

## Trail School Board lays out \$20.4M budget

by Pat Farnelli

Published: May 4, 2016

Lackawanna Trail School Board discussed a proposed final budget of \$20,399,197 at its work session Monday night.

The budget will be voted on at the school board meeting May 9. Last year's budget was \$20,340,969.

A public presentation on the monetization of delinquent taxes was given by representatives of Municipal Revenue Service, Jim Geronimo and Jeff Spaulding.

Municipal Revenue Service is a law firm that specializes in delinquent tax flow.

At the May 9 regular meeting, Portnoff Law Associates will give a presentation on its delinquent tax collection program. Also, Bob McTiernan, Executive Director of IU 19, will give an overview of the NOLA cyber school program.

According to Geronimo, the school district has \$951,500 in uncollected delinquent taxes. The law firm would purchase the accounts receivable that the school district cannot have access to, and buys them back to the beginning of time, in this case 1993.

The district would get \$730,000, which would be immediately available on the day of closing, upon selling the liens. The unrestricted money would provide much needed cash flow, Geronimo said. The delinquent taxes would go directly to Municipal Revenue upon collection.

After the presentation, board member Joe Strauch asked business manager Keith Glynn if he was in favor of hiring Municipal Revenue.

"I am not sure at this point," Glynn said.

Solicitor John Audi noted that he is also solicitor at Blue Ridge School District and at the Intermediate Unit 19.

Mr. McTiernan considered using Municipal Revenue when he was superintendent at Blue Ridge School District, but was told by the law firm that it was not in the best interests of Blue Ridge to enter into a contract with Municipal Revenue, because their collection rate of delinquent taxes was already successful.

Audi said that none of the school districts he represents have had problems with the Municipal Revenue firm, to his knowledge.

At the May 9 meeting, the board will vote to approve Dr. Rajah Mulloth as the school district physician for the 2016-17 school year, at a stipend of \$10,000. Dr. Mulloth has served Lackawanna Trail for ten years.

Policy 823, "Naloxone," may be approved for a second reading. This regards the use of an antidote for opiate overdose in the form of a nasal spray.

The board may appoint Sweet Stevens Law Firm as Solicitors for the 2016-17 school year. They have been the district solicitors for the past seven years.

Student handbooks will be approved for the elementary and high school at next week's meeting.

A first reading for Policy 246: student wellness will be held.

A list of field trips of proposed Broadway Show Field Trips, purchased at a discounted rate at no cost to the school district, will be considered for approval.

An abatement request by Emilie Robertson on taxes for a parcel of land in the amount of \$1,044.08 that was erroneously billed due to an error made by Oak Settlement Services LLC will be considered.