

VILLAGE OF HINCKLEY
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING - MINUTES
March 12, 2018

CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER: Meeting was called to order by President Nelson at 6:00 PM.

Present: President Nelson, Trustees Mike Constant, Tim Sellers (arrived at 6:05pm), Jeff Nier, Chuck Riforgiate. Quorum Established.

Absent: Trustees Diedrich and Clark.

Also Present: Village Clerk Elizabeth Losiniecki, Treasurer Dave Maroo and Attorneys Szeto and Gibbons.

Comments

Resident Pat Rogers, 700 Meadow Lane, asked Trustees to introduce themselves. Each Trustee provided a brief self-introduction.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

For discussion: Sales Tax Referendum

Village President Nancy Nelson stated that the Sales Tax Referendum would be a ballot question for the March 20, 2018 election. She stated that the tax increase is needed to help cover the cost of the water tower remediation project. A resident that did not provide her name asked how much money the tax will raise and Attorney Szeto stated that the 1% sales tax increase will only pertain to certain purchases and that a link to the specific list of taxable items would be made available upon request and suggested that the link be made available via the Village website. He stated that the income from the additional tax would only be able to be used for public infrastructure expenditures and would not be put into the general fund for salaries, etc. He stated that the roads and sewer lines are in need of repair and that the State is often late in providing funds.

The same unnamed resident asked what all the debt service and capital improvement fees are for (on the water bill) and President Nelson stated that the money is used to pay loans that were taken out to build the Water Treatment Facility and the Waste Water Treatment Facility. Trustee Nier provided a brief historical overview of the Water Treatment Facility and the IEPA mandates regarding the construction and loan repayment requirements. He stated that the EPA required the new treatment plant and that it cost approximately \$3.5 million to build. He stated that a new well had to be drilled for the project.

Trustee Sellers stated that the Village suffers from outdated infrastructure and that there are weak points in the water delivery system that need to be addressed. He also stated that the tax is not just for residents, it is for anyone making purchases in Hinckley. President Nelson stated that the only other option is to cut services like leaf pick-up.

Additional discussion followed and local business owner, Deborah Hannan, stated that she did not think the 1% sales tax increase would hurt business. Resident Roger Downing asked for a definition of water tower remediation and Trustee Nier explained that the water tower needs to be cleaned and repainted, inside and outside, and that the repairs are past due.

OPEN DISCUSSION

President Nelson thanked the residents and business owners that attended the meeting and shared their thoughts.

ADJOURMENT

Motion: Trustee Constant moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:59 PM. Trustee Riforgiate seconded the motion. Voice Vote: All members voted yes. Motion carried.

Nancy Nelson, Village President

Elizabeth Losiniecki, Village Clerk