

Navajo County Community College District Truth in Taxation Public Hearing Minutes

May 15, 2012 – 10:00 a.m.

2251 East Navajo Boulevard, Holbrook, Arizona, 86025

Governing Board Members Present: Bill Jeffers, Ginny Handorf, Louella Nahsonhoya, E.L. "Dusty" Parsons and Daniel Peaches.

Staff Present: President, Dr. Jeanne Swarhout; Vice President, Blaine Hatch; Vice President, Mark Vest; Information Services Director, Eric Bishop; Institutional Effectiveness Director, Dr. Leslie Wasson; Recording Secretary to the Board, Kristin Thomas.

1. Call to Order

Chairman Jeffers called the Truth in Taxation public hearing to order at 10:00 a.m.

2. Property Tax – Vice President Hatch

Mr. Hatch reported that the college is required in Arizona Revised Statute to hold a truth in taxation public hearing and noted that the college has published notices of tax increase in the Holbrook Tribune-News and the White Mountain Independent, as well as the college website, and has complied with all publication requirements and timelines as outlined in statute. Mr. Hatch explained that the intent of the notice is to notify taxpayers in the Navajo County Community College District that the college intends to raise the primary property tax over last year's level. Mr. Hatch stated that staff is proposing an increase in the primary property tax of 2%, the maximum allowable increase that can be implemented each fiscal year, which will amount to approximately \$258,600. Mr. Hatch explained that for a \$100,000 home, the 2% increase will result in an increase in annual primary property tax to \$135.15, up from \$132.50, or a difference of \$2.65. Mr. Hatch reported that the tax increase is exclusive of taxes on new construction and noted that the college does not have any additional property tax levies for bonded indebtedness or for budget or tax overrides.

Mr. Hatch reported that since 2005, when the legislature changed the base year for property tax collections, the college has levied the maximum 2% increase. Mr. Hatch explained that the property tax rate for this year is increasing due to overall assessed valuation declines across the college's taxing district. Mr. Hatch explained that the truth in taxation calculation works upon the concept of average valuation change. Mr. Parsons stated that in reality, the Board does not have to approve any tax increase, in which case, the tax rate would remain at \$1.2387. Mr. Jeffers noted the positive new growth in the county and as a result the college has discussed the benefit to take advantage of the state maximum levy of a 2% increase. Mr. Jeffers referenced important discussion of last months meeting that because there is a direct correlation with equalization funding which far exceeds the tax increase as a burden to the citizens of Navajo County; to maintain local support with the maximum levy increase will demonstrate to the state the need for equalization funding. Mr. Parsons respectfully disagreed. Mr. Hatch stated that state statute requires the college to use specific truth in taxation language and figures.

3. Invitation of Public Comment

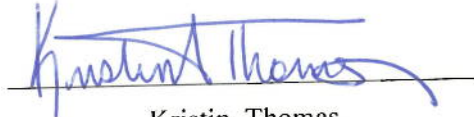
Chairman Jeffers issued a call for public comment regarding the proposed tax levy increase. There were no members of the public to address the Board. Mr. Hatch noted there has been no correspondence with any members of the public prior to today's hearing in response to proposed tax increase as published.



4. **Adjournment**

Mr. Peaches moved to adjourn the Truth in Taxation public hearing. Ms. Nahsonhoya seconded the motion to adjourn. *The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.*

Respectfully submitted,



Kristin Thomas
Recording Secretary to the Board



Bill Jeffers
Chairman



Ginny Handorf
Secretary to the Board

