

WEST BRANCH AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

REGULAR SESSION

NOVEMBER 19, 2014

Members Present: Joseph M. Kovalcin, Larry Allen, Robert Seprish, Melvin Smeal, Chad Diviney, Paul Carr, Don Yontosh, Christina Brown, Gerald Coble

Members Absent:

Student Representatives:

Media Present: Tyler Kolesar, The Progress News

Administration Present: Jason McMillen, Michelle Dutrow, Mark Mitchell, David Williamson, Wendy Fernburg, Nik Bisko, Amanda Lute, Joseph Holenchik

Others Present: Kasi Woodring, Board Secretary; Brian Marshall, Solicitor; Greg Modzel, Ron Mollura, Alan Larson, Jen Ponce de Leon, Richard Skinner, Brian Moore, Chris Howe

OPENING EXERCISES

President Joseph Kovalcin called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. All present were asked to stand and pledge allegiance to the American Flag.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Michelle Dutrow reviewed information regarding the use of gas as an alternative fuel source.

Option #1—bring a gas pipeline to West Branch School District, also making it available to residents along the way. Total costs would be approximately \$3.5 million and would include the district being required to create a utility authority to operate (annual costs around \$100,000). Over 20 years, the district savings would approximately -(\$3,000,000).

Option #2—bring a gas pipeline directly to West Branch School District with no residents tapping on at a cost of \$2.5 million. The utility authority would still be required with this option. An access road would have to be created as well. Over a 20-year period, the district savings would be approximately -(\$640,000).

Option #3—hybrid option that includes both gas and the biomass boiler. The district would first go forward with the biomass project and then tap into an authority once, or if, it's created. It would cost around \$300,000 to do, with the district saving roughly an additional \$225,000 in a 20-year period.

McClure Company discussed the biomass project. Plans were reviewed for the structure which would house the biomass boilers. The cost of the project was presented as \$2,174,357 which would represent a financial commitment by the District in the amount of \$1,674,357.

Questions were fielded about garage doors and types of trucks that would be used to make deliveries as well as the frequency of deliveries.

Jason McMillen gave the district a few different options regarding how to finance the biomass project.

Option #1—pay for the project out of the fund balance.

Option #2—take out a line of credit.

Option #3—take out a line of credit for 12 months and refinance into the bonds when it is time for the call date.

Mr. McMillen said he would advise the district take out a line of credit for 12 months, refinance the debt when the opportunity arises, and roll all the money into one account. The District can't refinance our general obligation bonds because there's a specific call date associated with them.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

No one from the public signed up to speak to the board.

BOARD

No voting items from the board.

PERSONNEL

No voting items.

EDUCATION

Field Trip Mr. Don Yontosh, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve the West Branch High School County Band to go to DuBois Middle School on November 21 & 22, 2014. There is no cost to the student or the District. (Information Only: Approximately 30 students will be attending the trip. Chaperone is Jennifer Sproull). Mr. Larry Allen seconded the motion and it was carried by a vote of 9-0-0.

TRANSPORTATION & ATHLETICS

No voting items.

BUILDING & GROUNDS

PEDA Grant Award Mr. Robert Seprish, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve the Pennsylvania Energy Development Authority (PEDA) Grant award in the amount of \$500,000 for a biomass boiler project with a grant period from October 22, 2014 thru October 21, 2016. District financial commitment not to exceed \$2,000,000. Mr. Melvin Smeal seconded the motion and it was carried by a vote of 9-0-0. Voice Roll Call: Mr. Allen—yes; Mr. Diviney—yes; Mr. Carr—yes; Mr. Smeal—yes; Mr. Seprish—yes; Mr. Yontosh—yes; Mr. Coble—yes; Mrs. Brown—yes; Mr. Kovalcin—yes. 9—yes; 0—no.

POLICY

No voting items.

FINANCE & PURCHASE

Payment of Bills to 12/31/14 Mr. Don Yontosh, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve the payment of bills thru December 31, 2014. Mr. Larry Allen seconded the motion and it was carried by a vote of 9-0-0.

Municipality
Continuing
Disclosure
Initiative

Mr. Don Yontosh, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve the following motions:

PPEEC

Approve the "Resolution to Authorize all Necessary Actions in Connection with the Securities and Exchange commission's 'Municipalities Continuing Disclosure Initiative'" be accepted and executed on behalf of West Branch Area School District.

PPEEC

Approve the Membership Resolution with the Pennsylvania Public Entity Energy Consortium (PPEEC).

Approve the Electric Agreement with the Pennsylvania Public Entity Energy Consortium (PPEEC).

Mr. Larry Allen seconded the motion and it was carried by a vote of 9-0-0.

per capita
exonerations

Mr. Melvin Smeal, in the form of a motion, recommended to approve the following per capita exonerations:

Township	Number of Exonerations:
Cooper	1
Morris	
Graham	
Karthaus	3
West Keating	

Mr. Paul Carr seconded the motion and it was carried by a vote of 9-0-0.

CORRESPONDENCE

Tom Corbett, Modeling Biomass Excellence Congratulatory Letter

OTHER ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

The November 24, 2014 Board Meeting will be cancelled. The Reorganization meeting will be held in the High School Library at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 4, 2014.

Mr. Kovalcin thanked Mrs. Dutrow and Mr. McMillen on their hard work and dedication in getting the PEDA grant. This was a big task and the Board asked Mrs. Dutrow to get West Branch grant monies when she was hired.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Don Yontosh, in the form of a motion, recommended to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 p.m. Mr. Larry Allen seconded the motion and it carried with a vote of 9-0-0.

Respectively Submitted,

Kasi Woodring
Secretary to the Board of Education