

School Board draws closer to finalizing levy

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The New Prague School Board is drawing closer to finalizing a proposed voter levy request. At the school board's Monday, Aug. 8, work session the consensus of the board was to have the levy in two questions and for it to be over a six year period.

At past meetings the school board has been discussing an operating levy referendum with it possibly to be part of the general election this November.

At those previous meetings it was noted the referendum excludes the majority of agriculture property, with the owner of the agricultural property only having to pay on their house, a garage and one acre of land.

New Prague has a current referendum amount of \$247 per pupil and is not adjusted for inflation. It generates approximately \$1,131,336 based on 4,586 estimated pupils in 2022-23. The average home, valued at \$300,000 pays approximately \$130. It expires at the end of fiscal year 2024, with the last tax year payable in 2023.

The final day the school board can call for an election on the referendum is Friday, Aug. 26.

Compared to other school districts, New Prague is much lower. Sartell-St. Stephen has one at \$460 and Northfield has one of the highest at \$1,850. For local districts New Prague is still low as Prior Lake has a referendum of \$624, Shakopee has one at \$1,266 and Lakeville's is at \$1,444.

At the August 8 meeting the board was asked if it wanted to go with one or two questions. One question would be whether to have an operating levy and the second would be whether to have a technical levy for equipment. The questions would be separate and not contingent on each other.

Business Services/Human Resources Director Sandy

Scenarios						
Operating Levy Increase	Total Levy	Additional Revenue	Budget Adjustments to maintain 0% UA FB	23-24 Adj (1st year)	Comments	Monthly Tax Impact on \$300,000 Home
*\$0	\$247	\$0	Very Significant	~\$4.0M		\$0
\$250	\$497	\$1.1M	Significant	~\$2.9M		\$11.33
*\$2.0M Tech	\$247 plus 6.768% tax rate	\$2.0M	Moderate	~\$2.3M		\$16.33
\$400	\$647	\$1.8M	Moderate	~\$2.5M		**\$18.28
\$500	\$747	\$2.2M	Moderate	~\$1.7M		\$22.67
\$400 + \$2.0M Tech	647 Plus 6.768% tax rate	\$3.8M	Minimal	>\$1.0M	Keeps UA FB at 4-6% through 2025; Adjustments of up to \$1.2M would get us to 8% UA FB in 23-24	**\$34.61

Courtesy of New Prague School District

Linn presented the information. She noted if no levy questions were presented or residents voted it down there would have to be a very significant adjustment to the New Prague School District's budget. Proposed operating levy increases ran from \$250 to \$500, which would require a significant to moderate adjustment to the district's budget. The estimated monthly tax impact would range from \$11.33 to \$34.61, depending on which levy was chosen.

"We've been talking about it for a while and there is a need. We have to decide on it, but at a financial grade that we know people will support," said Superintendent Tim Dittberner. He noted they do need feedback from residents on it. He cautioned that the less revenue the school district has the more cuts they will have to make to the budget.

Board member Leo Giesen said from residents he's talked to he's heard that some feel the district is overstaffed, mainly at the administrative level.

Chair Tammy Pexa asked if they could go with one question or could they combine the two.

Linn said she talked with the school district's attorney and they can't combine the two.

Board member Kim Holden suggested they have two questions.

Pexa said the district has

kept it's budget conservative over the years and they've managed their funds well. In talking with other people from other school districts she's found those districts are usually going for bigger levies. "I don't want to have people in New Prague thinking that," she said. Pexa thought people in the district would support a technical levy, but it would be a hard sell if the district were to do an increase of around \$400.

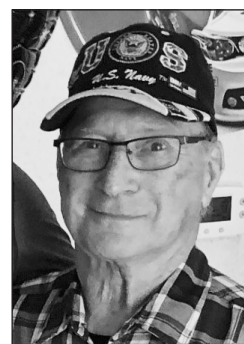
Giesen said an issue is that some people who wouldn't be able to afford the higher monthly tax impact.

Dittberner said they have to choose the right number for residents, but they will still be making cuts to the district's budget, although he wanted to stay out of budgets for the classrooms. Giesen asked how would it affect the arts and sports programs. Dittberner said those were areas they can look at. A lesson from the COVID pandemic was that students needed to be in school and supported.

The board's consensus was to have two questions with the levy to be over six years. Dittberner will be discussing the levy numbers with the board members individually and make a recommendation for the proposed levy numbers by Monday, Aug. 15.

Obituary

Elmer Harry Kukacka



Elmer Harry Kukacka, 85 of Montgomery passed away at his home on Thursday, August 4, 2022. Visitation was held on Tuesday, August 9 from 4 to 8 p.m. at the Schoenbauer Funeral Home in Montgomery. The funeral service was held on Wednesday, August 10 at 11 a.m. with visitation one hour prior at St. John Lutheran Church in Montgomery. Interment was held in the Calvary Cemetery in Montgomery.

Elmer was born on March 9, 1937, in Montgomery on the family farm to Harry and Ludmilla (Brezina) Kukacka. He was a 1955 Montgomery High School graduate.

After high school, he entered the United States Navy for six years.

Elmer was united in marriage to Ruth Deno on September 12, 1959, in Belle Plaine. They lived in Eagan until 1974 when Elmer moved his family to the farm outside of Montgomery.

Elmer farmed and worked at Ford Motor Company for 30+ years until his retirement

in 1989. In 1990 he and Ruth purchased Montgomery Sweet Shop.

