

By Patricia M. Bowling
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officials turned down different ballot proposals at a special meeting Monday night.

A three-year levy of four mills was the absolute minimum needed to restore recent cuts in teachers and programs, according to Superintendent Don Sheldon.

But trustee Patricia Jackman protested the plan was too meager, providing no cushion for the district's pending liabilities and no room for needed building repairs. Jackman also charged

that Sheldon had not provided adequate explanation of exactly what the four mills would cover.

"I cannot vote on this proposal tonight," she said at Monday's meeting.

BOARD PRESIDENT Mario Tonn also noted the four-mill proposal provided no additional funds for textbook purchases, which he said were sadly needed throughout the district.

There's no room in this proposal

for any kind of rebuilding or revitalization of the school district," Trustee Bonnie Venneria added.

Assistant Superintendent for Business Russell Wright estimated that \$24.6 million is needed to maintain the 1982-83 staff and programs in the current school year. If an additional four million was passed, tax revenue for the total district would be enough to leave the district with an approximate \$1.5 million surplus at the end of 1983-84.

In 1984-85, Wright estimated \$38 million would be needed to maintain the 1982-83 program and staff levels. The \$26 million also would provide for the purchase of 10 buses and major roof and ceiling repairs in the property valued at \$10 million the district received via 1984-85 tax revenue remission.

A THREE-PERCENT increase in the property valuation was figured into the estimated 1985-86 tax revenues. But even with the increase, approximately \$15.5 million generated in tax revenues was needed to meet the estimated \$23.3 million needed in 1985-86 to maintain programs and staff at the 1982-83 level.

In addition to the purchase of 10 buses and major roof and ceiling repair, the 1985-86 budget would include the recently negotiated 8-percent increase in teacher salaries and benefits, and raises in 1983-84 and in 1984-85 would be used to cover the estimated \$1.4-million deficit in 1985-86.

"That tells me we're going to be right back where we were this year," Venzke said.

Trustee Merlin Reed wanted more information about school finances.

"I would like to be a tad more business-like," he said. "I'd like to see hard numbers, and I'd like to know exactly where the money is going to come from." Steven H. Steward III told the board it should consider a larger tax-rate increase. "We cannot dare risk coming back to the public with the same problem in three years." Hatt suggested the election might be the "one opportunity this crisis has given us."

If the tax increase is approved, a property tax of \$2.00 per acre would yield \$40,000 (\$20,000 market value) and a new \$300 more in taxes.

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Both Savage and Deadman said that the SWOCC prefers having the tri-city's cable consultant, Harold Horn, join in.

discussing the problem with MetroVision. Horn, Savage said, is expected to arrive in the area sometime this week, although Harris will not be in Detroit. So, Deadman said, more than likely the consultant and city managers will be talking to another MetroVision representative. A meeting, however, has not been scheduled.


SAVAGE AND Deadman both said that solutions to the disagreement between the cities and MetroVision were

not discussed with Harris last week. Deadman said the city managers and Harris discussed the "economic side of the problem."

"We feel we are getting something different than we thought we would," Deadman said. "There is obviously a difference of opinion."

MetroVialon maintains that the cost of installing cable in less dense areas is higher than in subdivisions with many homes.

The North Farmington High School Boosters Club is sponsoring its annual "Great Scott Day" at the Thirteen Mill and Orchard Lake store on Wednesday. On that day, 5 percent of all funds from purchases will go to the boosters for landscape improvements, club hands and girls' and boys' athletics.



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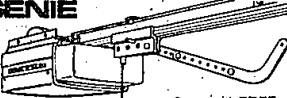
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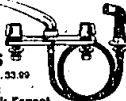
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