

FILE

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18-1607

JAN 7, 2020

DEAR MATT BUTLER,

I HAVE ENCLOSED A LETTER TO THE SITING BOARD AND A COPY OF A LETTER I SENT TO SOME OHIO LEGISLATURES SHOWING MY SUPPORT FOR HB 401 AND SB 234.

I ALSO HAVE A COPY OF AN EDITORIAL PLACED IN THE SANDUSKY REGISTER, ALONG WITH SEVERAL ARTICLES FROM THE REGISTER RELATING TO THIS PROBLEM. THE LAST ARTICLE IS FROM ^{THE} SENTINEL-TRIBUNE A BOWLING GREEN OHIO NEWS PAPER.

PLEASE PRESENT THIS INFORMATION TO THE MEMBERS OF THE SITING BOARD. THANK YOU FOR THE USEFUL INFORMATION YOU SENT ME LAST SPRING. ABOUT THE EMERSON - CREEK PROJECT.

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This is to certify that the images appearing are an accurate and complete reproduction of a case file document delivered in the regular course of business.

Technician A Date Processed 1/15/20

Truly,

GERARD A WENSINK
10106 PATTEN TRAC RD
MONROEVILLE OH 44847

Gerard A Wensink

Someone needs to be responsible for the consequences that arrive when their actions create problems. The East Ohio Gas Line was installed through my families farm in the 1940's. No right of way was purchased...it was installed with a right to dig clause. The Ohio Turnpike again split our fields from east to west in 1954. Nexus Pipeline Co. installed over 12,026 feet of a 36 inch pipeline ten feet deep on our farm in 2018. Because of the unique shale formations in Oxford township Nexus needed to drill & blast the site 13 feet deep for installation.

I invite everyone on the siting board to visit our diversified seed farm to see first hand all of the problems we have encountered from these infrastructures going through our property. We still have reduced yields over the now Dominion Pipeline installed over 70 years ago. The subsoil structure was destroyed in the construction process. I can show everyone numerous drainage problems we still encounter from the turnpikes constuction. We now have a huge soil erosion problem from the Nexus Pipeline in one of my top producing seed corn fields. We worked to reroute our tile drainage systems in every field Nexus crossed. We worked on this huge task from October 2016 until March of 2017. We also hired a private contractor , Dirt Works Co., that worked on about one half of this project . One of the new reroute mains installed by Dirt Works a professional in tile repair, is now washed out of the ground after last summers severe rains. This problem occured immediately after construction started and still continues now. Next summer we will have to repair this problem at our own expense.

All of these problems occured because my fields received direct impact from the construction process. My farm, residence, and way of life will be impacted by the turbines Apex plans to build in Erie, Huron, Sandusky and Seneca counties...and especially Oxford Township. I tried to avoid direct contact but will still be impacted. We refused all efforts by wind companies to lease our farmland multiple times. An industrial wind project does not compliment a working seed farm.

The Nexus Pipeline was approved by the siting board on October 2017. Are you aware they already do not want to pay? Nexus wants to close the valve before it even gets started. It was represented to you and me on it's huge tax revenue to our schools and local governments.

If you approve the Emerson Creek project, do you have a plan in place to prevent Apex from pulling the plug and refusing to pay the taxes they promised to pay. If and when the company goes bankrupt who will pay the taxes?

The owner of the leases for the property big wind companies leased have changed names three different times in ten years.

I watched the newcast on the LSU quarterback from Athens Ohio winning the Heisman Trophy Award. Joe Burrows from Athens County told of the poverty in his home county and the children facing hunger daily. My suggestion to the siting board is that you should require wind companies to place turbines where they are needed not where they propose to put them. Their

tax dollars are desperately needed in Athens County. The residence of Erie & Huron counties do not want them and they have no vote in this process. Wind companies pick areas where they can find the most absentee landowner to sign leases, since they are generally supported by people who do not have to live by them.

I predict that in the near future ads will run on television stations stating "If you or a loved one were exposed to..... noise, shadow flicker, infrasound or any other health related issues from your exposure to wind turbines you are entitled to compensation from the company that built these turbines. Unfortunately these companies will be bankrupt and long gone blowing in the wind.

