School Business Administrator Gary Barno presented the proposed budget for the 2015-2016 school year at the May 6, 2017 Budget Hearing. The goal is to create a budget that aligns with the District’s mission statement and reflects prudent financial planning. The restoration of 63% of the Gap Elimination Adjustment allowed the District to restore initial proposed cuts, reduce the reliance on reserves and enhance the instruction program. The year to year change reflects a 3.11% increase in spending. The proposed tax levy increase will be 1.8%. This increase is below the New York State imposed tax cap limit. Mr. Barno reviewed the impact of the STAR exemption program. In addition to the budget proposition, residents will vote on a proposition to purchase two new buses at no cost to taxpayers and to reauthorize the Capital Reserve Fund. The full budget presentation can be seen on the District website, www.williamsoncentral.org.

Board of Education candidate Monica Fernaays stated that she was honored to run and follow in Trustee Patrick Wright’s footsteps. She explained that she is motivated to do the best for the students in the community and be a voice for students when they may not be able to speak for themselves. Her advocacy work within the PTSA and as an active parent has led her to this next step and she looks forward to working with the board, administrators, staff and the community to continue to make Williamson schools the best they can be.

Under Reports from District Administrators, Marygrace Ferrando, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction, reported that the Superintendent Conference Day was a wonderful learning opportunity for all involved. She expressed her appreciation to the instructional coaches, administrators and staff for their hard work to make the day a success. Ellen Saxby, Elementary School Principal, expressed her appreciation to the PTSA and a very successful book fair. Kathryn Avery, High School Principal, reported that the high school has welcomed two new students from Ethiopia. The students are staying with a local family and are excited to be here. She also reported on a class observation of Diane Luke’s 10th grade English class where the students were engaged with each other in a question and answer discussion regarding current reading materials. Hilary Chaya, High School Assistant Principal, also reported on a class observation of Michele Fisler’s 11th grade English class. In this class she observed a summative presentation where students take a lead in their own lesson. It is a very supportive environment for students even those that are nervous to make a presentation. She also reported on a recent professional development faculty meeting which was developed based on feedback from teachers. She commented that it was a very productive meeting with teachers learning from their peers. John Fulmer, Middle School Principal, reported on his recent observation of Dave Bruinix’s class. It was a lively conversation between students analyzing facts using two different methods. He also reported on the large number of supporters at the modified athletic events where there is a sense of community and support for all athletes including the visiting teams. He expressed his appreciation to Cathie Abdunnasir, Rich Rozzi, and Larissa Juliano for their work on the Learning Fair and Heather Daniels for coordinating the Book Fair. Kathryn Taylor, Middle School Assistant Principal, highlighted several events at the Learning Fair including the student storytelling sessions. The students did a wonderful job despite being nervous. She also reported on a class observation of Rachel Liberatore and her work with the students. She commented that the lesson was well planned to accommodate all the needs of her students. Wanda Miller, Director Pupil Personnel Services, highlighted Lindsey Yackel’s National Honor Society project. Miss Yackel worked with the student athletes to create their tie-dyed t-shirts for the event. The Special Olympics
will be held at Marion High School on Friday, May 15. Gary Barno, School Business Administrator, reported that the auditors will be in the District next week for the preliminary audit. Superintendent Macaluso reported that work is underway with administrators to review job descriptions and potential hires for the next school year. He also reported on a meeting with Jim Hoffman to discuss a potential solar micro-grid. It is a grant funded program that would benefit the town, the District and BOCES. The grant application is in the early stages. The District and the Williamson Faculty Association have declared a mutual impasse in the negotiations. While the meetings have not been acrimonious, it has been decided it is in the best interest of the District and the teacher’s union to begin non-binding mediation. It is hopeful that an agreement can be reached in a timely manner. He congratulated the administrators, teachers, staff and students for their dedication to remain focused during this chaotic time of year.

Reports to the board included an update on the UPK/Kindergarten registration. Approximately 55 students were registered which included some new families to the District. Caroline Jackson reported that at the PTSA meeting all the positions have been filled including Anne Governor and Colleen Sheahen as Co-Vice Presidents.

Marygrace Ferrando reported on the Quarterly Achievement report. The highlights of the report included:
- the percentage of student who are below proficiency in one or more classes decreased for sixth, eighth, ninth and tenth grades
- the percentage of students meeting achievement measures increased for students in eighth, ninth and twelfth grade this marking period

Ellen Saxby and Karen Hoody reported on the Data Driven Instruction (DDI) focus at the Elementary School. From the start of the school year they focused on the planning and the implementing instruction side of DDI. At the start of the year, prepared materials to assist teachers in gathering data and by the end of the year the teachers were able to develop their own tools to gather data. From the data gathered teachers were able to assess the students’ needs, determine what improvements could be made in the lesson delivery and as a result saw student growth. The administrators and teachers are excited by the progress. It has been a productive year and they look forward to what comes next.

Under the Consent Agenda, the board approved the appointments of several volunteers, a classified substitute and a substitute nurse. The board also approved the appointment of Brenda Patrzalek, Food Service Director effective July 1 and the change of appointment for James Sergeant from Probationary part-time bus driver to Probationary full-time hourly bus driver effective April 20, 2015.

Under Old Business the board heard an update on the 259 School Ballot referendum. Board Trustee Patrick Wright reported that the annual notice has been submitted to the papers and that the library plans to have a float in the Apple Blossom Parade.

Under New Business the board accepted with regret the retirement/resignation of Kathryn Gray, School Media Specialist, High School, effective June 30, 2015, 35 years of service. The Board also approved the Class of 2015 white water rafting trip to Letchworth State Park, June 20, 2015.