

Carroll's advertised budget to increase tax rate

By Jennifer Archibald
Staff writer

Carroll School Board had public hearings on the corporation's 2007 budget and the three-year Capital Projects Plan at its regular meeting on Sept. 5.

Both the budget and the Capital Projects Plan have been advertised twice in the newspaper.

The budget's general fund, which is the lion's share of the budget, was advertised at \$6,539,127. This figure represents the total amount appropriated and includes both tax money to be raised and the cash operating balance. If the State Tax Board approves the amount, it gives the school corporation the authority to spend up to that amount.

Sayers said the advertised general fund, if approved, will call for a 3 or 4 cent increase in the tax rate from last year (per \$100

assessed valuation), plus it could include another 3 or 4 cents that the state is passing along to local funding, for a total increase of 6 to 8 cents. If approved, Sayers said the state would reduce its funding by the amount passed along to local taxpayers.

The Capital Projects Plan for 2007, 2008, and 2009, if approved, gives the school corporation the authority to collect and spend the amounts advertised. If the board would choose to put air conditioning in the junior-senior high school, the amount allocated for that project is \$400,000 for each of the three years. The amount for 2007 shows a cumulative total of \$900,000, including \$500,000 allocated for 2006.

Sayers said in a phone conversation Tuesday that the Capital Projects tax rate, based on the advertised budget, would be only slightly more than last year.

"It is the goal of the board to

keep the tax rate as level as possible," Sayers said.

There were no public comments at either hearing.

The board will adopt the budget and Capital Projects Plan at its next meeting, Sept. 19.

Technology

Richard June, new technology coordinator for the school corporation, gave each board member a hand-out containing a technology inventory and network map. He said he'd like to get wireless network throughout the building and to tie it into the phone system. He also mentioned the state's push for a computer in every classroom and for every student. More immediate plans call for fixing some email and server problems and getting rid of 70 floppy drives. He also will be updating computers that are being replaced in the business lab, but will still be used elsewhere in the building.

Bill Nelson, a representative from Cyberlink, an Internet provider, addressed the board about an opportunity to get 10 times the band width that the Carroll corporation gets today. He said two of the benefits would be video conferencing and distance learning. He said Carroll could take advantage of this through the Wabash Valley Education Association with federal funding accounting for 60 percent of the cost. He said there would be no cost to Carroll, but in exchange, Cyberlink would put antennas on three buildings, so the public living in a three to six mile radius could sign up for broad band.

The offer was taken under advisement, and board president Sam Zook said the matter would be turned over to the newly formed technology committee. Members of the committee are: David Myer, Carolyn O'Connell, Cathy Ayres, Judy McCracken, Richard June, Tyler Sausaman, Fred Schnarr (chairman), Erika Eller, Phil Benson, Katherine Seward, David and Tracy Miller, Michael Eikenberry, Sam Zook, and student Chris McGrew. Another student will be named to the committee by the high school principal.

The board approved two purchase requests in excess of \$5,000. One was for 100 student desks at the elementary school, totaling \$7,298, and the other was for two dishwashers (one at the elementary and one at the

high school), totaling \$28,400.

Battle of the Books

Debra Duff and Rebecca Lain were present to tell about grants they applied for and received, for Battle of the Books. Grants awarded were \$850 from Carroll County Advocates for Literacy and \$1,500 from REMC/Operation Round Up. Duff said this money will go toward the purchase of books, but will only partially fund the program. She said last year there were 16 teams from the high school, and 11 teams from the junior high. (The Comet learned this week that Flora Psi Iota Xi will donate \$1,000, providing the rest of the money needed for Battle of the Books.)

In her presentation, Duff said, "We believe the Battle of the Books program is extremely valuable as it increases student reading and generates enthusiasm for reading as well as uniting a large, diverse part of our student body in working toward a common goal."

She said after the competition (with Delphi) is over, the books are placed in classrooms for other students to read.

On behalf of the Carroll County Pork Producers, board member Dave Lambert announced a donation of \$500 to the Athletic Fund.

The board accepted Total Fencing's bid of \$19,983 for softball fencing.

Personnel

Stacey Brazel resigned as Senior Class sponsor, and the board approved Tyler Sausaman as her replacement.

Karen Stankard will take a six-week maternity leave starting Oct. 12, and Peggy Oakley will be her substitute.

Other personnel approved were: Monica Sitzes, remediation aide; Patsy Bosley, additional bus driver, for transporting a student in a wheelchair to Twin Lakes; Matt Stump and Kevin

Hammond, volunteer junior high football assistant coaches; Taylor Fife, volunteer tennis coach; and spring sports coaches, not individually named.

Cash tuition requests were approved for students Eddie Flanagan and Nic Overmyer.

A Sponsorship Policy will be

adopted at the next meeting, and a proposal for a policy on performance enhancing supplements can be seen on the corporation Website.

The next meeting will be Sept. 19 at 7:30 p.m. in the Administration Building.

Carroll County non-profits benefit from INDOT awards

Comet staff report

Two non-profit organizations serving Carroll County have been awarded funds from the Indiana Department of Transportation's (INDOT) Office of Transit to finance vehicles and related equipment to transport the elderly and disabled.

Carroll County Council on Aging was awarded \$51,516 to purchase two low floor mini vans.

CDC Resources which serves White, Carroll and Benton counties received \$84,272 to purchase two medium transit buses.

The awards, announced Tuesday, were part of the nearly \$2.3 million in Elderly and Disabled Transportation Assistance Program (Section 5310) funds awarded statewide. Each year, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) sets aside funds that states award to areas where accessible public transit for the elderly and persons with disabilities is unavailable, inadequate or inappropriate. The program provides vehicles and related equipment to private non-profit organizations and eligible public bodies involved

in transporting elderly and disabled customers.

Since its inception in 1975, Section 5310 has enabled thousands of Americans to achieve greater mobility and independence. The FTA funds eighty percent of the project costs. The grant recipient provides the remaining twenty percent.

Libraries seek entries for county-wide 'show and tell'

Comet staff report

The Camden, Delphi, and Flora Libraries will end their "one book" program, Carroll County on the Same Page, with an exhibit celebrating life in Carroll County.

Everyone, whether native or transplant, is connected to Carroll County by different elements: the landscape, events, people, and places. Residents are encouraged to "capture" the images that connect them to the county and submit them to one of the local libraries.

These items will be part of an exhibit called Capturing Carroll County: Completing the Circle. The event will take place Sunday, Oct. 8, from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Wabash & Erie Canal Interpretive Center in Delphi.

Submissions could take many forms: photographs, paintings, carvings, pottery, artifacts, quilts, slide shows, and original songs, poems, and stories, to suggest a few. The exhibit is not a contest, but an opportunity for people to "show and tell" why Carroll County is a special place to live.

All submissions must be delivered to one of the three libraries by Sept. 29. Special arrangements can be made by calling the respective library. Identification forms are available at each library, and must be attached to submissions.

Two-dimensional entries (photographs, paintings, drawings and any work to be hung) must be matted or framed and ready to hang with picture wire attached and identification on the back.

Three-dimensional entries (artifacts, pottery, sculpture, etc.) must have identification attached.

All items must be in good condition (NO fragile documents or items too delicate for transport).

Slide shows or films must be submitted by special arrangement. A specific viewing time will be scheduled.

All entries must be picked up at the conclusion of the program on Oct. 8.

For additional information, contact one of the county libraries: Camden (574-686-2120), Delphi (765-564-2929), Flora (574-967-3912).

ADOPT-A-PET

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