

**PATRON - RURAL BOXHOLDER
P.O. BOXHOLDER**

W HAT'S HAPPENING

BOARD of EDUCATION BUDGET ISSUE MAY 2001
FROM THE SCHOOL BOARD PRESIDENT

The annual School Budget voting date (May 15, 2001) is just around the corner. You, as one of the voters in the Williamson Central School District, will be asked to make two important decisions when you enter the voting booth this year.

The first decision concerns the School Budget. After going over the Budget line item by line item twice, having a special Budget work session, and making painful cuts, your School Board was able to unanimously agree on a 2001 – 2002 School Budget of \$15,354,600. This Budget was reduced to a point that was projected, at the time of adoption, to cause the rate you pay in school taxes to increase by about 7.09%. The increases in the Budget this year are caused, for the most part, by increases in energy costs, increases in the number of students requiring Special Education services, salary increases, and the increased cost of benefits.

It is impossible to know the exact impact on your taxes until after the New York State Budget is passed at which time we will know how much we will receive in State Aid (our biggest revenue source). Since the Board adopted the Budget, we have received an updated estimate of the total Williamson assessment. These new figures will reduce the projected tax increase to approximately 6.46%. During the Budget Hearing (May 2nd this year), we will review and explain these numbers. In the past, when we have received more revenue from the State than we had anticipated, this revenue was always applied to reduce your tax increase. We plan to do the same this year.

In a typical year, a 6.46% increase in the tax rate would represent an increased tax bill of \$127.97 for the taxpayer with a house assessed for \$100,000. However, this year is the final phase of the STAR Program. Thus, that same taxpayer will not see an increase in his tax bill but actually a decrease of \$108.21, if one has applied for the STAR exemption and is eligible for such.

The second decision concerns a Land Purchase Proposition. Last year the District voters approved a Technology Proposition. Part of the Technology Proposition was the linking of the District computers via a line running between the High School and the Middle School/Elementary School/ District Office complex. The purchase of this land would allow us to run the cable on our own land at a lower cost and save the ongoing charges the District would incur if we were to run the fiber on existing utility poles. By linking the land purchase with the already approved Technology Project, the purchase price would be eligible for State Aid. The District would be reimbursed for 70% of the purchase price (\$80,000). The net cost would be approximately \$24,000 for fifty-five (55) acres of land that can be used for future expansion should the need arise. The land purchase would not impact the proposed budget and resulting tax rate increase. More details about this topic will be covered during the Budget Hearing.

Please encourage everyone you know to give these important decisions careful consideration, to attend the Budget Hearing on the 2nd of May, and to vote on May 15th.

