

Unapproved Public Hearing Minutes

Dickinson Public Schools
Public Hearing

August 8, 2011; 6:00 p.m.
Board Room, Central Office

The Dickinson Public School Board held a public hearing on August 8, 2011, at the Central Administration Office. Board members present were: President Kris Fehr, Mr. Jason Hanson, and Dr. Becky Pitkin. Board members absent were: Ms. Leslie Ross and Dr. Morton Krieg. Administrators present were: Superintendent Douglas Sullivan, Assistant Superintendent Vince Reep, Mr. Perry Braunagel, Mr. Ron Dockter, Miss Sherry Libis, and Mr. Shawn Leiss. Others present were: Mr. Dean Rummel, Mr. Judeen Brusseau, Mrs. Delores Brusseau, Mrs. Twila Petersen, and Ms. Lisa Miller from the Dickinson Press.

President Fehr called the hearing to order at 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Hanson moved to amend the order of the agenda placing Property Tax Levy before Public Participation on the agenda. Dr. Pitkin seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Property Tax Levy - President Fehr began the public hearing by explaining during the 2011 legislative session a new house bill was passed requiring school districts to conduct a public hearing prior to adopting a budget for the upcoming fiscal year. The purpose of the hearing is to provide an opportunity for public input regarding the budget and taxation. President Fehr then called upon Assistant Superintendent Vince Reep to provide the school board and audience with the necessary budgetary information.

Assistant Superintendent Reep distributed a handout to the board members and audience summarizing the taxable valuation based on July 2011 estimates. Mr. Reep explained that Dickinson Public Schools is required to file a Certificate of Levy with the Stark County Auditor by August 15. The handout listed the taxable valuation for 2010 and also the taxable valuation based on the county auditor and treasurer's estimations. House bill 1194 requires districts to hold a public hearing if the taxable valuation goes up \$1 or more. The 2011 estimates indicate a taxable valuation increase of approximately \$7.2 million. In 2008, the taxable valuation went up 16.61%. A large portion of this increase in 2008 was due to reassessment values. The Stark County Treasurer estimates \$2.3 million from 2011 is due to new growth. The Dickinson Public School District levies for taxes prior to the other city and county entities. Mr. Reep used an example of a property in Dickinson that had a reassessment value increase of \$10,000 from last year. A home value increase of \$10,000 using the same mills would increase property taxes by approximately \$450. Mr. Reep said that in the past three years, the county, the city and the park district have dropped their mill increases. Stark County Treasurer Brines indicates the values of properties will increase approximately 10% for residential properties. DPS will not get final numbers from the county auditor's office until approximately November. Dickinson Public Schools receives approximately 22% of their revenue budget from property taxes. Approximately 60% is from state funds.

Public Participation - A question was asked by the audience if the property values go down, will the tax levy decrease. Mr. Reep responded that yes, it would. The same member from the audience explained how he visited with an individual that lives in Las Vegas who has a home there. The valuation dropped considerably on the property. This person in Las Vegas was told they were going to raise his taxes to generate the necessary tax revenue. Mr. Reep responded that he wasn't aware of the financing in the state of Nevada. The state of North Dakota caps out the maximum number of mills that schools districts may request at 110 mills. Some districts went to a vote by the people to get unlimited mills with a sunset clause by 2015. Mr. Reep explained that if in the next year the taxable valuation would drop \$10 million,

Public Participation (cont.)

the maximum allowable by law would be a formula using 110 mills. There were no further questions from the audience or Board members.

Adjournment – At 6:18 p.m., Mr. Hanson moved to adjourn. Dr. Pitkin seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The public hearing was adjourned at 6:18 p.m.

Kris Fehr, Board President

Vince Reep, Business Manager

Twila Petersen, Secretary