CRYSTAL FALLS—“You had to do some really tight budgeting, and it showed,” said CPA Dianne Rostagno to the Forest Park Board of Education, reporting on the district’s annual audit Sept. 24.

The general fund saw a revenue increase of 3 percent—due to increased tax value within the district. State funding, however, was down 24 percent.

“This school aid drop was huge,” Rostagno said, at more than one million dollars.

The district’s federal revenue was also down, 52 percent. __PUBLIC__

Overall, district revenue was $3,861,903, more than $500,000 less than last year.

Despite a drop in revenue, the district was still able to put 60 percent of its budget into direct instructional programs, 5 percent less than last year but still commendable, said Rostagno.

The district ended the fiscal year with $146,720 in fund equity.

“We have a fund balance this year,” said Finance Committee Chairman Jim Nocerini. “It’s great, going from where we’ve been to where we’re going.”

Rostagno agreed, saying it was a good effort despite the huge drops “that you couldn’t control.”

Superintendent Becky Waters reminded the board that, “10 years ago, we had $2,000 in fund equity.”

Rostagno commended the school board and staff for a good year.

IN OTHER BUSINESS:

--Athletic Director Dwaine Anderson, in his report, noted the MSHAA District Volleyball Tournament will be held at Forest Park Oct. 29, Oct. 31 and Nov. 1. The girls district basketball tournament will also be held at Forest Park Feb. 25, 27 and March 1, 2013.

--District enrollment count to date was reported by Waters at 471.

--The board: approved the audit, which will be filed electronically; approved advertising for a request for proposal for third part pupil transportation

--Approved posting for an at-risk interventionist position; hiring Jen Spreen and Renee Kivioja as middle school student council advisors; and the fourth grade Mackinac Island trip, scheduled for the spring, 2013.

--The board approved Chandra Ziegler for the sophomore class advisor.

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