

## Trail taxes likely on the rise

C.J. MARSHALL / Published: May 9, 2018

Residents in the Lackawanna Trail School District can expect to see their taxes go up if a proposed final budget put on the table during a work session Monday night materializes.

The school board will vote next Monday on the preliminary budget which could see school property taxes rise 2.7 percent in the Wyoming County side of the district and 3.09 percent in the Lackawanna County side of the district.

If the \$21.2 million budget is approved with an increase of \$340,785, property taxes will be raised from 91.61 to 94.08 mills in Wyoming County, and from 162.43 to 167.44 mills in Lackawanna County.

The increase is expected to raise an additional \$296,000 for the district.

The reason the increase is necessary, business manager Keith Glynn explained, is the district has used up cash reserves in certain areas, as well as cost increases in certain categories, such as insurance.

The explanation did not sit well with Susanne Green of Benton Township.

"A quick review of the millage (for Lackawanna County) was in 2000 it was 95.2 percent," she said. "Now they're going up to 167.44. That's 75 percent in less than 20 years. Please justify."

Glynn explained that expenses - many of them mandated by the state - have risen dramatically in that same time period.

"Our state funding was slashed during the Corbett administration," Glynn said.

Much of that funding has not been restored, he said.

"In the past three to five years, health care costs have skyrocketed," he explained.

Green's husband, Steve Green, pointed out that Trail spends approximately \$20,000 on each student.

In other business, the Trail school board noted that on next week's agenda would be a motion to approve Dr. Rajah Mulloth as the school district physician for 2018-19 at a stipend of \$10,000.

Also expected is a request from teacher Craig Muller to take the district's K'Next team to Harrisburg University on May 18 for the K'Nex state competition at no cost to the district.

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