To this day I have not received a single notification from Apex telling me my farms about the turbines footprint in Erie Co. I learned on my own that my home is located 4758 feet from a turbine. Apex stated that my residence is not in close enough proximity to a turbine for intervention. Evans engineering solutions, a private engineering firm hired by Apex stated that, up to to 2334 households relying on transmitted off the air TV signals will be affected. My residence receives over the air TV viewing for free. When my signal is affected how do I correct this problem?

The fall harvest of 2018 dragged on until Christmas due to the cold wet fall. Apex's first meeting was November 15th 2018. I was completely unaware turbines were being planned for Oxford Township. I read an article in the Sandusky Register about the commercial industrial wind project planned for Erie & Huron Counties. I also started seeing yellow anti wind signs go up everywhere in my community. After harvest ended I started talking with neighbors and attended the Erie County Pilot Tax Abatement meeting in January 2019 held in Bellevue Ohio. Since my county denied the abatement and the Oxford Township Trustees do not want them in our township, I also oppose this commercial industrial wind project, which is exempt from all local zoning laws. The zoning regulations were put in place to protect the enjoyment of everyone's property. An industrial wind project will hurt Ohio's farming industry more than any non-agriculture expert can imagine.

I have been married for 41 years and my wife will tell you that over the years I wave a neutral flag on most issues. I have seen yellow anti wind signs in all four of the counties I own farms in. After meeting and talking with some of the people opposing Apex and researching the destruction the turbines will do to my farming operation I soon dropped the neutral flag and started my fight to stop Apex from turning my county into an industrial commercial wind project.

Please contact the Oxford Township Trustees and ask them what Wensink Farm Seeds has donated to our township and community over the years. Oxford Township Fire & Rescue is jointly along with Groton Fire trying to purchase more fire trucks. I would rather donate money for this project instead of the law firm our anti wind group hired to stop Apex from destroying

our rural life. My donations are real not like the promise Nexus made and Apex is proposing. Oxford Township needs fire equipment not more promises and especially no wind turbines. I pray that your members vote with their minds and hearts and that politics play no part in their decisions. Please consider every resident and creature impacted by wind turbines. I have never seen a bald eagle other than at a zoo or rehab facility until about five years ago. Now weekly I look up in the sky or in my fields and see one or up to three at a time. This past Fourth of July while spraying soybeans I was blessed to see an eagle perched in a dead tree in a fence row less than a mile from where turbine numbers T84, T85 and T86 are proposed.

On the morning of Christmas Eve while working at my business I saw an eagle soar above my farm less than one mile from the proposed site of turbines T3, T4 and T5.

I do not see why Apex and the siting board cannot be bothered to have a meeting somewhere in Erie County. That way you can drive through our rural Oxford Township and see first hand all the residents homes with signs opposing this project. Also you could observe the sink holes and fragile Karst formation in Groton Township where Apex is proposing to build turbines. The VFW hall in Bellevue Ohio and the Bronson/Norwalk conservation league are both located in Huron County. These locations are several miles away from proposed turbine building sites in Erie County. Your adjudicatory meeting in Columbus on April 14th 2020 comes right at the start of my busy planting season. I will have to disrupt my planting schedule to attend this meeting. Most years this ~~the~~ window for spring field work is very limited.

My crop yields, seed quality and income will be greatly impacted by any delay in planting. Again I am impacted by Apex in Oxford Township.

Thank You,

Gerard Wensink



11/17/2019

Support for HB 401 and SB 234

I own farms in Erie, Huron, Sandusky, Seneca, and Lorain counties. I am also co-owner of a diversified seed farm, one of only three in Ohio that grow and produce hybrid seed corn. All of my land except that in Lorain County will be impacted by proposed wind products.

Bats are very beneficial in the control of agricultural pests. Wind turbines will effect RTK guidance systems used by most farmers today for precision planting, spraying, and fertilizer placement. Turbines will hinder aerial crop spraying. Building turbines especially in a fragile karst area will create drainage issues and many other unforeseen problems. Farming is Ohio's number one industry. Commercial industrial wind projects do not compliment working farms. In life I believe in avoiding avoidable harm. Stopping problems starts before intrusion projects are built.

I have farmed for 45 years and lived in Oxford township for 65 years. When my neighbors chose to live in a rural community zoned for agriculture they knew they may experience agricultural nuisances from time to time. Now that industrial commerical wind projects are being forced in our rural townships the residents want to have a say if 655 foot tall wind turbines are to be placed in their backyard with out regard to shadow flicker, noise, and safety concerns. These bills will give rural residents a say in this life changing event. The trustees of Oxford Township are in litigation and have stated they do not want a wind project in the township.

