

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF  
EDUCATION, SCHOOL DISTRICT #22, CASS COUNTY,  
WEEPING WATER, NEBRASKA  
September 6, 2023

President Adam DeMike called the meeting to order at 6:15 PM in the Weeping Water Public School Conference Room.

Board members attendance at roll call were **Present:** Jason Brack, Haley Dehne, Adam DeMike, Betty Harms, Neil Huskey, Doug Meyer, Mark Rathe.

{{Name: Agenda Item Name}}

1. Call to Order

**Present:** Jason Brack, Haley Dehne, Adam DeMike, Betty Harms, Neil Huskey, Doug Meyer, Mark Rathe.

2. Roll Call

3. Open Meetings Act

4. Hearing for Final Tax Request

5. Public Input

6. Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

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Board Secretary

## Notice of Special Hearing To Set Final Tax Request

Weeping Water Public Schools (13-0022) in Cass County, Nebraska

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given, in compliance with the provisions of State Statute Section 77-1632, that the governing body will meet on the 6 day of, September 2023 at 6:15 o'clock P.M., at Conference Room, Weeping Water Public Schools for the purpose of hearing support, opposition, criticism, suggestions or observations of taxpayers relating to setting the final tax request.

	2022-2023	2023-2024	Change
Property Valuations	412,443,441	425,452,996	3%

### 2022-2023 Budget Information

### 2023-2024 Budget Information

Fund	2022-2023 Operating Budget	2022-2023 Property Tax Request	2022 Tax Rate	Property Tax Rate (2022-2023 Request Divided By 2023 Valuation)	2023-2024 Operating Budget	2023-2024 Proposed Property Tax Request	Proposed 2023 Tax Rate	Change in Tax Rate	Change in Operating Budget
<b>General Fund</b>	6,409,378.00	4,366,651.00	1.058727	1.026353	5,948,300.00	4,456,757.00	1.047532	-1%	-7%
<b>Bond Fund(s) K - 12</b>	858,707.00	799,495.48	0.193844	0.187916	843,820.00	751,333.00	0.176596	-9%	-2%
<b>Bond Fund(s) K - 8</b>			0.000000	0.000000			0.000000	0%	0
<b>Bond Fund(s) 9 - 12</b>			0.000000	0.000000			0.000000	0%	0
<b>Bond Fund</b>			0.000000	0.000000			0.000000	0%	0
<b>Special Building Fund</b>	355,457.00	-	0.000000	0.000000	224,994.00	-	0.000000	0%	-37%
<b>Qualified Capital Purpose Undertaking Fund K - 12</b>	245,378.00	50,546.00	0.012255	0.011881	115,512.00	60,710.00	0.014269	16%	-53%
<b>Qualified Capital Purpose Undertaking Fund K - 8</b>			0.000000	0.000000			0.000000	0%	0
<b>Qualified Capital Purpose Undertaking Fund 9 - 12</b>			0.000000	0.000000			0.000000	0%	0
<b>Total</b>	7,868,920.00	5,216,692.48	1.264826	1.226150	7,132,626.00	5,268,800.00	1.238397	-2%	-9%

**RESOLUTION SETTING THE PROPERTY TAX REQUEST**

**RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_**

WHEREAS, Nebraska Revised Statute 77-1632 and 77-1633 provides that the Governing Body of Weeping Water Public Schools passes by a majority vote a resolution or ordinance setting the tax request; and

WHEREAS, a special public hearing was held as required by law to hear and consider comments concerning the property tax request;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Governing Body of Weeping Water Public Schools resolves that:

- 1. The 2023-2024 property tax request be set at:

General Fund:	\$	4,456,757.00
Bond Fund:	\$	751,333.00
Special Building Fund:	\$	-
Qualified Capital Purpose	\$	60,710.00
Undertaking Fund:		

- 2. The total assessed value of property differs from last year’s total assessed value by 3.15 percent.
- 3. The tax rate which would levy the same amount of property taxes as last year, when multiplied by the new total assessed value of property would be 1.22615 per \$100 of assessed value.
- 4. Weeping Water Public Schools proposes to adopt a property tax request that will cause its tax rate to be 1.238397 per \$100 of assessed value.
- 5. Based on the proposed property tax request and changes in other revenue, the total operating budget of Weeping Water Public Schools will increase (or decrease) last year’s budget by -9.36 percent.
- 6. A copy of this resolution be certified and forwarded to the County Clerk on or before October 15, 2023.

