

## December 11th, 2007 Proposed Property Tax Levy Increase Public Hearing

### **December 12th, 2006 Public Hearing to Approve A Proposed Property Tax Levy Increase Meeting Minutes**

Meeting called to order at the Village of Hainesville Council Chambers by Mayor Ted Mueller at 6:31 p.m. Clerk Kathy Metzler took roll call. The following Officials were present: Mayor Ted Mueller, Trustees Walkington, Stilz, Barrett, Tiffany, Bonds and Gottsacker

Also present were: Village Clerk Kathy Metzler, Treasurer Kelly Hensley, EMA Coordinator Mark Gottsacker, Building Official Russ Kraly, and Village Attorney Jeff Jurgens

Absent: Public Works Supervisor Jeff Gately

Establishment of quorum

Treasurer Kelly Hensley explained the following proposed Property Tax Levy Increase:

Treasurer Kelly Hensley read the following letter:

The Resolution for the proposed property tax levy was passed on November 13, 2007

Notice for the truth in taxation hearing was published in the Daily Herald on November 29, 2007.

Since the proposed dollar amount is more than a 5% increase, a hearing is required. Even though there is a proposed property tax levy increase of 5.60%, the 5.60% represents the increase over the previous years' taxes that were extended to the village. This does not represent an individual tax bill increase of 5.60%.

With the new commercial construction/opening of new businesses within the village the dollar amount is spread among all residents and businesses. Last years tax levy that was adopted in December was \$598,514.00, percentage increase was 7.0%. The actual amount that the village was extended was \$582,392.95, a difference of \$16,121.15 the percentage increase was only 4.11%.

The tax levy ordinance shows an estimated dollar amount of \$614,748.00. Again, let me stress that this is an estimated dollar amount which then the 5.60% increase is also estimated. When you prepare the tax levy you want to receive all the tax dollars available, if you underestimate the levy you lose the dollar amount forever. Once the board approves this, I then file the ordinance with the county clerk's office, showing what the villages estimated aggregate tax levy for tax year 2007 is. Once the county receives all the needed data they can determine what the exact limiting rate should be, which can and probably will reduce what the village is asking.

The dollar amount that the village is asking for comes out to be a 0.671 tax rate for the 2007 tax bills. Last years tax rate was 0.691. For a homeowner they would use their assessed value and multiply it by this rate (.671) to see an estimate of what their Hainesville tax could be. The village will not know the exact rate until the county and the state processes all of their computations, we receive this notice around April.

Mayor Mueller stated to Treasurer Hensley that this is not to raise your real estate taxes, this levy is not an attempt to raise our already too high real estate taxes, correct. Treasure Hensley stated this is to gather as much money as we can on the Villages side that covers the corporate and the police. Treasurer Hensley stated that your taxes would increase minimally.

Public Discussion:

Mayor Mueller stated that Clerk Metzler would be timing public discussion to three minutes due to the large group. Please limit your questions to the tax levy only.

Trustee Stilz stated last year we asked for 7% why are we only asking for 5.6% this year. Treasurer Hensley stated you have to determine the total assessed value for the Villages. To the prior paperwork given to you in October and following up in November, Kelly gave the Board the computations that she received from the County. Once you determine that then you can figure out from last years amount to this years amount what you can go for and then you put a 3% cushion in there which we did last year also.

Wally Stilz II, 166 W. Tall Oak Drive, Hainesville, IL 60073 – in your opinion how will this relate to last years taxes and going forward to next year in dollar wise. Treasurer Hensley stated she feels that we are asking for \$614,000, we won't get that. Last year we asked for \$598,00 we got \$582,000 a difference of \$16,000. This will be spread over any taxing parcel in the Village of Hainesville. Wally asked what this would be for a single family home. Treasurer Hensley stated she didn't calculate this out. Last year it went up 4.11%. The Mayors tax bill came out \$60 more and a town home was assessed at \$200,000 and hers went up \$30. Kelly feels it should be in the same ballpark. Wally Stilz III stated that for the record he is paying \$7,200. for a 1600 sq. ft. home in this Village. People won't be able to afford to live here.

Wally also asked if there was a line item in for the bike path that has yet to be built? Mayor Mueller stated this isn't a subject to be discussed at this time. Mayor Mueller stated he would report on this in his report.

Trustee Stilz stated there is a line item for \$320,000. Discussion took place.

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Mayor Mueller stated he did receive notice from Sandy Cole that our \$85,000 grant for the bike path is in process, which is a state matching grant.

Doug Williams, 154 Tall Oak Drive, Hainesville, IL 60073 – asked with the amount of foreclosures, who pays those taxes. Treasurer Hensley stated when a house goes into foreclosure; if the taxes are left unpaid they go thru a tax sale. A third party pays up all those taxes and we receive our share. This is for May of 2008.

Mark Ehrenberg, 155 W. Tall Oak Drive, Hainesville, Illinois 60073 – Tuesday, December 4th, there was an article in the Daily Herald that had a paragraph that quoted the mayor. Mark read the following quote: “Mayor Mueller stated that the opponents at the meeting represent the vocal negative minority. Regardless of the public display, the Village will move forward.” Mark wanted a better explanation as to what the minority is really all about. Mayor Mueller stated he wasn’t going to discuss this tonight. Mark stated that he has his three minutes and wants to address the Mayor and the Board of Trustees to explain why concerned residents are here today. Mark read a letter, which was not submitted for the record.

Trustee Walkington motioned to adjourn the December 11th 2007 Public Hearing to Approve a Proposed Property Tax Levy Increase Meeting; seconded by Trustee Bonds.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Trustees Walkington, Stilz, Barrett, Bonds, Tiffany and Gottsacker.

Motion carried.

Mayor Mueller thanked everyone for coming and thanked everyone for their input, and we are listening.

The December 11th, 2007 Public Hearing to Approve a Proposed Property Tax Levy Increase Meeting adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Metzler, RMC, CMC  
Village Clerk