Thank you for your continued support,

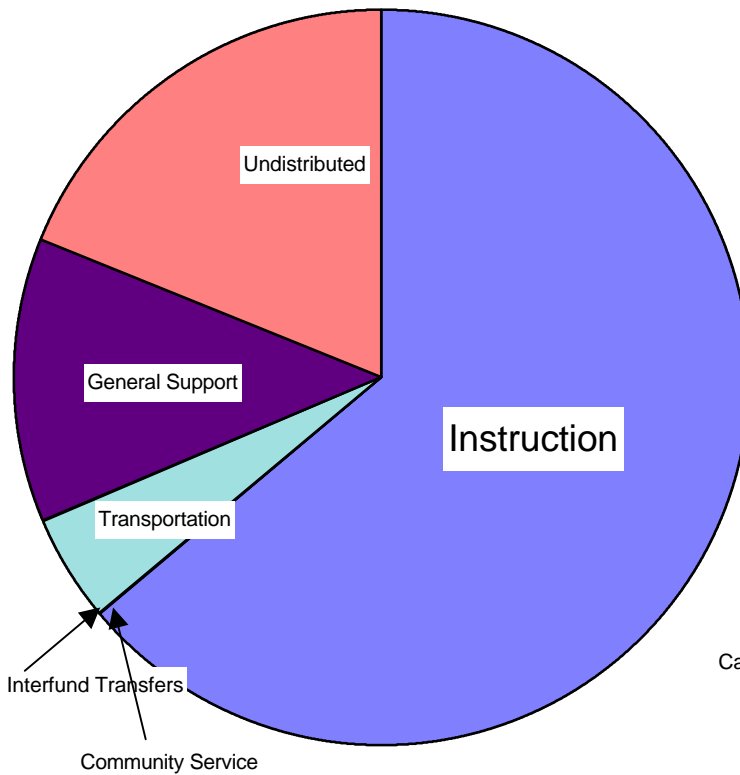
Bill Herbert

COMPARISON OF BUDGETS

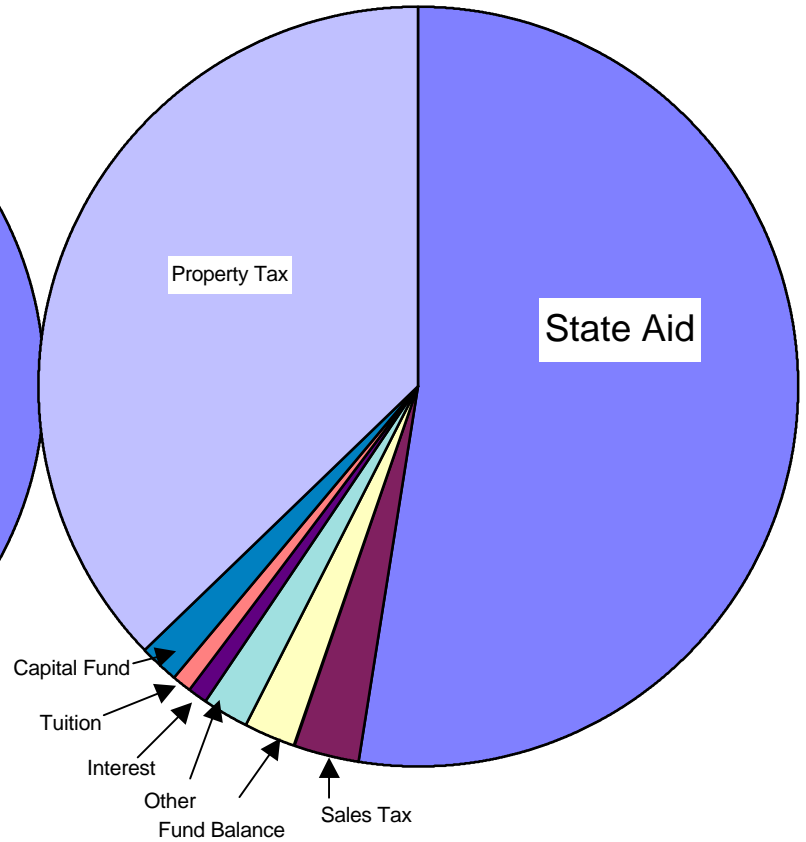
2000-01 TO 2001-02 BY CATEGORY

CATEGORY	00/01 \$	01/02 \$	CHANGE \$
TRANSPORTATION			
SERVICES	641,932	657,954	16,022
GARAGE BUILDING	45,450	56,450	11,000
TOTAL TRANSPORTATION	687,382	714,404	27,022
UNDISTRIBUTED			
STATE RETIREMENT	7,500	5,000	-2,500
TEACHER RETIREMENT	300,000	280,000	-20,000
SOCIAL SECURITY/MDCR.	633,500	655,000	21,500
HOSPITAL & MEDICAL	809,000	1,034,400	225,400
OTHER BENEFITS	120,000	118,825	-1,175
DEBT SERVICE			
SERIAL BONDS	840,138	782,162	-57,976
BAN TOTAL	- 0 -	- 0 -	- 0 -
RAN- INTEREST	15,000	15,000	- 0 -
TOTAL UNDISTRIBUTED	2,725,138	2,890,387	165,249
GENERAL SUPPORT			
BOARD OF EDUCATION	11,525	10,510	-1,015
CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION	149,000	159,350	10,350
FINANCE	222,171	232,130	9,959
STAFF	42,800	41,370	-1,430
CENTRAL SERVICES	1,147,048	1,312,497	165,449
SPECIAL ITEMS	171,409	177,330	5,921
TOTAL GENERAL SUPPORT	1,743,953	1,933,187	189,234
INSTRUCTIONAL			
INSTRUCTION, ADMIN. & IMPROVEMENT	629,165	616,900	-12,265
TEACHING - REGULAR SCHOOL	4,998,504	5,112,773	114,269
SPECIAL APPORTIONMENT PROGRAMS	2,495,850	2,636,683	140,833
TEACHING SPECIAL SCHOOLS	118,775	121,322	2,547
INSTRUCTIONAL MEDIA	610,342	643,169	32,827
PUPIL SERVICES	614,571	660,475	45,904
TOTAL INSTRUCTION	9,467,207	9,791,322	324,115
COMMUNITY SERVICE			
TOTAL COMMUNITY SERVICE	2,800	2,800	0
INTER FUND TRANSFERS			
TOTAL INTERFUND TRANSFER	22,500	22,500	0