Motion by \_\_\_\_\_, seconded by \_\_\_\_\_ to adopt Resolution #\_\_\_\_\_.

Voting yes were:

Voting no were:

\_\_\_\_\_

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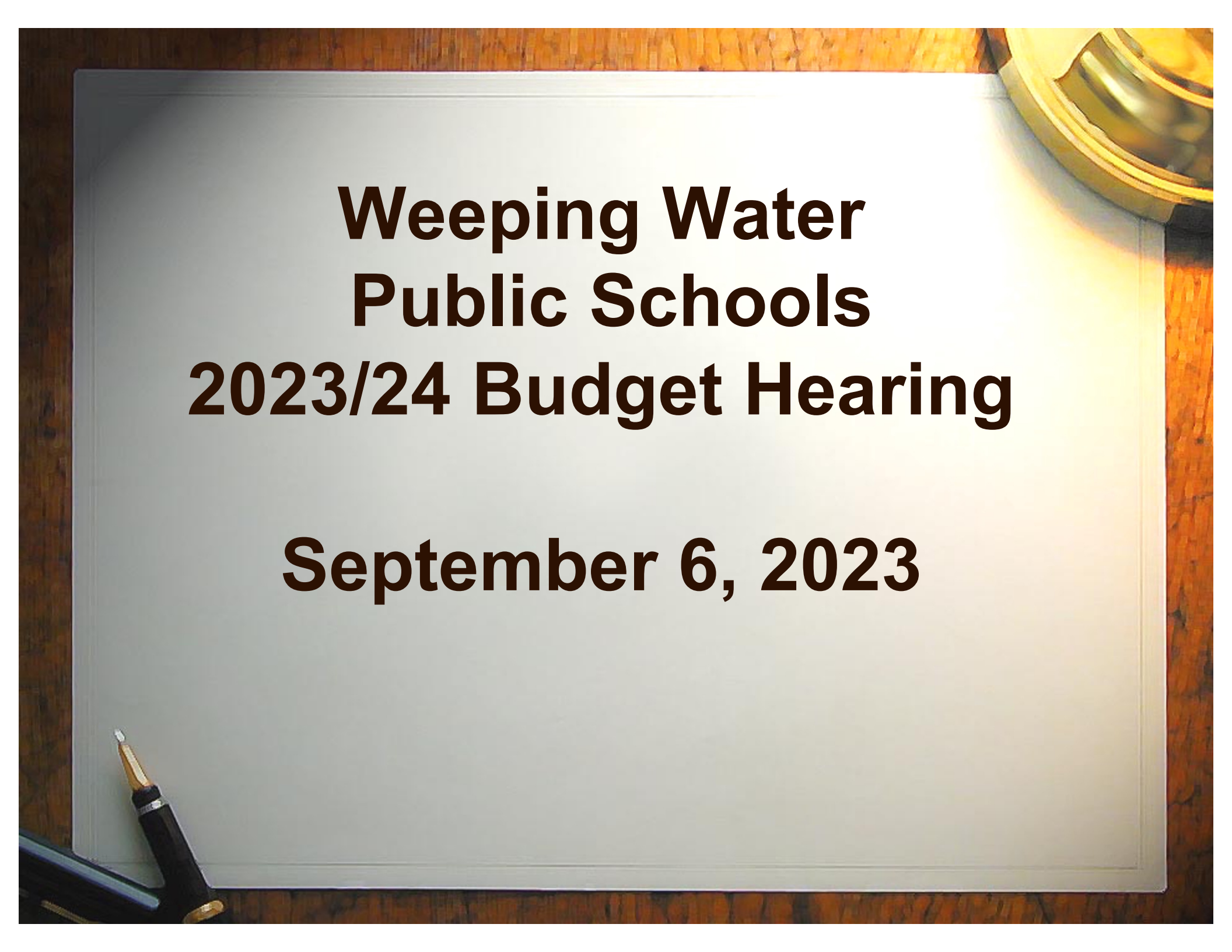
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Dated this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2023

A white sheet of paper is placed on a dark wooden desk. In the top right corner, a brass fastener is visible. In the bottom left corner, a fountain pen with a black and gold nib is lying on the desk. The text is centered on the paper in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

**Weeping Water  
Public Schools  
2023/24 Budget Hearing**

**September 6, 2023**

# Learning Target

- To understand the revenue, expenditures, and goals of the 2023/2024 budget and tax request.

