

Truth in Taxation Hearing

High Mount School District #116

Monday, December 19, 2011 (6:30 P.M.)

1. What is a levy?

A levy is “a request for funding by the school district from the county treasurer’s office.” The levy is based upon the equalized assessed value or “EAV” of the property within the boundaries of the school district, multiplied by the fixed and unlimited tax rates that may apply.

2. Why hold a “Truth in Taxation” Hearing?

When a school district plans to levy (request funding) for more than 5% of their past year’s extension (the taxes received), the school district must hold a “Truth in Taxation Hearing” at a public meeting. At the meeting, taxpayers may voice their opinions concerning the taxes being proposed. Although our district is levying less than 5% and is not required to hold this meeting, we still want to get any potential input from the community regarding the levy.

3. How does the public receive notice of this meeting?

A legal notice has to be placed in a regularly circulated newspaper. The notice must be posted within the “not more than 14 days and not less than 7 days prior to the hearing” requirement of the law. Information concerning the levy was placed in the December edition of the Swansea Report and an official notice will be placed in the Belleville News Democrat.

4. What is in the official notice?

The official notice states that a hearing will be held at High Mount School and that interested parties who wish to address the Board should contact the Superintendent prior to the meeting for this purpose. It also states last year’s extension and the projected extension for this year.

5. Are my taxes going to go up this year?

The tax rate for High Mount School District #116 has gone down over \$0.18 during the last 7 years. It is unlikely, however, that the tax rate will decrease this year.

6. Will the District receive all of the money being requested?

The district will not receive all of the money being requested. Levying in December is a “guess” because the district will not receive a “certified” equalized assessed value (EAV) from the St. Clair County Clerk’s Office until late April or early May of 2012. If the EAV comes in at an amount lower than the estimate, the district will receive only the money based on those calculations.

7. What is the estimate for this year's equalized assessed value (EAV)?

We are estimating that the EAV will be \$51,000,000, which is a 3.8% increase from last year.

8. What are "fixed rate" funds in the tax levy?

These are funds in which the District may levy only up to a fixed limit or rate and no higher without voter approval.

9. What are the "fixed rate" funds in which the District plans to levy?

Fund

Education (1.86)

Special Education (0.02)

Operation and Maintenance (0.40)

Leasing (0.05)

Transportation (0.12)

Working Cash (0.05)

Fire Prevention and Safety (0.05)

10. What are the "unlimited rate" funds in the tax levy?

In some funds, the District is allowed to levy for what they will actually need during the upcoming fiscal year. There are no minimum or maximum limits placed upon these funds. The rate is determined by dividing the EAV into the amount of the levy.

Fund

Tort Immunity

Bonds & Interest

IMRF

Social Security

11. What is the "bottom line" on projected tax rates for this levy year?

If the EAV comes in at \$51,000,000, as projected, then the "unlimited rate funds" tax rate will be .9411. The "fixed rate funds" tax rate will be 2.55. This scenario would produce a total tax rate of 3.4911. Last year's tax rate was certified at 3.4891.