

OTTAWA COUNTY TAX ALLOCATION BOARD

Time: 8:00 A.M.

Date: July 18, 2018

Location: Office of the County Clerk/Register
12220 Fillmore Street, West Olive, MI 49460

Members of the Tax Allocation Board Present:

Mr. Bradley Slagh – Ottawa County Treasurer
Mr. Chris Lamer – Ottawa Area Intermediate School District
Mr. Howard Baumann – Supervisor, Port Sheldon Township
Mr. Mike Trethewey – Probate Judge Appointee
Mr. Roger Cotner – Ottawa County Board of Commissioners' Appointee
Mr. Donald Disselkoe – Ottawa County Finance Committee Chairman

Absent:

Mr. Doug Van Essen – Ottawa County Corporation Counsel

Others Recorded to be Present:

Ms. Samantha Rollins – Ottawa County Clerk/Register Staff
Mr. Justin F. Roebuck – County Clerk/Register

SUBJECT: CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Lamer at 8:00 A.M.

SUBJECT: CONSENT ITEMS:

TAB 18-15 Mr. Baumann moved to approve the minutes of the May 29, 2018 Tax Allocation Board meeting. Mr. Slagh supported the motion. The motion passed.

SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION TO
PETITION THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR A FIXED MILLAGE BALLOT QUESTION:

TAB 18-16 Mr. Slagh moved to approve and authorize the Tax Allocation Board Chairperson and Clerk to sign a resolution petitioning the Ottawa County Board of Commissioners to place a fixed millage allocation of the constitution's mills on the ballot for the voters to set in lieu of a county Tax Allocation Board. Mr. Disselkoen supported the motion.

Chairman Lamer discussed the position of the Ottawa Area Intermediate School District in support of a fixed allocation ballot question, stating that the \$178,000 in restored revenue would be a major help to the OAISD general fund. Under the current situation the OASID general fund is operating in deficit and there are extremely limited funding options to change this.

Mr. Baumann reiterated the opposition of many of the township officials who had submitted comments opposing placing a millage on the ballot in lieu of a Tax Allocation Board. The overall feeling of townships is that the Headlee rollback amount that would be restored would not be worth the risk of going to voters for a tax question on the ballot. The majority of the townships he heard from are opposed to this resolution.

Mr. Baumann noted that for many years the county has not levied the millage amount that they are fully authorized to levy. He questioned whether a better solution would be to re-allocate a small portion of the county authorized millage to the ISD.

Mr. Slagh noted that a major reason the county stays under their authorized millage amount is to enhance our credit rating and continue to be in a strong position with bonding agencies. Mr. Baumann agreed that this was important but did not believe that a fractional difference in the millage would affect county credit ratings. Mr. Slagh commented that it would also be within the purview of the Tax Allocation Board in the future to allocate a portion of the mills allotted for both county and township governments to the ISD.

Mr. Trethewey reiterated the position of Corporation Counsel Doug Van Essen that if this millage authorization failed, the tax allocation process would revert back to a Tax Allocation Board. He stated that due to this, he felt the risk in bringing the question to the voters was minimal.

Mr. Cotner indicated a concern with the overall general fund deficit of the OAISD. He stated that allowing a fixed millage question to go to the voters may help initially by alleviating a Headlee rollback, but long term did not provide a solution for sustainable funding. Mr. Cotner questioned

what other proposals would accompany this on the November 2018 ballot, and stated that educating voters would pose a significant challenge. Mr. Cotner also indicated that a better solution may be to change the allocation amounts at next year's Tax Allocation Board meeting and give the ISD a more sustainable millage rate.

Chairman Lamer called for a roll call vote.

Mr. Trethewey – Yes
Mr. Baumann – No
Mr. Slagh – Yes
Mr. Disselkoe – Yes
Mr. Cotner – No
Mr. Lamer – Yes

The motion passed.

SUBJECT: ADDITIONAL BUSINESS:

The Board discussed a possible meeting to be held in August or September to approve the minutes of this meeting. Clerk Roebuck stated that he would look into possible dates to reconvene and would email meeting minutes to the Board as quickly as possible.

SUBJECT: ADJOURNMENT

TAB 18-17 Mr. Trethewey moved to adjourn. Mr. Slagh supported the motion. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 8:43 A.M.

Minutes submitted by Justin F. Roebuck, Ottawa County Clerk/Register.