

Lehigh Area School District
Lehigh, Pennsylvania
Finance Committee Meeting
Monday, November 14, 2016

Agenda

Present

☐ Andrew Yenser	
☐ Richard Beltz	
☐ Stacey Duerst	Present
☐ Dave Krause	Present
☐ Gloria Bowman	Present
☐ Brian D. Feick	Present
☐ Duane Eidem	Present
☐ Tina Champ	
☐ Jonathan Cleaver	Present

Recording Secretary – Melissa Wagner Present

George's Transportation Daily Run Bills for Approval (enclosure): Handout

Mr. Feick reviewed the George's bill with the attending Board Members. Mr. Krause asked where we are with the contract. Mr. Feick stated that we have one more year.

The District also has another year with lawn maintenance contract with a renewal option of one year. The state allows 4 years before a renewal.

Transportation rates are based on mileage. Mr. Feick will provide a rate sheet for the next meeting.

All members agreed to pay the George's bill.

Tax Collector Compensation (enclosure): Handout

The District needs to set the rate every 4 years for the tax collectors. The rates are set up until 2017. The tax collectors are suggesting a per bill increase of \$.20 for 2018 and 2019 and a \$.30 increase for 2020 and 2021. Tax collectors receive a \$1,500 salary and \$3.00 per bill this year and next year. There has been a \$.10 every two years in the

past which is less than 3%. Mr. Feick does not think we should give more than our employees receive. District pays for envelopes, printing, etc. District has offered to pay for a computer program for the tax collectors and they've all said "no". Tax collectors are not consistent throughout the boroughs/townships. By law the rates must be set by February 15th. If not set, the current rates stay the same. State has required continuing education for tax collectors. Local and county also pay Tax Collectors and they have contracts with them. Mr. Feick will get more information from the county and local. Mrs. Bowman would like to have all the tax collectors use the same program. Mr. Feick will discuss with the solicitor the requirement of the Tax Collectors to all use the same program by a certain date and will add the language and bring to the next meeting. The Berks County IU system was offered to them.

This year, over 75% of residents paid their taxes during the discount period.

Building Projects Update: Handout

Handout given to members. In order to not have a high reserve, the District can transfer the fund balance to Capital Reserves. Mr. Cleaver talked to the IU about the Franklin building. The IU will be doing a walkthrough of the Franklin and Shull-David building. Will talk to Atty. Schwab about doing a resolution regarding the elementary buildings.

QZAB Discussion: (Mr. Feick)

Mr. Feick spoke with Zack from PFM. The Warren County QZAB was delayed because market went crazy. Minimum of 2.5% interest rate wanted by investors.

We don't have to close until sometime next year.

QZAB can be used to reimburse monies already spent for new construction. It is not beneficial right now. This would only pay off partial of the TD loan. Also, some districts will not take their QZAB. The District will know by the end of the year.

Open Discussion:

Mr. Feick stated that the next meeting will be at least a 2-hour meeting due to reviewing the preliminary budget. Mr. Feick reminded the members that there will be close to a 2.5 million difference between revenues and expenditures because consolidation savings will not take place until the following year, the debt service increased this year. We are still within the 5-year plan.

Plan Con H for High School and Middle School should be released within the next month.

Meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Next Meeting Date: Tuesday December 13, 2016, 6:00 p.m.
BDF/mfw