

Information Session & Budget Hearing 6/12/18

Information Session Started at 6:15 pm

Wayne Anderson-8972 Carriage Crossing: Why is amount different in contingency budget?

Mike Guerra-Shadagee Road: How did we get so much in reserves? Are we being over taxed? Laura stated that budgets are designed to prevent the unknown. Surplus built in. Budget is done 18 months in advance. Need extra funds to cover unknown expenses. Mr. Guerra: Why does Eden need astro turf? Only a handful of people use it. Jack Cuddihy responded that it is used by other sports and also used by outside schools that are charged a fee for using it.

Judy Murdoch-Eckhardt Road: Looked for answers to questions on the website but could not find anything. Wants more concrete numbers. Breakdown of salaries in a department. More transparency. Laura showed the breakdown that is posted on the website. Sandy stated they would be happy to take suggestions about how to better get information out to the public.

Judy Maynard-8725 Violet Parkway: Added that the turf is also a safety cushion that was not mentioned. Decisions are not just about money but about safety of students.

Jen Horschel commented about transparency using the field as example. Talked about costs 3 years ago and weighed pros and cons. Breakdown was discussed.

Cheryl Carpenter commented that she is discouraged about social media. Come to a meeting and ask questions.

7:07 pm Paul Shephard moved to Budget Hearing

Laura Feldman presentation. We will inform you to the best of our ability so you can make the best decision. By State mandate, another vote means another hearing. We will be using the newest voting machines on June 19. Erie County Board of Elections not charging us. Using touch screen to vote – no paper ballots.

Don Sutfin stated that the Property Tax Relief is not affected by the budget. It's a complicated formula that you can't figure out. Based on tax cap compliant. Have to be receiving STAR.

7:40 End of Budget Hearing

Questions from the Audience

Wayne Anderson asked what is the difference between this budget and the one in May? Laura responded: Voting on the same budget. Pledged more reserves to be tax cap compliant, so you will be eligible for property relief checks. If voted down, contingency budget would take effect automatically.

Wayne Anderson asked when does contingency budget take effect? Laura said if the budget is voted down, the contingency budget would take effect automatically. Sandy added that the Board had to make a choice to adopt a contingency budget or go for a revote. They voted for a second vote at .46. If they went for contingency budget, in order to maintain the safety package they would have had to decrease somewhere else.

Wayne Anderson asked is there a limit in the amount of reserves? Don said the less we have in reserves the more we pay for interest rates. Reserves are like a savings account.

Colleen Gaglione asked how many years will the reserves last if things stay the same? Don Sutfin said 8 years.

Someone asked about adding the two new teachers. Sandy stated that one was a special ed teacher to split an existing class into two and adding a 2nd grade teacher to keep class sizes down.

Jen Horschel asked if we can show where to find the budget info? Put a link for 2018-19 Budget Revote on home page of website. The video from the meeting is uploaded by the next afternoon.

Cheryl Carpenter thanked everyone who showed up this evening and to pass on information to those who are misinformed. Vote based on correct information.