

Prepared Notes for Board Meeting
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Folks, the resource management goal comes down to one word – credibility.

Do the financial messages that we put out during levy campaigns matter, or are they meant to be forgotten as soon as the votes are counted.

Last year, we unanimously made a decision to ask our neighbors to tax themselves because we believed, all of us, that despite employee sacrifice and fiscal conservatism, we were looking at some pretty hard times because the State of Ohio was going to phase out, on schedule, tangible personal property tax reimbursements. Every one of us, during the campaign, echoed the talking points:

- The state was phasing out the tangible personal property tax reimbursements resulting in the loss of tens of millions of dollars.
- As a result, without the levy, the district would have to cut ten million dollars over the next several years.
- The levy is not intended for programmatic enhancement, only for maintenance of what we have.

These were very powerful arguments, even for the fiscal conservatives in our community except they turned out to be wrong, so how should the district respond.

Originally, I inquired as to whether we should even collect all of the millage that we are entitled to. After all, we are essentially extracting money from the bank accounts of our residents and storing it in the district's bank account. The treasurer correctly pointed out that by not collecting all of the millage, we are effectively foregoing the 12.5% that would come from the state. Since state dollars are so hard to come by, the treasurer is obviously correct. The second best thing to do would be to put the money away and use it to extend the levy. The math works out to 2018 using the same rules of thumb that we use to calculate levies in Worthington, however, I am content with a November, 2017 goal in the spirit of compromise and since this is just a goal, not a spending plan.

I'll close with one thought. Whether its 2016, 2017, 2018 or later, we will eventually return to the ballot and our levy consultants and campaign volunteers will no doubt talk about all of the terrible things, programs cut, teachers fired etc.. that might happen if a levy fails. Those terrible things will be based on a financial projection, one which the community must have rock solid faith in if we are to have a chance at making our case. In 2012, we built a case on assumptions that turned out to be wrong. If we don't make this right now, why would anyone ever trust those numbers again?