These bills will give residents a voice in the process of wind projects and allow setback distances to conform to manufacturers recommended distances. This will stop projects in some townships and let them be built where they are welcomed. If these bills become the law in Ohio, residents would not have to pay legal fees fighting wind projects they do not want. I am sure these good people that live in rural Ohio would rather find charities and other good causes to donate their time, talent and monies to instead of fighting wind projects. This will put the voice back in the process.

Thank You,

Gerard A. Wensink

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gerard A. Wensink", with a stylized flourish at the end.

If it's too good to be true

In regard to the register article Pipeline Breaks on Pay, from the December 14-15 issue.

The Nexus pipeline tipped through over 2 miles of my 4th generation family farm to install a 36-inch pipe, 10-feet deep.

Nexus did not have to use eminent domain for our property since we thought this was a needed infrastructure for our state. It was sold on the great tax benefits it would provide for our community especially our local schools.

Gas has been flowing through the Nexus pipeline since September 2018. Too bad the tax dollars haven't been flowing to our schools. Your article states that the first payments are supposed to arrive in 2020. Already Nexus is appealing to cut the amount of the dollars it was supposed to pay.

I am a member of the group Erie Huron Anti Wind opposing the industrial wind project coming to my township and county. Apex the

company behind the Emerson Project comes with it's promise of too good to be true tax revenue.

Turbines are being built with enormous subsidies from our federal government. They are usually sold shortly after construction to someone who reaps the benefits of huge tax credits again funded by our government.

Turbines are supposed to last 15-20 years. Often the companies that purchase them go bankrupt, then have to sell them again.

Do we really want the shadow flicker, constant noise, bird and bat kills, negative viewshed, reduced property values and all the other problems for a promise of some tax dollars? My farm will be impacted by RTK guidance interruptions, aerial crop spraying, and safety concerns due to the turbines close proximity to our rural roads.

The Nexus Pipeline will be paying some taxes for at least the next 50 plus years. The turbines usually have to

last 20 years and hauled off to our already over filled landfill. Hardly any part of the huge blades are recyclable.

Please contact the Ohio Power Siting Board in Columbus Ohio (opsb.ohio.gov) and tell them you oppose the Emerson Creek Wind Project. They have the only say in approving this industrial wind project for our community. The electricity the turbines may produce is being sent out of state.

Farming is Ohio's number one industry. We do not want our Ohio farmland littered with 655 foot tall monuments of other's failings. We do not need more false promises of too good to be true tax revenue.

For the officials from our local schools and elected government leaders, unless the turbine noise keeps you awake at night I hope you have sweet dreams of the tax revenue you probably wont get.

Gerard Wensink
Monroeville

Sandusky
Register

OPINION

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sanduskyregister

Monday, December 23, 2019

Sandusky Register

Reflects the majority opinion of the members of the Sandusky Register editorial board:

Ron Walte
Matt Westermold

Publisher
Managing Editor

registerviewpoint



Register photo/ERIN McLAUGHLIN

Crews construct the NEXUS natural gas pipeline near U.S. 4 and the turnpike on Wednesday, July 25, 2018.

NEXUS should keep promises

If you ask us it's more like a bait and switch. The owners of the NEXUS natural gas pipeline filed an appeal seeking to cut the amount of tax dollars it will give to local schools and governments beginning next year, the first year the company will owe and pay valuation taxes on the newly constructed pipeline.

After so many promises to so many entities for so long, the reason the company is appealing — the pipeline's not as valuable as the estimates of value provided prior to construction — doesn't pass the smell test, in our view. A company spokesman said the tax estimates were "prepared by a third-party in 2016 and were based on the scope of the project at the time." The company has "consistently been clear that these tax estimates were provided for illustrative purposes only, were subject to the final project scope and should not be relied on to determine future budgets."

That might be how NEXUS sees it, but it's not what people remember. The company did not tout estimates, it boasted about the payments it would make to local school districts. Now it wants to pay less than it estimated, in some cases, potentially far less.

