

**Horseheads Central School District  
Public Hearing of the Board of Education  
Multi-Media Center, High School(South Wing)  
May 7, 2015**

**Present:** Apgar, Boulas, Conklin, Jacobus, Johnson, Sadler, Strollo

**Also Present:** Bostwick, Bracy, Buzzetti, Christansen, Donahue, Kelly, Marino

**Absent:** Brinthead, Lynch

**Call to Order:** Board Vice-President Pam Strollo called the Public Hearing to order at 6:01 PM.

**Board President's Remarks:**

Board Vice-President Pam Strollo welcomed everyone to tonight's Public Hearing of the 2015-2016 School Budget. Pam stated that Board President Brian Lynch is unable to attend due to traveling and explained the guidelines and format of the Workshop as per Board Policy 2370: Public Participation at Board Meetings for Board of Education Community Budget Meetings. Pam further explained that School Business Administrator Katy Buzzetti will present the Proposed 2015-2016 School Budget first, then there will be an opportunity for the Board to ask questions at the end of the presentation and then the floor will be open to the Public for comments/questions at the conclusion of the presentation.

**Introduction of Board Candidates**

Board Vice-President Pam Strollo stated voters will elect three candidates to the Board of Education for three-year terms beginning on July 1, 2015. Pam stated there are six candidates running, including Rose Apgar, Mark Brinthead(unable to attend) and Doug Johnson who are running as incumbents, Peter Lotocky, Lisa Christiansen and Kristine Dale. Pam thanked them for putting their name on the ballot and volunteering their time to become a member of the Board of Education.

**Presentation of the Proposed 2015-2016 Budget**

School Business Administrator Katy Buzzetti welcomed everyone to our Annual School Budget Hearing. Katy stated the Hearing is required under New York State Law. The Board approved the Preliminary 2015-2016 School Budget at its April 22, 2015, Board of Education Meeting with it going to the voters on May 19<sup>th</sup>. Katy stated the planning and development for the 2015-2016 proposed budget began in September 2014 with the Board of Education Finance Committee. The Board Finance Committee held a Community Budget Input Session in January with the second being cancelled twice due to weather. The Board of Education held three Community Workshops on February 5<sup>th</sup>, March 5<sup>th</sup> and April 9<sup>th</sup> to discuss the proposed budget. Katy also noted that Governor Cuomo presented his budget proposal and the Legislature passed the State Budget on time, providing nearly \$2 million in additional State Aid to Horseheads, a 6.96% increase.

Katy presented the 2015-2016 Proposed Budget which includes an increase in State Aid of approximately just under \$2 million with the District using \$4.5 million from the Fund Balance. This results with a Proposed Spending Increase of 1.88%, Proposed Tax Levy increase of 0.59%, the allowable increase under the

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Property Tax Levy Cap. Katy noted this Proposed Budget maintains all programs.

Katy presented the 2015-2016 Budget figures. The 2015-2016 Total Proposed Budget is \$73,641,191, Spending Increase is \$1,356,314 which is an increase of 1.88%, Tax Levy Increase of 0.59% and an Estimated Average Tax Rate Increase of 0.59%. Katy reviewed Proposed Reductions for 2015-2016 which total \$2,277,387. These reductions include replacing 10 positions vacant due to retirements at lower salaries, reduction of TRS/ERS contributions, retirement of bus bond debt, and reduction in construction debt payments.

Katy stated additions to the budget includes: Three Pre-Kindergarten Teaching Positions and Three Teaching Assistant Positions, Technology, Equipment and Supplies for Three Pre-Kindergarten Classrooms, One 12:1:1 Special Education Position, One Autism Spectrum Disorder Consultant Position, One English as Second Language Teaching Position, (0.4 part-time Occupational Therapist Position and Tax Collection Service through BOCES), One High School Science/Technology/Engineering/Math(STEM) Position, Director of Athletics and Physical Education Position increased from Part-Time to Full-Time, One Registered Nurse Contract Substitute Position and One Cleaning Position, One Affordable Care Act Consultant and Seven Busses and Two Vans for Student Transportation totaling \$1,639,957. Katy noted the UPK positions are partially funded by State Aid and the purchase of the seven buses and two vans for student transportation has been included in the proposed 2015-2016 Budget at an estimate cost of \$875,000; therefore, there will not be a separate proposition, as in previous years.

