

SEPTEMBER 13, 2023

The Ashley school board held a public tax hearing on Wednesday, September 13, 2023 at 7:00pm in the library. Present: Lyle Fey, Ross Litsey, Amy Schlepp, Corey Ulmer, Jason Schmidt, Chris Doane, Teresa Dockter, Tucker Meidinger. Jordan Jenner was absent.

Mr. Schmidt reviewed the following: 1) Enrollment; 2) Personnel; 3) Revenue/Expenditures for the past five years and current year projections; 4) Mill levy history—current year general fund levy is the same amount as last year. Additional sinking & interest fund levy this year for the bond referendum building project, expected between 31-34 mills; 5) Covid money amounts & deadlines; 6) Tax impact calculations.

The regular school board meeting convened at 7:20pm with the above-mentioned present as well as Jordan Nieuwsma* (Consolidated Construction).

Motion by Schlepp to approve the agenda. Second by Ulmer, motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Litsey to approve the minutes of the August 9th meeting as written. Second by Schlepp, motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Schlepp to approve payment of general fund bills (\$35,552.21). Second by Ulmer, motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Litsey to approve financial reports as presented. Second by Ulmer, motion carried unanimously.

Jordan Nieuwsma was present to discuss the building project. He reviewed the rebids that were done on masonry (lowest \$158,627), roofing (lowest \$312,300 with a \$69,500 deduction if ballasted), plumbing & HVAC (lowest \$1,335,000). Currently the entire project is about \$1.4 million over budget. Discussion on cost savings options, grants that are pending and possibility of eliminating some parts of the project. Board members would like to see costs of the various portions of the project to help make those decisions. Jordan said there's also an option of an additional 2% loan for overage on projects and he will provide more information on that. Jordan will work on some ideas and meet with the building committee to discuss options. *Jordan Nieuwsma left the meeting at 8:10pm.

School board convention is October 26/27.

Proposed budget revisions were reviewed—no change in the total budget number, just some shuffling within to accommodate Best in Class grant coding, an insurance change and an additional bill. Motion by Ulmer to approve the budget revisions. Second by Litsey, motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Schmidt said Larry Schauer agreed to fill in temporarily on the north/east rural route but wants us to keep looking for a replacement. Have not found anyone that would drive a mini-bus on that route either. He said the west route will likely need a mini-bus next year as well. Both mini-buses are generally out every day for extra-curricular activities so having to use one on a route causes a problem. Currently a new mini-bus is close to \$100,000 and at least 18 months out. Will watch for a used one, but chances of finding one are unlikely.

The district purchased ND hamburger from South 40 Beef last year but that facility has closed. We have some ordered from Gross Cattle in Napoleon. Still researching the possibility of buying from a local rancher and having it processed in Edgeley.

Reviewed contract for Luke Miller-Elem BBB coach (\$1,413) and hire notice for Larry Schauer-rural route busdriver (\$2,197.74 per month for 9 months).

Valuations Northwest representative was here on September 11th. Districts are required to have a formal appraisal every six years.

Mr. Schmidt's report: 1) Homecoming activities this week; 2) NWEA testing begins next week; 3) Will not be producing a yearbook this year—in the past advisors have ended up doing all the work due to little or no student interest. Only sold 30 books last year and it's losing money every year. Mrs. Bender has returned her extra-curricular agreement; 4) Received \$7,479 in supply chain assistance from DPI child nutrition—will be using it for hamburger and milk.

Mr. Doane's report: 1) Started vocabulary testing again; 2) New teachers are doing well; 3) VB 3-class system will begin in 2025; 4) Girls golf team qualified for state as well as Haley Kaseman & Brylee Fast individually; 5) Asst baseball coach position still open.

Next meeting is October 11, 2023 at 8:00pm. Motion to adjourn by Schlepp, second by Ulmer. Motion carried unanimously, meeting adjourned at 8:55pm.

Teresa Dockter, Business Manager

Lyle Fey, President