

ITEM REP 2015-6032

**VILLAGE OF DOWNERS GROVE**  
**Report for the Village Council Meeting**  
**1/13/2015**

<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>SUBMITTED BY:</b>
Discussion of Village Council-Initiated Public Policy Questions (Referenda) for Potential Placement on the Ballot for the April 7, 2015, Consolidated Election	David Fieldman Village Manager

**SYNOPSIS**

At the request of Commissioner Hose, a discussion regarding the addition of two referendum questions that would appear on the ballot for the April 7 General Election related to Village facilities has been placed on the New Business agenda.

**STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT**

The goals for 2011-2018 identified *Exceptional Municipal Services, Top Quality Infrastructure* and *Steward of Financial & Environmental Sustainability*.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

N/A

**RECOMMENDATION**

Pursuant to the Council Policy on Council Agendas, the agenda item shall be a discussion item only to allow for the Council as an elected body to direct whether staff and legal counsel should prepare the appropriate form of action for consideration at the January 20 Village Council meeting, which is the deadline for the Village Council to approve referendum questions for the April 7 election.

Staff recommends action at the discretion of the Council.

**BACKGROUND**

Commissioner Hose recently submitted the following New Business item request

*The advisory referendum petitions filed this week by Village residents has drawn significant interest. I have not supported placing this item on the ballot for many reasons, one of which is starkly demonstrated by the petitions: the proposed question fails to encompass the complexity of the facilities issues facing the Village or convey potential solutions. In short, the proposed question is so vague as to provide little to no actual guidance to the Council.*

*Therefore, I request that the Council consider the following two additional questions to be placed on the April ballot:*

1. *Should the Village spend millions of tax dollars to perform routine maintenance on an already obsolete and undersized police station?*
2. *Should the Village construct a new, combined police/fire/fleet service facility on Ogden Ave. to replace the current obsolete police station, increase the size and vitality of Downtown, and reduce the footprint of government?*

*I believe these questions more completely reflect the challenges Downers Grove faces and the potential solutions. Results on these questions will provide helpful context to the answer voters provide to the petition question.*