

Walled Lake BOE approves \$19.7-million budget

The Walled Lake Board of Education has adopted a 1978-79 budget of approximately \$19.7 million in which projected expenditures will exceed projected revenues.

But the difference between projected expenditures and revenues is substantially less than originally anticipated.

Asst. Supt. for Business Harry Carlson had predicted that expenditures would exceed revenues by some \$446,000 in his original budget projections.

But Carlson informed the school board at its budget session last week that the projected deficit had shrunk from \$446,000 to approximately \$37,000—a difference of some \$20,000.

Supt. Don Sheldon told the board that the revised figures were due to increases in revenues and a decrease in expenditures.

Specifically, the school board adopted a budget with projected revenues of approximately \$19.32 million and projected expenditures of approx-

imately \$19.7 million.

THE \$19.7 MILLION BUDGET compares with an \$18.2 million budget last year (1977-78).

State law prohibits the adoption of a deficit budget, but the school district will not technically be adopting a deficit budget due to the existence of approximately \$991,000 in general fund equity which will be used to cover the projected \$37,000 deficit.

If the budget projections hold true, the district's fund equity will have decreased to approximately \$614,000 at the end of the 1978-79 fiscal year—a figure believed to be dangerously low. School district auditors usually recommend a fund equity of approximately 10 per cent of the overall budget.

Walled Lake Schools would have to carry a general fund equity of approximately \$1.97 million to meet the recommendations of the auditor.

The 1978-79 budget marks the second consecutive year in which the district has had to utilize its fund equity to bal-

ance the budget. The district had a fund equity of approximately \$1.1 million at the end of the 1976-77 school year, but was forced to dip into that surplus during 1977-78 when expenditures of \$18,057 million exceeded revenues of \$17.94 million by approximately \$113,000.

The budget adopted by the school board last Monday shows revenues of \$19.32 million, up from \$18.057 million in 1977-78.

THE GREATEST SOURCE of revenue will again be local property taxes and state aid.

The budget anticipates revenues of \$12.827 million in property taxes, up from \$11.27 million last year. The increase can be traced to new construction and an increase in assessments.

The district expects to receive some \$5.925 million in state aid, a decrease of some \$66,500 from 1977-78 when the district received approximately \$6.09 million in state aid.

That decrease can be attributed in part to a projected decline in enrollment. Carlson has forecast decline of 15 students in the 1978-79 school year, dropping total enrollment to 11,300.

The district also expects to receive some \$144,000 from the county for vocational and special education programs.

Carlson noted that better than 68 per cent of the school revenues come from local sources, while approximately 30 per cent of revenues come from the state. He added that there appears to be a continuing trend toward increased local funding of education.

The \$1.25 million increase in reve-

nues is more than offset by a corresponding \$1.45 million increase in expenditures over the 1977-78 budget.

The 1978-79 budget shows expenditures of \$19.7 million, up from \$18.057 million last year.

ALMOST 85 PER CENT of these expenditures will go for salaries and fringe benefits. Some \$16.63 million of the \$19.7 million budget will go into salaries and fringe benefits.

The remaining 15 per cent (\$3 million) of the budget will go for services, supplies equipment and fixed charges.

Elementary instruction has been budgeted to receive some \$4.7 million (up from \$4.38 million last year).

Middle school instruction has been budgeted to receive some \$1.486 million (up from \$1.39 million).

And high school instruction has been budgeted to receive some \$3.26 million (up from \$3.01 million last year). Special education will receive approximately \$694,000, vocational education will receive \$140,000 and adult education will receive approximately \$122,400. Plant operation and maintenance has been budgeted to receive \$2.5 million, up from \$2.2 million last year.

Pupil transportation has been budgeted to receive \$954,000, an increase of \$27,000 over 1977-78 expenditures of \$927,500 for pupil transportation.

OTHER AREAS of expenditures in the 1978-79 budget include the following:

- \$385,200 for guidance;
- \$255,000 for libraries;
- \$222,000 for other business services (property insurance, other insurance, and interest on short term loans);
- \$234,000 for athletics;
- \$583,000 for school administration (salaries for principals and school secretaries, purchased services and supplies);
- \$119,000 for executive administration;
- \$218,000 for instruction staff directors; and
- \$203,000 for fiscal services.

Millage down in WL district

There's good news for taxpayers in the Walled Lake School District.

The amount of millage levied for schools this year is going down.