The NEXUS gas pipeline began operating in 2018. The 36-inch, 256-mile pipeline runs from Kensington in southeast Ohio through to Michigan, passing through Erie and Sandusky counties. The cuts could average 10 percent less than the estimated promises school districts were given.

Two local school districts that were supposed to get large NEXUS tax payments could see even bigger cuts, according to Erie County auditor Rick Jeffrey. Margaretta Schools could lose 18 percent of its projected funding if the appeal succeeds, while Edison Schools could lose 25 percent, he said. The document shows current Erie County school districts getting about \$10.8 million in the first year, with Margaretta schools getting about \$6.2 million and Edison schools getting about \$3.6 million. Other estimates: Perkins, \$1.5 million; Erie County, about \$870,000, and EHOVE, about \$735,000.

For years, as NEXUS campaigned to be allowed to build the pipeline, it circulated estimates of how much money local schools and governments would receive once it began operations. It did not ballyhoo about the amounts being estimates. Now it's appealing the valuations in a process that's secret. A spokesman for the Ohio Department of Taxation said the appeals are confidential and state officials cannot discuss details. Really?

your
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Write to regforum@sanduskyregister.com

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WORKFORCE

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Vol. 197, No. 1

NEXUS



Register file photo/
ERIN CALDWELL

The Nexus pipeline as it looked under construction near Mason and Mudbrook roads in Milan Township in May 2018.

Pipeline pumps breaks on pay

By TOM JACKSON

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SANDUSKY

The NEXUS natural gas pipeline filed an appeal seeking to cut the amount of tax dollars it is giving to local schools and governments when payments begin next year.

The first payments from the project are supposed to arrive in 2020. But most of the school systems and government agencies that are supposed to get money could see cuts of about 10 percent if the appeal succeeds, said Rick Jeffrey, Erie County's auditor.

Two local school districts that were supposed to get large NEXUS tax payments could see even bigger cuts, Jeffrey said. Margaretta's school district could lose 18 percent of its projected funding if the appeal succeeds, while Edison could lose 25 percent, he said.

The NEXUS gas pipeline began operating in 2018. The 36-inch, 256-mile pipeline

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NEXUS

■ FROM PAGE A1

runs from Kensington in southeast Ohio through to Michigan, passing through Erie and Sandusky counties.

For years, as NEXUS campaigned to be allowed to build the pipeline, it circulated estimates of how much money local schools and governments would receive once it began operations.

The document shows various Erie County school districts getting about \$13.8 million in the first year, with Margaretta schools getting about \$6.2 million and Edison schools getting about \$3.6 million.

Other estimates: Perkins, \$1.5 million; Erie County, about \$870,000, and EHOVE, about \$735,000.

Smaller amounts are going to other government entities,

including the local townships. The Erie County Health Department was told to expect about \$159,000, while the Mental Health and Recovery Board of Erie and Ottawa Counties was supposed to get about \$191,000.

Jeffrey estimates that most of the profits should plan on reducing those estimates by 9 percent to 10 percent.

But he said the Margaretta and Edison schools face bigger cuts if the NEXUS appeal is successful.

"Margaretta and Edison School Districts are different because they have fixed sum levies that cannot generate additional funds based on the increased value. So in Margaretta's case, the amount projected was \$6,249,100 and if successful on the appeal Nexus would pay them around \$5,161,700 or 18 percent lower than projected," Jeffrey wrote in an email.

"Edison, on the other hand, has two fixed sum levies, so their original estimated revenue was \$3,671,400, based on the appeal if successful they will get around \$2,790,000 or 25 percent lower than projected," he wrote.

Jeffrey said NEXUS can either pay the lower estimate and be forced to pay more if it loses the appeal or can pay the higher amount and then ask for some of its money back. He said he's confident, however, that payments will be made next year.

A NEXUS spokesman, asked about the company's promises about tax revenue, replied that they were just estimates.

Spokesman Adam Parker confirmed the company has filed an appeal.

"Nexus is committed to paying a fair and justified property tax based on the true market value of the pipeline and looks forward to

developing future economic and taxing opportunities in Ohio," Parker wrote in an email to the Register.

"The previous tax estimates were prepared by a third-party in 2016 and were based on the scope of the project at the time the study was conducted. We have consistently been clear that these tax estimates were provided for illustrative purposes only, were subject to the final project scope and should not be relied on to determine future budgets," Parker wrote.

