ 13,855,911 |

Motion by Corinne Fish, second by Bryan Yager to approve the resolution as presented. Motion carried by a voice vote.

3. *Resolution - Establish Annual Meeting Date:* **Be it resolved** by the electors of the School District of Reedsburg that the Annual Meeting date will be Monday, August 20, 2012.

Motion by Fred Gawronski, second by LuAnn Brey. Motion carried by a voice vote.

There being no further business, motion by LuAnn Brey, second by Jim Wieczorek to adjourn the Annual meeting. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting was declared adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Mike Hartje, Clerk
Barbara Sand, Recorder