2001 - 2002
EXPENDITURES
\$15,354,600



2001 - 2002
REVENUES
\$15,354,600



WILLIAMSON CENTRAL SCHOOL 2001 - 2002 BUDGET

WHAT IS THE BOTTOM LINE ?

2000 - 01 BUDGET :	.....	\$14,648,980
2001 - 02 BUDGET :	.....	\$15,354,600
INCREASE IN BUDGET :	.....	\$ 705,620
PERCENTAGE INCREASE IN BUDGET :	.....	4.8%
ESTIMATED INCREASE IN AN AVERAGE TAX BILL :	.....	6.46%
LAST YEARS TAX RATE FOR WILLIAMSON :	.....	\$ 19.78
ESTIMATED TAX RATE FOR WILLIAMSON THIS YEAR :	.....	\$ 21.06

The estimated tax rate is based on an average assessment and the Governor's spending proposal. If State Aid is higher than we have anticipated, taxes will be reduced accordingly.

PROPOSITION #1

Residents will be asked to vote on the purchase of fifty-five (55) acres of land adjacent to and directly south of the Middle School. This acquisition would become part of the State approved Technology Project and would be eligible for aid at a rate of 70%. The purchase price is \$80,000; after state aid, it would be \$24,000. The purchase would allow the District to generate aid on fiber optic cable for the Project from the Middle School campus to the High School on our own land, generating aid of approximately \$46,000 which would not be generated in the alternate design. There would be a decrease in each subsequent year's budget as a result of this proposition, saving approximately \$5,000 per year in lease costs which would be required to route the fiber on utility poles.

School District Budget Notice

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2000-01 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2001-02 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2001-02 School Year*
Total budgeted amount	\$14,648,980	\$15,354,600	\$15,143,358
Increase/decrease for the 2001-02 school year		\$ 705,620	\$ 494,378
Percentage increase(decrease) in each proposed budget		4.8%	3.4%
Change in the consumer price index		3.4%	
Resulting est. property tax levy for the 2001-02 school year		\$ 5,706,100	\$ 5,610,000
Administrative component	\$ 1,522,158	\$ 1,549,397	\$ 1,528,083
Program component	\$11,186,524	\$ 11,754,991	\$ 11,593,264
Capital component	\$ 1,940,298	\$ 2,050,212	\$ 2,022,011
<p>* Statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2001-02 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated.</p> <p>Should the proposed budget be defeated and the above contingency budget be adopted, the initial cuts as required by law would be eliminating equipment and community use of facilities. Further cuts would be required to conform to spending caps which would come from programs as determined by the Board of Education at the time of adoption.</p>			

Basic STAR Exemption Impact

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings Based on a Hypothetical Home Within the School District with a Full Value of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000)

	Budget Adopted for the 2000-01 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2001-02 School Year
Basic STAR tax savings	\$ 395.57	\$ 631.75
School tax increase/decrease	\$ 81.77	\$ 127.97
Net Basic STAR tax savings	\$ 313.80	\$ 503.78

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2001-2002 by the qualified voters of the Williamson Central School District, Wayne County, New York, will be held at the Williamson Middle School Multi-purpose Room on Tuesday, May 15, 2001 between the hours of 1:00pm and 9:00pm, prevailing time, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting machine.