

The Wheelersburg Local Board of Education conducted a Public Hearing on Monday, August 23, 2010, at 5:30 p.m. in the Tiered Room at the Wheelersburg K-12 building. Board members John Cowgill, Donna Cunningham, Rory Phillips, Matthew Miller and Fred Nelson were present.

This public hearing was held to satisfy the requirements in Ohio Revised Code, Section 5705.314, prior to converting one inside mill from current operating expenses to permanent improvement. The hearing date, time and location were established by Board resolution approved at the July 26, 2010 regular Board meeting and it was held after the required advertisements were published in the Portsmouth Daily Times.

The hearing began with a statement by Board President, Fred Nelson, regarding the Board’s intent with the new Permanent Improvement Fund revenue, namely to upgrade athletic facilities used by district students. Mr. Nelson cited the age of the stadium facilities, certain safety issues and the lack of General Fund money to achieve necessary improvements as reasons for moving ahead with the Board’s planned mill conversion.

Mr. Nelson then asked school district Treasurer, George Grice, to present the Board’s plan for those attending the public hearing. The presentation demonstrated the Board’s need and the increase in taxes this action would take if taken alone. Mr. Grice also explained that the district’s Bond Retirement Fund, which is restricted to paying off the district’s debt (principal and interest) on the new school building, has excess funding, so the district could reduce the millage for the Bond Retirement Fund in an amount equal to the mill conversion. In this manner taxpayers should see no tax effect—the plan is tax neutral.

Mr. Nelson then invited hearing attendees to offer comments. Attendees as well as board members and administrators discussed the plan, possible funding options for athletic facility improvements and possible timetables for future activities.

The public hearing ended with board members taking a break before the start of the regular August 2010 board of education meeting.

_____ President;

_____ Treasurer.