

**VILLAGE OF DOWNERS GROVE**  
**Report for the Village Council Meeting**  
**6/28/2016**

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| <b>SUBJECT:</b>                        | <b>SUBMITTED BY:</b>              |
| Stormwater Utility Referenda Questions | David Fieldman<br>Village Manager |

**SYNOPSIS**

Resolutions certifying three referenda questions regarding the Stormwater Utility have been prepared. This item is a Top Priority Action Item for the Village Council for the period of 2015-2017.

**STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT**

*Consider Changes to the Stormwater Utility* is a Top Priority Action Item for 2015-2017.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

N/A

**UPDATE & RECOMMENDATION**

This item was discussed at the June 21, 2016 Village Council meeting. Based on Council discussion staff amended the preamble to the three referenda questions to read as follows:

*This question is the first in a series of three questions relating to stormwater funding. In 2017, the Village plans to budget \$3.9 million for stormwater costs. Currently, annual costs are funded with a stormwater utility fee. The Village of Downers Grove is seeking resident input to determine whether it should fund stormwater costs with a stormwater utility fee, through property taxes or with a combination of both the stormwater utility fee and property taxes.*

Staff recommends approval on the June 28, 2016 Active Agenda.

**BACKGROUND**

The Village Council met four times from February through May to discuss potential changes to the stormwater utility. At the May 3, 2016 meeting, the Council discussed revisions to proposed referenda questions. The deadline for certifying referenda questions to the Election Commission is Thursday, September 1, 2016. The last day to pass a resolution is Monday, August 22.

Based on Council discussion, the proposed questions are as follows:

**Question 1:**

*This question is the first in a series of three questions relating to stormwater funding. In 2017, the Village plans to budget \$3.9 million for stormwater costs. Currently, annual costs are funded with a stormwater utility fee. The Village of Downers Grove is seeking resident input to determine whether it should fund stormwater costs with a stormwater utility fee, through property taxes or with a combination of both the stormwater utility fee and property taxes.*

Shall the Village of Downers Grove continue to fund all stormwater costs using a stormwater utility fee instead of property taxes? [YES] or [NO]

**Question 2:**

*This question is the first in a series of three questions relating to stormwater funding. In 2017, the Village plans to budget \$3.9 million for stormwater costs. Currently, annual costs are funded with a stormwater utility fee. The Village of Downers Grove is seeking resident input to determine whether it should fund stormwater costs with a stormwater utility fee, through property taxes or with a combination of both the stormwater utility fee and property taxes.*

Shall the Village of Downers Grove fund all stormwater costs using property taxes instead of a stormwater utility fee? [YES] or [NO]

**Question 3:**

*This question is the first in a series of three questions relating to stormwater funding. In 2017, the Village plans to budget \$3.9 million for stormwater costs. Currently, annual costs are funded with a stormwater utility fee. The Village of Downers Grove is seeking resident input to determine whether it should fund stormwater costs with a stormwater utility fee, through property taxes or with a combination of both the stormwater utility fee and property taxes.*

Shall the Village of Downers Grove fund stormwater costs using a combination of stormwater utility fees and property taxes? [YES] or [NO]

VILLAGE OF DOWNERS GROVE  
COUNCIL ACTION SUMMARY

INITIATED: Village Attorney DATE: June 28, 2016  
(Name)

RECOMMENDATION FROM: \_\_\_\_\_ FILE REF: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Board or Department)

NATURE OF ACTION:

STEPS NEEDED TO IMPLEMENT ACTION:

- Ordinance
- Resolution
- Motion
- Other

Motion to Adopt "A RESOLUTION INITIATING THE SUBMISSION OF A PUBLIC QUESTION CONCERNING FUNDING OF STORMWATER COSTS USING PROPERTY TAXES INSTEAD OF A STORMWATER UTILITY FEE", as presented.



SUMMARY OF ITEM:

Adoption of this resolution shall initiate the submission of a public question concerning funding of stormwater costs using property taxes instead of a stormwater utility fee.

RECORD OF ACTION TAKEN:

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**RESOLUTION NO. 2016-**

**A RESOLUTION INITIATING THE SUBMISSION OF A  
PUBLIC QUESTION CONCERNING  
FUNDING OF STORMWATER COSTS  
USING PROPERTY TAXES INSTEAD OF A STORMWATER UTILITY FEE**

**WHEREAS**, preserving the public safety, health and welfare of its residents is a top priority and of paramount concern to the Village Council of the Village of Downers Grove; and

**WHEREAS**, the Village of Downers Grove has owned and maintained a stormwater management system ("System") for many decades, and the size and complexity of the system has increased dramatically; and

**WHEREAS**, the goal of the System is to reduce the frequency and severity of stormwater-related flooding; and

**WHEREAS**, the Village has a responsibility to its residents to insure it has a maintainable, sustainable and operational System; and

**WHEREAS**, in order to continue to provide a maintainable, sustainable and operational System, the System must be expanded and enhanced by constructing new infrastructure, increasing the capacity of current infrastructure, and increasing maintenance activities; and

**WHEREAS**, the Village currently operates the System as a utility, and has been doing so since 2013, for which all property tax paying parcels pay fees based on the amount of impervious area on the parcel; and

**WHEREAS**, prior to 2013, the Village generated revenues for the System through property taxes; and

**WHEREAS**, a determination needs to be made regarding how to continue to fund the System.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Village Council of the Village of Downers Grove, County of DuPage, State of Illinois, as follows:

**SECTION ONE: Incorporation of Recitals.** The foregoing recitals are by this reference incorporated into and made a part of the resolution as if fully set forth.

**SECTION TWO: Public Question on Stormwater Costs.** A public question shall be submitted to the voters of The Village of Downers Grove, County of DuPage, State of Illinois, at the November 8, 2016 general election (or at the next available election permitted by the general election law) as follows:

|   |                      |                     |
|---|----------------------|---------------------|
| <p>This question is the second in a series of three questions relating to stormwater funding. In 2017, the Village plans to budget \$3.9 million for stormwater costs. Currently, annual costs are funded with a stormwater utility fee. The Village of Downers Grove is seeking resident input to determine whether it should fund stormwater costs with a stormwater utility fee, through property taxes or with a combination of both the stormwater utility fee and property taxes.</p> |                      |                     |
| <p>Shall the Village of Downers Grove fund all stormwater costs using property taxes instead of a stormwater utility fee? [YES] or [NO]</p>   | <p>YES<br/>_____</p> | <p>NO<br/>_____</p> |

**SECTION THREE: Publication: Filing.** The Clerk is hereby directed to file this authorizing resolution or other related matters with the appropriate election officials in accordance with applicable law.

**SECTION FOUR: Effective Date:** This Resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage, approval, and publication in the manner provided by law.

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

Passed:

Published:

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Village Clerk