

Navajo County Community College District Public Hearing Minutes

June 19, 2007 – 10:00 a.m.

2251 Navajo Boulevard, Holbrook, Arizona, 86025

Governing Board Members present: Norris Baldwin, Bill Jeffers, Daniel Peaches, Neal Thompson.

Absent: A.T. Siquah.

Staff present: Mark Vest, Dr. Jeanne Swarouth, Blaine Hatch, Lisa Jayne, Dr. Eric Henderson.

Others present: Peggy Belknap, Jim Lemons, Everett Robinson, Lisa Aragon, JoLynn Fox, Frank Pinnell, Russell Dickerson, Nettie Klingler, John Chapin, Linda Morrow, Leslie Meyer, Donna Ashcraft, Helen Yazzie.

Chairman Peaches called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. He turned the meeting over to President Jeanne Swarouth who recognized Vice President Blaine Hatch. Mr. Hatch stated that the purpose of the hearing was to present the 2007-2008 proposed tax levy and budget to the taxpayers of Navajo County.

Truth in Taxation Publication: Mr. Hatch advised that the Truth in Taxation Statement had been appropriately published on June 1 and June 8, 2007 as required by State statute.

Blaine Hatch state that the primary property tax of the College is increasing 2% but in actual dollars the tax rate is decreasing. The proposed tax rate is the maximum amount allowed by law.

Mr. Baldwin asked what this tax rate would mean specifically for his house. Mr. Hatch replied that it would depend on the assessed valuation of his home. If the assessed valuation of his home went up the average rate across the county then the 2% increase is \$2.40. In real dollars the amount is going down compared to assessed valuation but actual rate increase will depend on assessed valuation per home.

Neal Thompson asked how much the assessed valuation on average went up. Mr. Hatch stated that on average it was about 6.5%, including residential, commercial and industrial properties. Neal Thompson clarified that if the valuation assessments had stayed the same, the tax levy from the District would have gone down. Blaine Hatch confirmed that was the case

Norris Baldwin asked if it was known how valuation by District had changed. Blaine Hatch replied that that information was not available by District but only by County and valuation category.

Neal Thompson asked if other counties in the State were having similar changes in valuation assessments. Blaine Hatch stated that Navajo County is growing at a slower rate than other rural counties with the exception of Graham County so other counties are growing at a higher rate than Navajo County in assessment values.

Invitation of Public Comment: Jim Lemons was called upon by Chairman Peaches and he addressed the Board and Blaine Hatch. He asked if there were specific proposed uses for the tax increase. Vice President Blaine Hatch stated that the tax increase would be used for general operation, 75% of which is wages and benefits, program expansion and capital improvement purchases. Jim Lemons then asked if there was a standard cash receipt accounting system established by the College. Mr. Hatch stated that State Auditor General's office accounting procedures are followed. Jim Lemons stated that this should be looked in to as he knows that between two different campuses in one department they are using two different systems with no reconciliation being done.

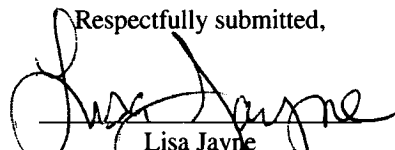


Bill Jeffers asked for clarification on revised version of notice. Blaine Hatch stated that to meet the Truth in Taxation publication deadlines a revision of the budget publication was done, the numbers did not change.

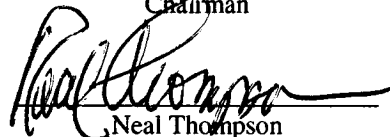
Presentation of the 2007-2008 Budget: President Swarhout recognized Blaine Hatch who presented the 2007-2008 proposed budget. Mr. Hatch advised the Board that the proposed budget had been appropriately published and that he received no public comment or objection. The proposed budget calls for a total of \$28,888,112.00, which is an 11% increased over the 2006-2007 budget. Primary increase is related to the Unexpended Plant Fund increasing by 1million dollars, and from General Fund increasing by 8.7%, which is primarily an increase in wages and benefit costs as well as addition of new programs. The budget incorporates all individual components as discussed in the last Board meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 10:20 a.m. upon a motion by Mr. Jeffers, and a second by Mr. Baldwin , and a unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,


Lisa Jayne
Recording Secretary to the Board


Daniel Peaches
Chairman


Neal Thompson
Secretary to the Board

