

FINANCE COMMITTEE

MINUTES

June 24, 2019

WARREN COUNTY CENTRAL OFFICE, SCHOOL BOARD CONFERENCE ROOM

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Arthur Stewart, Chairperson

Ms. Elizabeth Huffman

Mr. Joseph Colosimo

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mr. Jeffrey Labesky

Ms. Donna Zariczny

Ms. Marcy Morgan

Mr. Paul Mangione

Ms. Mary Passinger

Dr. Norbert Kennerknecht

Ms. Ruth Huck

Ms. Melissa McLean

Ms. Amy Stewart

Mr. Jim Grosch

Mr. Gary Weber

Dr. Patty Hawley

Mr. Eric Mineweaser

Ms. Sue Turner

Mr. Rick Gignac

Ms. Lynn Shultz

3 Members of the Public

1. Opening Activities

1.1 Call to Order

Chairperson, Mr. Arthur Stewart called meeting to order at 6:11 p.m.

1.2 Public Comment

None

2. Old Business

2.1 Other

Discussion: None

3. New Business

3.1 Repository Sale

Discussion: Normal repository sale, this is to get the properties listed back on the tax roll.

Motion: That the Board of School Directors approves the repository sales for tax parcels WN-546-5927000-000 and CY-333-953600-000 as presented.

Action: Forward to Special Board Meeting.

3.2 Committed Fund Balance use for 2018-2019

Discussion: The transfers are to cover planned expenditures as outlined in the 2018-2019 budget as well as STEM and Building and Grounds Capital Projects that have previously been approved by the Board of Directors.

Motion: That the Board of School Directors approves the use of and transfer of committed fund balance (account 0830) to the General Fund in the total amount of \$2,930,401 for the purpose of Capital Projects

\$1,941,4000, PSERS mandated expenditures \$249,002, Technology \$564,999 and STEM in the amount of \$175,000.

Action: Forward to Special Board Meeting.

3.3 Final Budget Approval 2019-2020

Discussion: To forward the Final Budget for the 2019-2020 school year as presented to the Monday, June 24, 2019 Special Board Meeting.

Motion: That the Board of School Directors approves the Final Budget with a 0 mill increase for the 2019-2020 fiscal year as presented.

Action: Forward to Special Board Meeting.

3.4 2019-2020 Annual Tax Levy and Resource Allocation Resolution

Discussion: This is part of the budget process. The resolution has to be passed for the budget process.

Motion: That the Board of School Directors approves the 2019-2020 Annual Tax Levy and Resource Allocation Resolution with a 0 mill increase as presented.

Action: Forward to Special Board Meeting.

3.5 Homestead/Farmstead Resolution

Discussion: This is the annual Homestead/Farmstead Resolution.

Motion: That the Board of School Directors adopts the Homestead and Farmstead Resolution with a 0 mill increase for the 2019-2020 fiscal year as presented.

Action: Forward to Special Board Meeting.

3.6 Workers Comp Insurance Renewal

Discussion: Our worker's compensation insurance package.

Motion: That the Board of School Directors approves the Worker's Comp renewal with Eastern Alliance and authorizes the Board President, the Board Secretary, and the administration to execute the associated policy and any other documentation required to implement the policy.

Action: Forward to Special Board Meeting.

3.7 LERTA Expansion Project

Discussion: Jeff Eggleston, County Commissioner; Terry Williams, City Code Enforcement Officer; and Brian Bull, Chief County Assessor were in attendance for the discussion. Mr. Eggleston spoke regarding the progress made so far. The program information was sent to all the townships and boroughs. He hopes to have a majority of the taxing entities onboard. Many have responded, and he will be traveling to the others to pitch the program. He is confident that he can get everyone on board. There are 11 taxing bodies and the City of Warren. The City of Warren is the only one to have approved the program currently with a five year, 100 percent tax abatement for renovated properties. They are scheduling

public meetings for the of the other municipalities. The County will advertise the meetings, and an ordinance has been drafted for them. Those meetings will take place in July. County has set a ceiling of five years and 100 percent abatement. The handout shows a map the municipalities who are signing on to the program. This represents a vast majority of the County for renewed real estate development. There are many permits that they do not get in the assessment office. Publically promote getting a permit; you get 5 years for the LERTA. This incentivizes people to be honest. City of Warren had 66 structures that were demolished and only 44 were built. Items that would be part of the LERTA - New living space, heated, garages and sheds over 300 sq. ft. are assessed for taxes. City wants to encourage new construction. Older population cannot absorb the taxes when commercial properties use common level ratio. Expanding the commercial LERTA as well as the residential. There are companies wanting to take advantage of the program. We are in a zero growth state. Reassessment needs to be on the table. This is one tool and a redevelopment bank and RDA needs to work beyond blighting. This is the first step. COG, Realtors, etc have endorsed it.

The Board of School Directors will be moving two motions from Committee to the Board and Chris Byham will let us know how those motions should read; 1. Conform to the City's resolution and 2. Making municipalities aware of the Board's intent to adopt a residential LERTA.

4. Informational Items

4.1 Financial Reports

Discussion: Contact Mr. Jim Grosch if there are any questions or concerns with any of the reports.

4.2 Committed Fund Balance Roll Forward

Discussion: Move forward to special meeting.

4.3 Budget Timeline

Discussion: None

4.4 Other

Discussion: None

5. Other

5.1 Other

Discussion: None

6. Closing Activities

6.1 Next Meeting Date

Monday, July 29, 2019

6.2 Executive Session

None

6.3 Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:00p.m.