Katy reviewed the Property Tax Levy Cap Legislation and Property Tax Cap Calculations. Katy stated the Tax Cap Formula is a very complex formula. The maximum allowable levy growth factor is 2%, but there are several exemptions a District must factor in to determine the maximum allowable tax levy increase. Katy stated that we do not control the Tax Base Growth Factor. This is a number that is given to us by the State and is specific to our school district and also stated that the Base Year Levy plus PILOTs are numbers that fluctuate. This is an incentive for businesses to build in our school district and is payment in lieu of school taxes. As of today the PILOTs are about \$982,676 with a Total Tax Levy Limit Before Exclusions at \$35,323,835. The Total Exclusions are \$0 with a Total Tax Levy Limit at \$35,323,835 with a Proposed Increase at \$208,880 which equals a .050% increase. Katy reviewed the Expenditures by Component which equals a 1.88% increase over the 2014-2015 budget. Katy also presented the Five-Year Budget Projection. Katy stated the original deficit for fiscal year 2014-2015 was estimated at \$5 million. We now estimate it at \$2.5 million. Staffing and Enrollment History was presented with an estimated 630 staff for 2015-2016 with a Student Enrollment estimated at 4,093 in comparison to ten years ago in 2004-2005 when staffing was at 720 with student enrollment at 4,339.

Katy reviewed the Budget and Tax History since 2004-2005 noting that the District is always conservative because we don't know what the Tax Levy will be as it is an estimate until the assessments are finalized. Katy reviewed the estimated average tax rate and stated the current full value tax rate is \$17.84 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation and the estimated full value tax rate for 2015-2016 is \$17.95 per \$1,000. Katy also noted that the School District is not involved in property re-assessment. Katy reviewed the Tax Impact, the New York State School Report Card for Fiscal Accountability - 2012-2013, the Three-Year

Comparison, Cost Per Pupil Tax Rate Comparison and History per \$1,000 of Assessed Vaile, Proposed Budgets for Districts in New York State with Similar Enrollment and Statewide Budget Comparison.

Katy presented the propositions that will be on the ballot: Proposition 1: Adoption of the 2015-2016 Budget, Proposition in the amount of \$73,641,191, Proposition 2: Establishment of a Capital Reserve Fund, Proposition 3. Technology Capital Project Phase II and Relocation of Softball Field and stated Voters will elect three members to the Board of Education who will be elected to three-year terms beginning July 1, 2015. Katy noted there are six candidates.

**Budget Questions/Comments**

Board Vice-President Pam Strollo thanked School Business Administrator Katy Buzzetti and everyone in the District who assisted in putting together the 2015-2016 Budget and stated the Board realizes how much work and time is involved in putting it together.

Board Member David Sadler stated that School Business Administrator Katy Buzzetti and her team did a great job putting this budget together and thanked them for being so thorough and providing the Board with a lot of valuable information.

**Questions and Comments**

There were no Questions or Comments from the Public.

**Budget Questions/Comments**

There were no additional Questions or Comments from the Board.

**Adjournment**

Moved by Jacobous, seconded by Apgar.  
RESOLVED, that the Horseheads Central School District Board of Education adjourned from its Public Hearing of the Board of Education at 6:15 PM.

<u>Ayes</u>	<u>Noes</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Apgar		
Boulas		Brinthaupt
Conklin		
Jacobus		
Johnson		Lynch
Sadler		
Strollo		
MOTION CARRIED		

Respectfully Submitted By:

*Candy L. Maine,*

Candy L. Maine, District Clerk

