

Levy request to be decided at July 25 meeting

Dover board okays budget with \$551,030 deficit

By SANDY STEWART

A proposed 1978 budget showing a \$551,030 deficit was approved Monday night by the Dover board of education. Just when voters will be asked to approve additional millage to cover that deficit, however, will not be decided until July 25.

The proposed budget shows general fund receipts totaling \$3,624,588, less than the estimated 1977 total of \$3,824,735 and the 1976 actual total of \$3,905,618.

The major reason for the lower 1978 figure is because the district's carry-over balance has been declining for the last few years. The 1975 balance, carried into 1976, was \$310,771. The balance carried over at the beginning of 1977 was \$211,735, while estimated balance at the

beginning of 1978 is only \$24,160.

Supt. Bill Kinneer told board members: "If you adopt this budget, you must realize that you will have to ask the taxpayers for additional money, for additional millage."

BECAUSE TWO board members, Ed West and LaVerne King, were unable to attend Monday's session, a meeting was scheduled for July 25 at 7:45 p.m. to determine when a levy will be placed before voters. At that time Kinneer also is to have estimated costs for a special election.

Following is a list of general fund receipts shown in the proposed budget with estimated 1977 receipts in parentheses:

Local tax \$2,463,428 (\$2,458,000);

state foundation \$1,082,000 (\$1,100,000); miscellaneous \$55,000 (\$55,000); carry-over balance \$24,160 (\$211,735).

Anticipated expenditures with 1977 estimates in parentheses are: Administration \$159,763 (\$140,300); instruction \$2,606,753 (\$2,464,836); coordinated activities \$17,177 (\$15,930); librarians \$90,500 (\$80,000); transportation \$173,500 (\$123,500); auxiliary \$608,000 (\$561,793); operation of school plant \$408,263 (\$352,300); maintenance of school plant \$77,162 (\$48,750); capital funds \$32,500 (\$12,500); debt service \$2000 (\$666).

THE REMAINDER of the meeting was devoted primarily to a detailed explanation of American College

Test and Iowa Test of Educational Development scores by Tom Kane, guidance counselor.

Statistics presented by Kane show that Dover students, like those throughout the nation, are scoring lower on the tests than they did seven years ago, although they are maintaining scores above state and national averages.

Comparing ACT results from 1970 and 1976 also indicates that, while Dover scores have remained above average, students taking the test in 1976 did not score as much above average as did those taking the test in 1970. (The ACT is for students planning to continue their educations beyond high school.)

On the other hand, comparisons of results on the Iowa test, which all 10th graders must take, show that

those students taking the test in 1976 scored slightly more above average than did those taking it in 1970.

Lowest average scores by Dover students on the 1976 Iowa test were in mathematics and social studies, while on the 1976 ACT lowest averages were in English and social studies.

KANE SAID he feels there are three reasons for the overall decline in test results from 10 years ago:

—There are about three times as many students entering two-year technical programs today as are entering four-year university programs, and all those students take the ACT, not just those planning to enroll in the four-year programs.

—There are fewer students dropping out of high school and more

non-academically oriented students taking the tests.

—There is less interest in society for scholastic achievement and honors; parents are not pushing their children toward academic goals as they have done in the past.

In other business the board:

—**APPOINTED** Barbara Pritchard of Mansfield and Pamela Fouts of Gnadenuhthen to the teaching staff for the coming school year. Pritchard in home economics and Fouts in elementary.

—**GRANTED** a one-year maternity leave to Kathy Gibson, elementary instructor.

—**APPROVED** professional meeting requests totaling \$320 for five staff members.