

1) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND CALL TO ORDER

The special meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Deer Park was held on Tuesday, December 11, 2007 at Vehe Barn, 23570 W. Cuba Road, Village of Deer Park, in the counties of Lake and Cook, Illinois. President Gifford called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Village officials and guests recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

2) ROLL CALL AND DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

Upon roll call, the following were present: Trustees Rotter, Pratscher, Kizior, Thrun, and Kellermann. The following Village officials were absent: Trustee Plautz (*arrived late*). Other Village officials present were Administrator Connors and Clerk Meyle. President Gifford stated there is a quorum.

3) DISCUSSION OF THE SALES TAX REFERENDUM

President Gifford and each of the trustees made comments regarding the sales tax referendum with the following points being made:

- ◆ It is good that Village residents have the opportunity to vote regarding increasing the Village's sales tax by ½ a percent from 6.5% to 7%.
- ◆ It is important that Village residents have accurate information regarding the referendum and the use of the additional funds a ½ percent increase in sales tax would generate.
- ◆ The referendum should not be used as a mechanism for showing disapproval of past Board decisions; residents should make their voting decisions according to the road and drainage needs of the Village and the use of an increase in sales tax as a source of revenue for funding those needs.
- ◆ The purpose of the referendum is to provide an ongoing and relatively permanent funding mechanism for the Village's Road and Drainage Program and other road and drainage improvements.
- ◆ As the cost of police services increase, taking up one third of the current Village budget, it is important that the Village generate additional sources of revenue to fund road and drainage programs and improvements. Like police service, road and drainage items make up one of the larger fractions of the Village budget.
- ◆ If the sales tax increase was to pass, the Village would have the total of the additional sales tax revenues plus the Motor Fuel Tax funds it receives to spend on roads and drainage. This total is not enough to cover the Village's current Road and Drainage Program funding needs.
- ◆ The Village of Deer Park has a non-home rule local government. State of Illinois 65 ILCS 5/8-11-1.1 through 5/8-11-1.5 states that non-home rule municipalities may impose up to 1% additional retail sales tax via referendum approval.
- ◆ State of Illinois 65 ILCS 5/8-11-1.1 through 5/8-11-1.5 limits how non-home rule municipalities may spend revenues generated by the additional sales tax. During the consideration of the ordinance initiating the referendum (Ordinance 07-22), the Board amended the ordinance presented by the Village Attorney so that it specifically stated that the funds will be used for public infrastructure, such as street and drainage improvements.
- ◆ The Village Clerk filed a certified copy of Ordinance 07-22, which included the wording of the referendum, with the Cook and Lake County Clerks as directed by the ordinance; this was done by the December 6, 2007 deadline.
- ◆ The consensus of the Board was that it is firmly committed to the earmarking of these funds for expenditure on public infrastructure, such as road, street, and drainage improvements.

4) QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Al Barry of 412 Bramble Lane addressed the Board regarding sales tax on vehicles.

Deborah Barry of 412 Bramble Lane addressed the Board regarding the inclusion of engineering fees in the Road Program projections; taxes currently being collected; sales tax on services; contact that has been made with Deer Park retailers regarding the referendum; and the definition of infrastructure.

Mary Lahr of 201 Rue Touraine addressed the Board regarding the definition of infrastructure.

John Lahr of 201 Rue Touraine addressed the Board regarding the percentage of the additional sales tax revenue that would be generated by the residents of Deer Park and the applicability of the additional sales tax to the sale of food in restaurants or grocery stores.

Larry Winkelman of 21540 Inglenook Lane addressed the Board regarding the restriction of the use of the funds for funding infrastructure improvements.

Trustee Plautz arrived at the meeting during the questions and public comments by the public. President Gifford gave her the opportunity to make her comments on the referendum.

Trustee Plautz reminded the Board that they had received a copy of an article from the Illinois Municipal Review regarding non-home rule sales tax as part of a previous agenda packet. Trustee Plautz stated that the article gives a good explanation of public infrastructure improvements, and she read the following from the article which specified that infrastructure improvements are things such "as municipal roads and streets, access roads, bridges, sidewalks, waste disposal systems, water and sewer line extensions, water distribution and purification facilities, storm water drainage and retention facilities and sewage treatment facilities."

Additionally, Trustee Plautz pointed out that the article clarifies the items that are excluded from the tax; among those items are groceries (excluding alcoholic beverages, soft drinks, and catered or restaurant foods).

Clerk Meyle read the referendum wording from Ordinance 07-22 upon President Gifford's request.

Trustee Kizior suggested that the Illinois Municipal Review article be posted on the Village website because it gives a good overall explanation of non-home rule sales tax.

President Gifford asked if there were any additional comments from the public.

Deborah Barry of 412 Bramble Lane addressed the Board regarding the increment in which the sales tax would be imposed (1/4% at a time versus 1/2% all at once) and the segregation of the funds received from the additional sales tax into a separate account.

5) ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: by Trustee Rotter to adjourn. Upon a voice vote: YES: (6) / NO: (0) / ABSENT: (0). Motion carried 6/0

The special Board of Trustees Meeting was adjourned at 8:00p.m.

H. Scott Gifford, Village President

Susan Meyle, Village Clerk