He loved gardening and tending to his apple trees, loved playing cards with his family, and going to casinos.

Elmer and Ruth spent their winters in Texas for many years where he loved going to music jams and flea markets.

Elmer is survived by his wife, Ruth Kukacka of Montgomery; children, Bruce Kukacka of Heidelberg, Dale (Denyl) Kukacka of Heidelberg, Victoria (Jay) Tambornino of New Ulm, Roxann (Todd) Schneider of Savage, Linda (Jesse) Ellanson of New Prague, Betty (Mark) Krennik of Madison Lake, Denise (Matt) Krautkremer of Montgomery, Barbara (Tom) Priebe of Savage, and Gail (Brett) Burlage of Independence, Iowa; 23 grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; siblings, Harriet Marek of Lakeville and Jerome (Jeanette) Kukacka of Montgomery; and brother-in-law, Francis Kalal.

Elmer preceded in death by his parents; step-father, Eugene Moravec; sister, Elaine Kalal; brother-in-law, John Marek; and sister-in-law, Janet Kukacka.

Arrangements are with the Schoenbauer Funeral Home in Montgomery 507-357-6116. Online condolences may be left on our website www.schoenbauerfuneralhome.com.

Senior Dining

We do not currently have any congregate dining. If someone was participating in congregate dining, they are able to participate in home delivered meals during Covid 19. If you are interested in receiving Home Delivered Meals, please call CAP Agency Senior Nutrition at (952) 402-9855 or call the site number (952) 492-2208.

Mon., August 15 – Pork Loin, Brown Gravy & Mushrooms, Roasted Potatoes, Glazed Carrots, Fresh Fruit, Butterscotch Pudding w/ Topping, Milk; Alternate: Chicken.

Tues., August 16 – Cheese Omelet, Tri Taters, Ketchup, Turkey Sausage Links, Biscuit w/Jelly, Chocolate Chip Cookie, Fruit Juice (No Milk).

Wed., August 17 – Swedish Meatballs w/Gravy, Egg

Noodles, Broccoli, Fresh Fruit, Lemon Bar, Milk.

Thurs., August 18 – Sloppy Joe on a Bun, Ketchup Packet, Potato Salad, Baked Beans, Fresh Fruit, Apple Crisp, Milk.

Fri., August 19 – Pulled Pork on a Wheat Bun, BBQ Sauce, Scalloped Potatoes, California Vegetables, Sugar Cookie, Milk; Alternate: Chicken Breast.

Meals include 1% milk and butter.

SR = Salt Reduced
RCD = Restricted Calorie Dessert

Volunteer drivers are needed to deliver meals to seniors in Jordan and New Prague M-F between 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Please fill out a volunteer application at capagency.org or call 952-402-9855.

Music

"We're thrilled to offer this to you," said Den Gardner, chair of the New Prague Area Arts Council, which organized the six musical groups for the summer concert series. The Echoes Big Band was the fifth group to perform. The final show is tonight (Thursday) and features the Eddie Shimota Band.

"It was wonderful. It's nice when people are receptive and they enjoy the show," said Bill Stangler, conductor of the Echoes Big Band. "I know New Prague and Montgomery are home to a lot of great musicians. I'm glad we got included."

A lot of those attending were musicians themselves who came out to support the musical series and enjoy the music being presented.

A musician in the crowd that was invited to speak was Tim O'Neill, with his brother Ryan, they formed the O'Neill Brothers, a piano duo. The two have put out several albums and their music has been featured in movies and TV shows on NBC, CBS, HBO, PBS and more. O'Neill noted one of his first performances was in 1987 when the Hotel Broz was Schumacher's. "New Prague has been very supportive of me," he said. O'Neill said he enjoyed the Music at the Broz and was impressed with the number of people attending. He encouraged people to help support the Outdoor Performance Facility. While still in the planning stages the facility would be a place for several types of performances in New Prague.

"It was so fortunate we could come," said Stangler of being part of the summer concert series. "I hope we can come back."



Patrick Fisher Photo

Conductor Bill Stangler finishes a musical piece with flourish.

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10:30 AM - Worship Service

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Join us on Sunday mornings!

Nursery and live streaming is available.

View details about events & small groups on our website: www.calvarychurchmn.org

DIABETIC SHOE CLINIC

Friday, August 19 - 11 A.M. to 2 P.M.

American Legion Montgomery
102 Elm Ave. SW.



Diabetics with Medicare/Insurance may be entitled to one pair of therapeutic shoes and 3 pairs of inserts every year.



UCare, Medica, Medicare, BCBS, MN Medical Assist., HealthPartners & Waivers.

It is important that you wear good shoes. Pick the style and color of shoe you want. All sizes and widths available. A certified Shoe Fitter will measure and examine your feet, we do all the paperwork, prepare your inserts and personally deliver and fit the shoes to you.

IMPORTANT: Please bring the following:

1. Bring ALL insurance cards + MN M.A. Card
*PRIMARY & SECONDARY INSURANCE INFO
2. Primary doctor's name and phone number

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2022 Year-to-date (YTD) returns for several leading indexes as of Friday 8/5/22

Stock Indexes	YTD Price Return
Dow Jones Industrial Average	-9.7%
S&P 500 Largecap	-13.0%
NASDAQ Composite	-19.0%
Russell 2000 Smallcap	-14.4%

* This information is gathered from sources on the internet deemed reliable and reflects price changes only. It does not add in dividends paid or reinvested.

Michael Traxler WEALTH MANAGEMENT, LLC

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