

North Boone Community Unit School District No. 200
Minutes of the Business Services Committee Meeting
District Office
6248 North Boone School Road
Poplar Grove, Illinois 61065
Wednesday, October 9, 2019
6:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order by Tom Kinser at 6:30 p.m. The following Committee members were present: Melissa Geyman, Dr. Mike Greenlee, Kelly Holsker, Jake Hubert, Ed Mulholland and Mary Piskie. Absent: Kelly Hanaman. Also Present: Mary Maxey.

AUDIENCE TO VISITORS

Mr. Glen Gratz requested a net levy to be flat or raised 1%.

LEVY

Ms. Geyman gave a presentation on the levy. She noted we received an additional \$434,299 in FY20 from Evidence Based Funding, and shared the fund balances. Ms. Geyman stated Boone County has not yet released their estimated EAV. The CPI for 2019 is 1.9%, and the district is scheduled to abate \$1,100,000. If there is a property tax relief grant available, it will be due in January. She submitted three options for consideration, and asked if the Committee wanted the information presented to the Board in October or November. The Committee agreed an informational presentation at the October meeting would be helpful.

Option 1: Levy CPI (1.9%), levy additional money for increase in final EAV and new construction, and abate bonds at previously agreed upon amount of \$1,100,000. The estimated levy rate would be 6.9519%, meaning a potential decrease of \$231.97 per year for a \$150,000 home.

Option 2: Levy CPI (1.9%), levy additional money for increase in final EAV and new construction, abate bonds at previously agreed upon amount of \$1,100,000, and abate additional CPI % of about \$175,000. The estimated levy rate would be 6.8578%, meaning a potential decrease of \$277.78 per year for a \$150,000 home.

Option 3: Do not levy CPI increase of 1.9% and abate bonds at previously agreed upon amount of \$1,100,000. The estimated levy rate would be 6.8473%, meaning a potential decrease of \$278 per year for a \$150,000 home. The District could potentially lose up to \$175,000 in revenue.

Mr. Kinser said the concept last year was to further abate taxes if evidence based funding were to come in higher, unless administration came forward with a justification for a large expenditure, such as the bus purchase. Both Mr. Kinser and Mr. Mulholland were in favor of that same line of thinking for this year. Mr. Kinser said last year their intention was to minimize the impact to taxpayers, yet we didn't accomplish that by the time the state equalizers were applied. Ms. Geyman said the levy is potentially as flat as possible.

EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Ms. Geyman gave a presentation on an employee assistance program offered by Dearborn National and ComPsych. The program focuses on employee wellness and productivity. Staff and their families would be able to call the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) confidentially with issues related to behavioral and emotional health, family, legal, financial, wellness or other personal matters 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Offering options for staff to reduce stress or find resources can increase productivity. The current proposal covers all staff that are eligible for insurance. The price for three sessions is \$2,699 annually, or five sessions for \$2,921 annually. If the program was offered to all staff, including those that didn't currently have insurance, the cost was estimated at \$3,500. She said we could receive end of the year utilization information to see if the staff was using the service.

Dr. Greenlee felt the program was important, and would help address social and emotional needs of staff. The program offers phone and in person counseling. Dr. Greenlee will consult with our attorney to see if an agreement with unions would be necessary to preserve our rights to withdraw this benefit at a future date. He said insurance committee helps drive decisions, but this program would be a Board decision and would not be a union perceived benefit. Mr. Mulholland wanted to ensure the five year contract did not contain an escalator cost. Ms. Geyman will investigate if we could have an annual agreement, and will calculate the costs for the entire staff. Ms. Geyman will bring the information to the October Board meeting.

BUS PURCHASES

Ms. Geyman noted we purchased 10 International buses during 2018-2019. She stated the current fleet consists of 29 buses of which 19 are in daily rotation, 4 vans 1 Yukon 2 trucks and 1 white bus. The plan for 2018-2019 was to purchase 10 buses per year for three years and then move to a bus rotation replacing 5-6 buses per year. She mentioned with newer buses and fewer routes, our need for spare buses has decreased. It was suggested to trade in 10 buses, purchase 5 special needs buses, 2 buses with undercarriage (77 passenger) and 2 buses (77 passenger) along with 1 white bus (in addition to the one we have). Ms. Geyman has budgeted \$725,000 for transportation vehicles this year. The plan for 2020-2021 would include trading 6 buses, purchase 1 with undercarriage (77 passenger), purchase 3 buses (77 passenger), purchase Yukon or District van for a potential budget of \$375,000. The 2021-2022 plan would include trading in 3 buses, purchasing 3 buses, and possibly replacing a van for a potential budget of \$300,000. For 2022-2023 and beyond, it was suggested we trade in 5 or 6 buses on a 5 year rotation at a potential budget of \$400,000. Ms. Geyman planned to obtain quotes in October and November and bring bus purchases to the Board at the November meeting. Delivery of the buses would be summer of 2020.

Ms. Geyman said for newly purchased buses, we receive a reimbursement of \$11,000 per year, per bus for five years. Mr. Mulholland asked if there could be additional potential liability for staff driving the white bus, and wondered if we should investigate a supplemental policy. Ms. Geyman will check with the insurance company and the state. Mr. Kinser requested the reimbursements be calculated in the assumptions. Ms. Geyman will also investigate the timing of reimbursement if the buses are pre-paid in the previous fiscal year.

OTHER ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Mr. Kinser said in relation to Facilities meetings, he would like to get a uniform look and feel for showing projects in the same format, including how funds are allocated and how they may be paid in the different budget years. Ms. Geyman has developed a draft of the format. She will also contact PMA about the options of opening an account to set aside money for special projects.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next Business Committee meeting will be held November 6, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

Submitted by:

Tom Kinser, Chair