

The Charles A. Beard Memorial School Corporation Board of School Trustees called a Special Session to order at 7:12 pm. The meeting was held at Knightstown High School located at 8149 W. US 40, Knightstown, IN 46148. Those in attendance were:

**Attendance:**

- **Board Members:** Wade Beatty, Mark Fort, Kevin Knott, Leah Kopp, Timothy Wehr
- **Central Office Staff:** Gary Storie, Superintendent; Stephanie Madison, Corporation Treasurer
- **Media:** None
- **Patrons:** Approximately 5 patrons

I. Call to Order

The Board President called the meeting to order at 7:12 pm. 5 members were present. Steve Dalton and Melissa Toth were not in attendance. The Pledge to the American Flag and a moment of silence was observed.

II. Budget Hearing

The Superintendent gave presentation regarding the proposed 2012 Budget. He stated the projected expenditures for the next 18 months is estimated to be \$13,729,577 and projected revenue is estimated to be \$13,172,754. There was some clarification that the deficit resulted from spending more than the amount of revenue brought in for that year. It did not mean the corporation is spending more funds than it has. A member asked what they amount of the third debt service payment would be. The Superintendent stated the Board could decide to make the third payment from requested debt service funds in the event the tax distribution was late. Regarding the General Fund the Superintendent went on to say the cash balance from 2010 was \$284,274 and is projected to be \$50,577 at the end of 2011. This is due to the \$219,792 additional payment for benefits to the recent retirement of teachers. There was some discussion regarding the adoption of a levy and what the result would be as well as things to consider such as the circuit breaker and a reduced cash balance. After more discussion on the tax rate, the Budget Hearing was opened for public comment.

- Gerald Leonard, Grant City Road, Knightstown – Asked about a discrepancy in advertised budget and the possibility it was a typing error. He also said he has consistently heard from this Board there would be no increase in taxes, however it was mentioned at this hearing there would be an increase in taxes. He mentioned the public has always been led to believe that would not happen and the room would be full of unhappy people when tax statements are received. He said the public was ok with the athletic fields because they didn't think taxes would increase. Mr. Leonard also stated the utility costs are almost double in expenditures and with all the money spent with Johnson Melloh, I would hope they would be lower. The Superintendent said those costs are estimated high. There was some discussion regarding the cap in property taxes and who would ultimately receive blame for that. A member asked if a third payment had

been requested before. The Superintendent stated not since his term began. However it is an option and he is looking at a possible way to bolster cash balance. There was much discussion on the overall affects of the reasoning for maintaining a cash balance.

- Keith Ferrell, 2925 S 400 W, New Castle – Asked the amount paid to lawyers for the solar project. Board President stated there was no cost. Mr. Ferrell then wanted to address his concerns regarding teacher license issues. The Board President stated the purpose of this meeting was for comments regarding the budget only. Mr. Ferrell then asked why the corporation proposed budget was higher than that of the city of New Castle. A board member addressed his questions stating there were many items that were included in the school budget that are not part of a city budget.

III. Other

There were no other items to come before the board.

IV. Adjournment

With no further business Wade Beatty moved to adjourn at 8:04 pm.

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PRESIDENT

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MEMBER

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VICE PRESIDENT

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MEMBER

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SECRETARY

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MEMBER

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MEMBER