# Goals for the 2023/24 Budget

- Strengthen the financial position of the school district
- Fiscally responsible/accountable to local tax payers

# Financial Position

We have spent the past 4 years improving the school district:

- CTE / Ag Program
- Athletics / Activities
- Childcare
- Curriculum
- Facilities
- Mental Health / Telehealth
- Professional Development
- Staffing
- Technology
- Transportation
- Special Education / At-risk students
- Strategic Planning

# Concerns that impact our financial standing

1. HVAC system
2. Inflation
3. Regular maintenance of the facility
4. Is the current state funding model sustainable?
5. Teacher / staffing shortage

# Budget goals

- Pay for what we have in place
  - Asked staff to limit requests to essential items
  - I want to get thru December / January and then assess where we are at.
- Reduce spending
  - General Fund Budget projected -7%
  - Bond Fund Budget projected -2%

# Projected Outcomes

- Put funds in the bank to address issues as they come up (#1 thru #4)
- Have funds in place for negotiations and classified staff for 24/25 school year. (#5)

# NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING AND BUDGET SUMMARY

Weeping Water Public Schools (13-0022) in Cass County, Nebraska

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given, in compliance with the provisions of State Statute Sections 13-501 to 13-513, that the governing body will meet on the 6 day of September, 2023 at 6:00 o'clock, P.M., at Conference Room, Weeping Water Public Schools for the purpose of hearing support, opposition, criticism, suggestions or observations of taxpayers relating to the following proposed budget and to consider amendments relative thereto. The budget detail is available at the office of the Clerk/Secretary during regular business hours. For more information on statewide receipts and expenditures, and to compare cost per pupil and performance to other school districts, go to: <https://nep.education.ne.gov>

FUNDS	Actual Disbursements & Transfers	Actual/Estimated Disbursements & Transfers	Budgeted Disbursements & Transfers	Necessary Cash Reserve (4)	Total Available Resources Before Property Taxes (5)	Total Personal and Real Property Tax Requirement (7)
	2021-2022 (1)	2022-2023 (2)	2023-2024 (3)			
General	\$ 6,060,010.00	\$ 5,989,910.00	\$ 5,948,300.00	\$ 1,180,082.00	\$ 2,716,193.00	\$ 4,456,757.00
Depreciation	\$ 250,127.00	\$ 86,058.00	\$ 311,367.00		\$ 311,367.00	
Employee Benefit	\$ 682,096.00	\$ 460,840.00	\$ 700,050.00	\$ 85,820.00	\$ 785,870.00	
Contingency	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	
Activities	\$ 240,289.00	\$ 300,000.00	\$ 300,000.00	\$ 26,632.00	\$ 326,632.00	
School Nutrition	\$ 261,383.00	\$ 282,843.00	\$ 281,800.00	\$ 9,588.00	\$ 291,388.00	
Bond	\$ 855,655.00	\$ 842,170.00	\$ 843,820.00	\$ 1,058,449.00	\$ 1,158,449.00	\$ 751,333.00
Special Building	\$ 154,792.00	\$ 226,696.00	\$ 224,994.00		\$ 224,994.00	\$ -
Qualified Capital Purpose Undertaking	\$ 116,085.00	\$ 112,026.00	\$ 115,512.00	\$ 51,741.00	\$ 107,150.00	\$ 60,710.00
Cooperative	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Student Fee	\$ 8,061.00	\$ 7,706.00	\$ 6,700.00	\$ 11,650.00	\$ 18,350.00	
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$ 8,628,498.00</b>	<b>\$ 8,308,249.00</b>	<b>\$ 8,732,543.00</b>	<b>\$ 2,423,962.00</b>	<b>\$ 5,940,393.00</b>	<b>\$ 5,268,800.00</b>

