

At Dover

School levy need cited

By SANDY STEWART

If projected income for the Dover schools for 1978 proves accurate, the district faces a \$551,000 deficit at the end of 1978 and needs voter approval of an additional operating levy.

Monday night Supt. Bill Kinneer gave board of education members estimates for operating income and expenditures. Receipts, projected to total \$3,624,588 (compared with \$3,824,735 for 1977), are \$2,463,428 in property tax, \$1,082,000 in state foundation funds, \$55,000 in miscellaneous funds, plus a \$24,160 carry-over balance. Expenditures, which include estimated 5 per cent salary increases, extensive roof repair and general increased costs, total \$4,175,618.

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Dover cites need

Kinneer noted that the basic reason anticipated receipts are declining is that the carry-over balance is being depleted.

"How do we get \$550,000?" the superintendent asked.

He explained that an increase of 1 operating mill represents about \$100,000. "This fall we're talking about 5.5 mills," he told board members.

He continued that the board can present the request for additional millage three times — once in the general election and at two special elections.

KINNEER SUGGESTED, if the board decides to request the increase, that voters be asked to approve an addition of 5.5 mills in a special election Oct. 4 and/or the general election Nov. 8. The levy would run for an indefinite period.

If, however, the levy would fail and had to be placed before voters a third time, Dec. 13, it would be necessary to raise the request to 6.75 mills for a five-year period.

Kinneer said millage voted after the general election could not be collected until calendar year 1979. In order to keep schools open, the district would have to borrow approximately \$87,000 against the levy. The loan, with interest, would have to be repaid within five years, he added.

Because additional income would be needed to pay the interest on the loan, additional millage would become necessary.

He noted that cost of a special election probably would be in excess of \$6000. "We do pay something in the general election," he added, "but not as much as we would have to for a special election."

The board agreed to meet June 29 at 7:30 to study the proposed budget in depth. It must be submitted to the county budget commission by July 20, and a public hearing is required before the board can approve it.