

2018 Property Tax Bill Question & Response

Friday, March 2, 2018

Recently, a taxpayer asked about some of the financial data listed on his first 2018 tax bill from Cook County. Specifically, the taxpayer questioned the "money owed by your taxing bodies" related to District 106.

Succinctly, this question was valid. After coordinating with the Cook County Treasurer's Office and our district's auditor, there was in fact a discrepancy listed on the tax bill. Please see below for a description of what was found, and how this issue has been resolved:

The district's debt ("money owed") has **not** increased, although it may have errantly appeared so in the data provided on property tax bills. While there is **no impact** on actual tax bills (that information is listed on the bill merely as an "FYI"), it is still important that transparent and accurate information is shared. The issue has been corrected on the Treasurer's website (where this information is also available), and while they will not reprint bills, it will show up accurately on next year's bill.

The specific dollar amount listed on the 2018 tax bill should match the "Total Liabilities" figure from the *Statement of Net Position* from the 2017 Annual Financial Report (AFR). This amount is **\$3,276,230** as of June 30, 2017. However, on the property tax bill, the dollar amount listed was **\$6,916,617** – this figure comes from the same section of the AFR, but describes "Total Deferred Inflows of Resources," and is the incorrect number to be listed. This impacts the total debt/liability amount listed on the tax bill.

What Was Listed		What Should Have Been Listed	
Total Deferred Inflows	\$ 6,916,617	Total Liabilities	\$3,276,230
Minus TRS Liability	- \$ 1,208,294	Minus TRS Liability	- \$ 1,208,294
Money Owed by D106	\$ 5,708,323	Money Owed by D106	\$ 2,067,936

A dollar amount was also listed from last year's tax bill (2016 AFR data, for 2017 tax bills) regarding "money owed." This dollar amount listed is from 2015, as the timing of 2016 Debt Disclosure Ordinance filing did not align with the Treasurer's timeline to appear on last year's tax bills. The money owed by District 106 over the last two years' tax bills can be summarized as follows:

What Was Listed		What Should Have Happened	
Money Owed (2017 bill)	\$ 3,263,814	Money Owed (2017 bill)	\$2,705,833
Money Owed (2018 bill)	\$ 5,708,323	Money Owed (2018 bill)	\$ 2,067,936

To provide clarity, our "money owed" has *decreased*, as would be expected, from \$2,705,833 to \$2,067,936 (from the 2016 AFR to the 2017 AFR, respectively).

Respectfully,

Michael J. Duback
Director of Operations & Chief School Business Official
LaGrange Highlands School District 106