	Bond Purposes	Non-Bond Purposes	Total
Breakdown of Property Tax	\$ 751,333.00	\$ 4,517,467.00	\$ 5,268,800.00

A photograph of a desk with a wooden surface. In the center is a white notepad with a double-line border. On the notepad, the text 'Weeping Water Public Schools Tax Request Hearing' is written in a large, bold, black sans-serif font. Below this, the date 'September 6, 2023' is also written in a large, bold, black sans-serif font. In the bottom-left corner of the notepad, a black fountain pen with gold accents is visible. In the top-right corner, a brass fastener is partially visible. The lighting is warm, coming from the right side, casting a soft glow on the notepad and the desk.

**Weeping Water  
Public Schools  
Tax Request Hearing**

**September 6, 2023**

# Funding Sources

## State and Federal

- State ~\$1,377,131
  - » State aid = \$467,066 (increase of \$274,034)
  - » State SPED = ~\$432,065 (increase of \$296,814)
  - » Other state funds = ~\$478,000 (\$355,000 is Sixpence)
- Federal ~\$220,000
  - » Title = ~\$54,000
  - » IDEA = ~\$128,000\*\*\* - (due to recapturing last year's expenses of ~\$50,000)
  - » REAP/Other = ~\$38,000

# Taxable Value (2022 to 2023 comparison)

- Taxable value for the 2022 will be \$412,443,441.
- Taxable value for the 2023 will be \$425,452,996.
- This is an increase of \$13,009,555.
- Real growth of \$1,043,074
  - For comparison last year it was \$762,390.

# Tax Request goals

- Stay under the authorized budget cap
- Stay under the allowable growth rate
- Reduce our property tax request authority request a minimum
- Reduced the overall levy (\$1.05 cap)
  - Keep in mind these are all non-bond caps / checkpoints.

# Budget Cap

- This is the easiest as we cannot generate enough revenue to come close to our budget authority.
- This is banked ever year.
  - 23/24 unused authority is \$335,290
  - Our total “banked” unused authority is \$4,433,761.

# Allowable Growth

- Postcard Meeting rule
  - This checkpoint requires schools to attend a joint hearing if your tax request exceeds the allowable growth rate.
  - Our allowable growth rate was 2.27%
  - My initial budget was ~\$10,000 over this amount. As a result, I reduced the budget to stay within allowable growth.

# Property Tax Authority

- This is the new checkpoint so boards can review property tax requests
- In year 1 (this year) it created a base property tax amount for all schools. Our was a reduction of -\$117,343.
- It then gave districts the authority to exceed the cap up to a certain percentage. Small schools was 7%.

# Property Tax Authority

- In order to WWPS to “make-up” the reduction of \$117,343, the BOE use 2.36% of its authority.
- In order to meet our obligations and balance our budget I am asking the BOE to use 4.18% of its authority for an additional \$90,347.
- This puts the GF levy at \$1.047532.

# Property Tax Authority

- Think back to budget authority. Superintendents have been trained to always take the full authority given to a school district. It was simply a smart decision to protect the district.
- The Governor has asked that we only take what we absolutely need. This is why I am recommending the 4.18% and not 7%.

# Levy

- We are within the \$1.05 cap (\$1.047532)
- Overall the reduced the levy by a little over 2.5¢ because the:
  - Bond fund is healthy and we refinancing at the right time
  - No longer paying on early retirement
  - Reduction of GF operating budget

# Funding Sources

## Property taxes

- General Fund: \$4,456,757.00
- Bond Fund: \$751,333.00
- QCPUF: \$60,710.00

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# Levy Comparison

## 2022/23 to 2023/24

**2022-23**

**1.264826**

**2023-24**

**1.238397**

**-\$0.026429**

General Fund:	\$1.047532
Bond Fund:	\$0.176596
QCPUF Fund:	<u>\$0.014269</u>
Total:	\$1.238397

A top-down view of a wooden desk with a white sheet of paper. A fountain pen is in the bottom left corner, and a lamp is in the top right corner. The word "Questions?" is written in the center of the paper.

**Questions?**