

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2009 CELEBRATING 136 YEARS

*Superintendent calls special meeting,
less than 24 hour notice given*

School Board votes to reset tax levy rate

Sweet Springs
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During a special meeting of the Sweet Springs R-7 Board of Education last Friday night, Superintendent Boyd Jones stated the board needed to reset the tax levy rate previously voted on at the August 10 meeting.

The board voted to set the total tax levy rate at 3.9900, unchanged from the previous year. During the August 10th meeting, Jones explained that SB 711 makes this year's levy dependent on last year's levy for a ceiling. In alternate years, the levy ceiling will revert to the ceiling passed by voters, which was in 2003, set at 4.04.

During reassessment years, the levy will be rolled back as a result of reassessment. SB 711 sets an artificial tax rate ceiling under the actual ceiling.

Jones reported to board members that HB 148 would provide steps to correct this. "Although unknown to me, although

that is my error, Nixon vetoed HB 148," reports Jones. "We have to roll back this year, our voluntary roll back from last year because of our increased assessed valuation."

Jones said the board needed to set the tax levy rate at what is the district's temporarily tax ceiling rate at \$3.2138, which will be changed in 2010 to the district's real tax ceiling which is \$3.7148.

"It has always been a law to have a tax rate ceiling," Jones says, "But your valuation goes up and sometimes down and if the voters passed a 4.04 levy, which they did, if your tax base increases then the levy changes with it, so even though they voted 4.04, it goes up or down because the valuation changed."

The board voted to reset the incidental tax levy rate at \$3.2138, the capital projects rate at zero, and debt service remains at \$.6400.

"We've already rolled it back by .56 cents and now .12 cents on top of it," stated Jones. "This is horrible legislation."

The total tax rate was reset at \$3.8538.

Also during the special meeting, Jones reported that the order of events for the building project includes removing all asphalt this week which will cause a significant change in how dismissal is handled. Buses and the traffic flow will be routed to the back of school for a month or possibly two months.

This will also result in traffic flow changes for football games.

"Essentially, every piece of asphalt will be taken out," stated Jones. He added the new parking lot will be started on soon.

This meeting was set with less than 24 hour notice given as required by the Missouri Sunshine Law. Board members also reported not having 24-hour notice.