Redbank board votes down tax increase

By SYVANNE GARDES
L-V Staff Writer

NEW BETHLEHEM — Taxpayers of the Redbank Valley School District will not see an increase in property taxes for the 2015-16 school year.

In a 5-2 vote during its meeting Monday night, the Redbank Valley School Board rejected a proposal to raise tax rates to the maximum index of 3.8 percent allowed by the state. Members Adam Barrett, Wendy Heeter, Tina Kenemuth, Ann Kopnitsky, Donald Nair and Shirley Pastor voted against the increase while Dae Bell and Chad Shaffer were in favor of it — board member Brian Nair was absent.

The proposed tax increase would have taken tax rates from the current 31.08 mills in Clarion County and 21.56 mills in Armstrong County to 35.96 mills in Clarion and 22.32 mills in Armstrong.

Sparking against the raise in property taxes, Nair pointed to the district’s $8.8 million reserve and stated why the district had to raise more money. “I think it’s outrageous to raise the school taxes,” Nair said. “The people in Redbank Valley have prepared their taxes a long time ago. I think it’s outrageous to come every year asking for tax increases when you carry balances like that. It’s my money and I think we ought to use it before we go to the people and say we’re going to raise your taxes.”

Shaffer countered by saying that while he had no problem taking money from the reserve, he felt that the district had to ponder thinking about a new approach. “That’s going to come, but I was a little bit troubled with it,” Shaffer said. He credited board member Greg Faller with working with the council on a work session throughout the weekend — to quickly process tax payments so people would get the money to the borough.

Officials said that the money raised from the borough came close to paying off a loan and working with the borough’s reserves. It takes everyone working together to achieve those kinds of goals. The recipient of the Warden of the Year award is determined by the state nominating committee and contenders include wardens from every state and county facility. It takes everyone working together to achieve those kinds of goals.

With the enlisted help of large crowds that were put on the back review, the Warden of the Year was Warden Jeff Hornberger. الجانب الثاني من الصفحة حسب المطلوبة.

A LARGE CROWD flocked to the creek behind the VFW club in New Bethlehem Friday to witness the release of two swans onto Red Bank Creek. Following the death of the creek’s lone swan last month, the VFW, Moose and Eagles clubs teamed up to purchase land from a farm in Indiana, where the pair has been living, and bring a new home, before making their way back to the VFW area.

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A former nurse, Becky Bole of Rimersburg, had just the place — her house, in the Laurel Ridge area. So the swans swam downstream to the VFW, where they are now. Bole countered by saying that while he had no problem taking money from the reserve, he felt that the district had to ponder thinking about a new approach. “That’s going to come, but I was a little bit troubled with it,” Shaffer said. He credited board member Greg Faller with working with the council on a work session throughout the weekend — to quickly process tax payments so people would get the money to the borough.

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