Assistant Superintendent for Business Harry Carlson told the school board Monday that the total millage rate in the school district will drop from 34.88 mills in 1977-78 to 33.72 mills in 1978-79—a decrease of 1.16 mills.

There are two sources which go into determining the millage rate for the school district—mills for debt retirement and mills for operations.

Walled Lake Schools levied 2.75 mills for debt retirement and 32.13 mills for operations last year, a total of 34.88 mills.

This year, however, both the debt retirement millage and the operations millage are going down to make up the total 1.16 mill decline in the millage rate.

The biggest drop is in the debt retirement millage which has declined 30 mills from 2.75 mills last year to 1.82 mills this year.

Operating millage has declined 23 mills from 32.13 mills last year to 32.77 mills this year.

Carlson reported that the .33 mill reduction in debt retirement had been made possible by an increase in State Equalized Valuation, reduced obligations in 1978-79 and special funding to the district through the State Aid act which enabled Walled Lake Schools to receive some \$36,339 for debt reim-

bursment.

The .23 mill reduction in operating millage was made possible by a "rollback clause" in the 1978-79 State Aid act.

The clause is an apparent attempt by the legislature to reduce the dependence of school districts on local sources of funding (property taxes).

The Walled Lake Schools are legally entitled to levy 32.12 mills for operations. Under the "rollback clause" formula, the state has urged the Walled Lake district to levy just 31.9 mills. The difference in the amount of money that would have been collected under a 32.13 mill levy and the recommended levy of 31.9 mills will be reimbursed to the Walled Lake District by the state under the State Aid act.

Obituaries

CELIMA JOYAL

Celima Marei Joyal, 83, of Farmington Hills died Aug. 10. A mass was said at St. Colette Church in Livonia with Fr. Joseph F. Ferens officiating. Prayers were offered at Heene-Sundquist Funeral Home, and burial was in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery.

Surviving are: son Joseph; daughters Lucy Wroblewski and Mary Rose Lute; brother Emerien Flourde; 13 grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

guard for Burns Detective Agency and a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Surviving are his wife Thelma; sons Arnold, William, and Louis; daughter Dorothy; Maxine Galloway; Dusty Moser; and Phyllis Gazzini; 13 grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

DOMINICK SERINO

Dominick (Tom) A. Serino, 58, of Hubbard Lake, died Aug. 11 in his residence. Services were Aug. 14 in Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church with Fr. Dennis Ortmann officiating. A rosary was recited at Thayer-Rock Funeral Home led by Msgr. Thomas Beahan, and a memorial service was held by Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 4012 in Northville. Burial was in Glen Eden Cemetery.

Mr. Serino, a former Farmington resident, was retired from the U.S. Post Office, Farmington branch. He was a member of the VFW Post No. 6754 in Spruce and a veteran of World War II where he served in the U.S. Marines.

Surviving are his wife Phyllis (Jean); mother Annette Marzolini; sons James, John, Stephen, and Thomas; daughters Evelyn Block, Anita Depaw, and Nancy Teague; step-children Karen Sprague, Nancy Lettman, Lee Lettman, Joseph Lettman, Donald Lettman, Dennis Lettman, Jack Lettman; brother Albert; sister Marie Squires; and 22 grandchildren.

MARY JOHNS

Mary Johns, 91, of Farmington Hills, died Aug. 13 in Plymouth General Hospital. Services were Aug. 16 in Thayer-Rock Funeral Home with Dr. Paul McBride officiating. Burial was in Evergreen Cemetery.

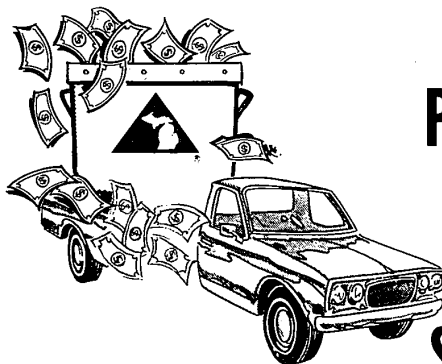
Mrs. Johns was a housewife. Surviving are sons Charles and Robert; daughters Francis Gairner, Marie Bloom, Lillian Heithor, and Mary Jane Kinsler; one brother and one sister; 15 grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.

WILLIAM CODY

William M. Cody, 81, of Farmington, died Aug. 13 in the Farmington Nursing Home. Services were Aug. 16 in Thayer-Rock Funeral Home with the Rev. Henry Schaffer of Community Tabernacle of Belleville officiating. Burial was in Roseland Park in Berkley.

Mr. Cody was a retired security

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