

**BUDGET ADVISORY COUNCIL**  
**Meeting Minutes - Monday, March 22, 2021**

**Members Present:** Chuck Allen, Karen Arthmann, Sheila Buck, Regina DeCarr, Maria Hamilton, Dan Hentschel, Cheryl Lomedico, Jessica Mattice, Ken Nelson, Gil Ong, Dave Patt, Pamela Reinhardt, Betty Pum, Jim Schultz, Millie Sefranek, Rachel Sherman, Dina Stathopoulos, Nhu Tran, Brian Usselman, Jessica Wackerman, Nathaniel Wright

**Members Absent:** Philip Chang, David Drury, Paul Hoak, Carl Kirchgessner, Dan Knapp, Nancy Kula, Bob Logel, Molly McLaughlin, Rhonda Morien, Lauren Purvee

**Ex-Officio Members:** Mary Ann Exler, Nichole LaPlaca, Diane McBride, Andy Whitmore and Bo Wright

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 p.m.

**TAX CAP CALCULATION**

Andrew Whitmore, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations, updated the committee on the Tax Cap Calculation. The Board of Education has considered the feedback provided by the Budget Advisory Committee (BAC) and decided to reduce the proposed tax rate increase to 1.7%.

**REVENUE BUDGET**

Andy reviewed the Revenue Budget and resulting changes based on the proposed tax rate increase. To accomplish the reduction in the tax rate increase, the tax levy was reduced by \$200,000 from \$86,813,777 to \$86,613,777 and the estimated revenue from the Marketplace Mall PILOT was increased so total PILOTs increased by \$200,000 from \$3.8 million to \$4 million. The Revenue Budget is 3.2% higher than the prior year. Federal Stimulus Aid of \$5.2 million is included in the Revenue Budget but merely replaces the reduction in State Aid. Regulations regarding the use of additional federal funds is still forthcoming but expected to take several months.

**TAX LEVY AND TAX RATE COMPARISONS**

Andy presented a comparison of the proposed tax rate increase of 1.7% and the proposed tax levy increase of 4.48% to the increases of the last 14 years. The proposed increase of 1.7% will bring the tax rate to \$19.41 and the tax levy \$86,613,777 which equate to an increase \$48 per year for a home valued at \$150,000 and an increase of \$64 per year for a home valued at \$200,000. He also compared Rush-Henrietta's tax rate with the tax rates of the other districts in Monroe County over the last 7 years. Except for 2019-20, Rush-Henrietta's tax rate has consistently been the lowest in Monroe County. In 2020-21, Rush-Henrietta's tax rate was the lowest in Monroe County at 20% below the average rate and 36% below the highest rate.

**BUDGET PROPOSITIONS**

Andy explained that there will be only two propositions on the ballot this year - the proposition to approve the budget of \$139,593,300 and the proposition to expend \$2.4 million from the Bus Purchase Reserve for new school buses.

**BUDGET COMMUNICATION PLAN**

Andy explained the various ways in which the proposed budget and budget vote will be communicated to the community including direct mail of the budget newsletter, posters, media alerts, the district website, social media, community presentations and signage. The members of the BAC were asked to be knowledgeable communicators of the budget information to the community at their various committee meetings. The budget vote will be held on 5/18/21 in the SHS gymnasium to allow for social distancing.

**BUDGET DEVELOPMENT PROCESS**

Andy reviewed the Budget Development Process engaged in by the BAC and the Board. He proposed the BAC meet 3 times next year and delay their first meeting until January. He also asked about the members' preferences for in-person versus virtual meetings.

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Mary Ann Exler, Budget Technician