A spokesman for the Ohio Department of Taxation said the appeals are confidential and state officials cannot discuss details.

According to a timeline of appeal procedures issued by the department, resolving appeals can take several months, Jeffrey said the formal appeal was filed Monday.

Sandusky
Register

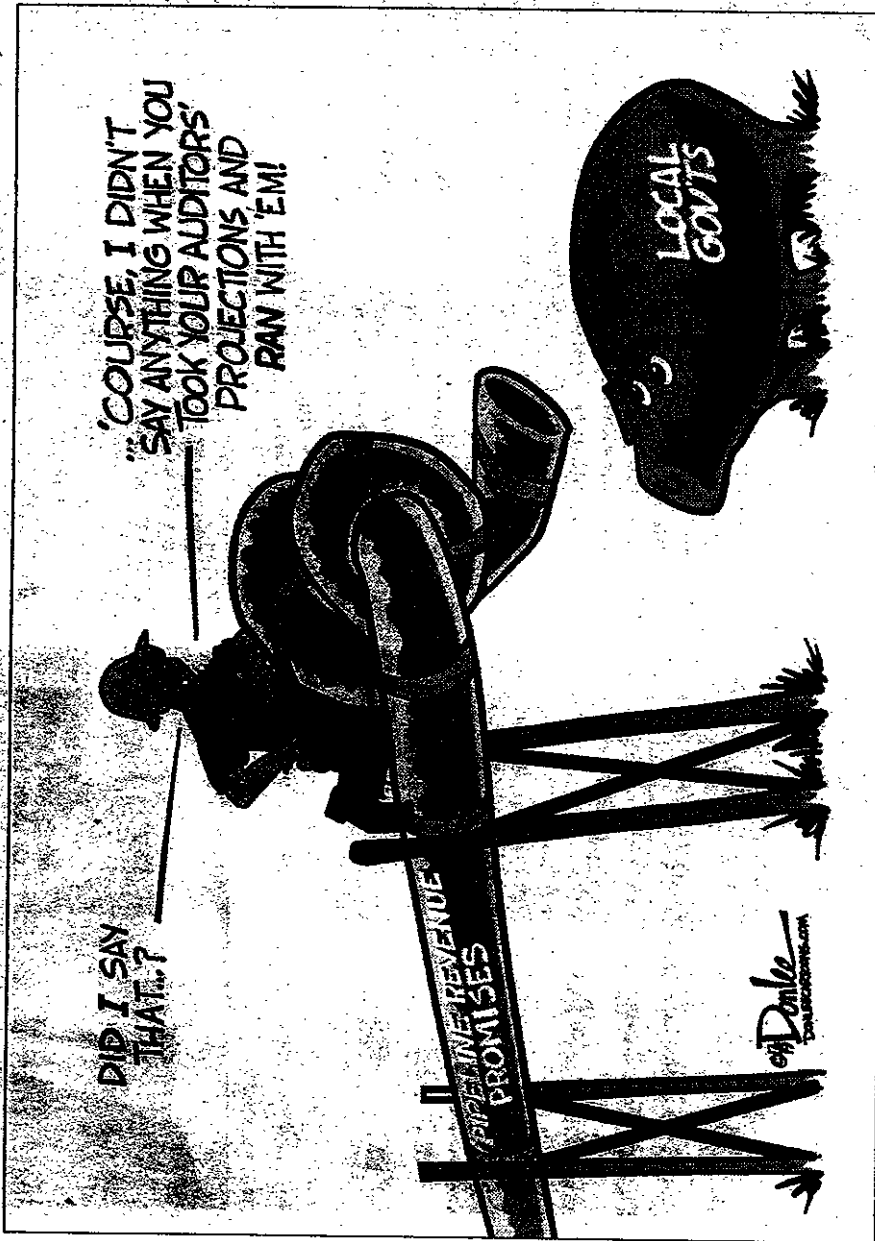
OPINION

A4

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Friday, December 20, 2019



Eastwood expects \$1M less from pipeline

By Marie

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PEMBERVILLE

The loss of approximately \$1 million annually as the Nexus pipeline appeals its appraisal has impacted Eastwood Local Schools' funding forecast.

At Monday's board of education meeting, Treasurer Brad McCracken said that he was disappointed in the appeal.

