

Our Tax Money

Newsletter

January 16, 2024

Check out all our latest updates

Tonight, January 16th! O'Fallon District 90 Working Cash Bond Hearing and Board Meeting. 7:00 pm at Estelle Kampmeyer Elementary School!

O'Fallon District 90 Board Policy states that at a hearing, "the public shall be invited to comment, question, or advise the Board of Education". So, we have questions.

Board Policy 4:150 Facility Management and Expansion Programs states, that "the School Board will confer with members of the staff and community- -". When was this conference? With whom? Or when will it be?

Superintendent Hruby's Master Planning Document shows 88 items on a list. No priorities highlighted. How can we know what is most important? What needs to be done first? Is there other funding methods available? How is it that we don't have time

to get the information before the public and let us vote on what needs to be done and for how much money?

The “Zero Tax Rate Increase” (NOT!) Bond Issue is to occur over a 3 year period. If you must act NOW why not start using the several million dollars already available? Oh, that would require priorities. Don’t seem to have them yet. If the most expensive should be first, the money is already there. Kitchen upgrades are hardly a crisis. Asphalt sealing isn’t a crisis. A 6ft chain link fence isn’t a crisis. ‘Cubbies’ are not a crisis. \$6.3 million in playground renovations is not a crisis.

More dollars are on the way as well! The Health/Life Safety plus Working Capital funds revenue is just under \$1.0 million/year and increasing every year. Fiscal year 2024 money is already here. Fiscal year 2025 money will start flowing into the accounts within the next 5 months. The Operations & Maintenance Fund has been running reserves of over \$1.2 million per year 5 of the last 6 years. The Working Capital Fund has had at least \$1.1 million in it since 2020 and over \$2.0 million each year since 2022! The projected Working Capital Fund balance in 5 months is \$2.8 million. Plan out the use of these funds before we add unnecessary new debt.

Oh, and then there’s the County Schools Facilities Tax on the horizon! That should drive local sales tax up to 10.35% or more? To pay off current facilities debt, improve facilities, and hire mental health providers, security officers. That sounds a lot like what this Bond Issue is supposed to do! Except I didn’t see Mental Health or Security officers on the Master Plan. By the way, we have security officers, and probably the best around!! Thank you Director Mark Berry.

I have to say that I am deeply disappointed that the O’Fallon District 90 Board of Education was so incredibly RUDE as to tell the community that a Working Cash Bond Hearing would be held at 7:00 pm, only to find out that it was actually sometime after, say, 8:00 pm? In my 15 years of association with the Board of Education, normally the hearings are set ahead of the meeting and are actually two separate events. Coincidence or Planned?

Stay warm out there!

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