The appeal takes the district's estimated pipeline revenue to approximately 30% below what Nexus put on its own website, he said, when it publicized valuation back when the company was seeking approval through regulatory agencies.

The revised five-year forecast approved Monday reflected the reduction in valuation.

"We will see nothing more than what the appealed level is, and traditionally it could be two to three years," McCracken said.

Eastwood was set to get \$2.20 million in new funding, but with the appeal, that figure has dropped to roughly \$1.28 million, according to the Wood County Auditor's Office.

After the appeal,

ARTICLE From

Bowling Green

OHIO

Paper

Pipeline

From page 1
Nexus will make up the difference with interest, said board member AJ Haas, and in one lump payment.

That is correct, McCracken said, adding that the district won't know the outcome of the appeal for at least 12 months.

Superintendent Brent Welker said earlier this month that no matter what, the district will be receiving new revenue from a source that is not local taxpayers.

In his new forecast, McCracken has property tax revenue growing by \$556,000 over five years, from \$7.11 million in fiscal year 2020 to \$7.67 million in fiscal year 2024.

Each year's growth is not compounded on the previous year and any growth is shown in relation to fiscal year 2019, when there was no pipeline money, McCracken said.

In fiscal year 2019, property tax income

was \$6.54 million. In fiscal year 2024, that amount is \$7.62 million, or an increase of \$1.08 million.

We will likely see significant reductions in state foundation funding within the following two years due to the increased property valuation," McCracken wrote in his forecast.

He has forecasted a 9.79% drop in state aid due to the influx of pipeline money starting in fiscal year 2022. The anticipated amount for fiscal year 2020 is \$6.18 million, and \$5.59 million for fiscal year 2024.

While the 1% earned income tax showed growth of 1.3% last year, McCracken has estimated growth of only 0.75% through fiscal year fiscal year 2021.

If the five-year income tax is not approved in 2021, the district will lose \$114 million in fiscal year 2022 and \$2.32 million in fiscal year 2024.

Without that renewal, the cash balance will be \$4.62 million in the red in fiscal year 2024 as the district dips into its

reserves to balance the budget. With a renewal, the district will have \$1.02 million in its unreserved fund in fiscal year 2024.

If the income tax is not renewed, revenues will drop from \$18.22 million in fiscal year 2020 to \$16.03 million in fiscal year 2024.

McCracken said with state funding uncertainty and even with the pipeline money and tax abatement income, it is likely the district will have to go to voters for new money toward the end of this forecast.

While income from the Pilkington tax abatement is estimated at \$343,000 per year starting in January 2021, McCracken expects a continued drop in agriculture valuations. The district allowed its emergency levy to lapse in 2016 to benefit taxpayers, at a loss of \$878,000 annually.

Meanwhile, the hope is open enrollment will continue to grow and bring income into the district. The line

item that contains revenues from tuition, open enrollment,

school fees and pay-to-participate fees goes up \$174,000 in five years, from \$1.89 million in fiscal year 2020 to \$2.06 million in fiscal year 2024.

For expenditures, Eastwood is projected to spend 75% to 80% on salary and benefits for the forecast period.

For salaries, as per the negotiated agreements, the costs go up from \$9.54 million in fiscal year 2020 to \$11.11 million in fiscal year 2024.

Benefits will also increase while both bargaining unions agreed to increase member contributions.

McCracken is budgeting an increase of 5% to 7% in insurance costs over the next five years, taking that amount from \$4.06 million in fiscal year 2020 to \$4.87 million in fiscal year 2024.

Expenditures will climb by \$2.53 million in the next five years, from \$18.80 million to \$21.33 million. This includes \$18.35 million annually for bond payments for the

energy savings projects and the elementary building.

Adam Parker, manager of public affairs for Nexus,

emailed a statement to the Sentinel-Tribune.

"The Ohio Department of Taxation recently issued a preliminary valuation notice to local tax officials for the newly constructed Nexus Gas Transmission pipeline.

"Consistent with how individuals, homes and businesses are taxed, our property tax assessment should reflect the true market value of the pipeline.

After reviewing the preliminary assessment, we have elected to file a petition for reassessment through the formal process established by the Ohio Department of Tax.

"Nexus is committed to paying a fair and justified property tax based on the true market value of the pipeline and looks forward to developing future economic and taxing opportunities in Ohio," Parker said in the statement.