

VILLAGE OF CHAUNCEY, OHIO

JUNE 17, 2021

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL BY ZOOM CONFERENCE REGARDING TAX LEVY RENEWAL FOR CURRENT EXPENSES

Zoom Meeting called to order by Mayor Amy Renner at 5:32 PM on June 17, 2021. Attendance roll call was called by the Mayor of Council Members present on the Zoom conference.

Connaught Cullen-present; Tammy Hawk-present; Diana Schoonover-present; John Canter-present; Diana Burritt-present; Evelyn Nagy-present.

Also in Attendance: Mayor Amy Renner and Solicitor Robert Shostak.

At the Solicitor's request, the Mayor appointed the Solicitor as Secretary and Moderator for the meeting.

Solicitor explained that Resolution 2021-18 passed on June 14, 2021 requested a certification of estimated tax revenue from the Auditor. However, the Auditor only provided a work sheet to show the difference between a renewal and a replacement levy to aid in Council's deliberations on the levy.

The Solicitor indicated that under consideration is Resolution 2021-19, a resolution of necessity and request for certificate of estimated revenue to place the levy on the November ballot because the levy which provides the Village funds for Current Expenses is due to expire at the end of Calendar Year 2021. If the levy expires, the Village will suffer a shortfall of revenue necessary to provide services to the residents and visitors to the Village. The Solicitor had previously emailed the proposed Resolution 2021-18 to all Village officials together with the worksheet from the County Auditor showing how much estimated revenue the levy now in effect produces. He stated that on the county auditor's worksheet there is also a column showing the revenue projected if the levy is deemed a replacement rather than a renewal because different accounting of value by the County Budget Commission and Auditor applies even though the millage amount of the levy remains unchanged. Under a replacement levy of 5 mills the amount paid to the Village increases by about three thousand dollars per year. The Solicitor told Council that they must define the levy for the ballot as either a renewal or a replacement.

Tammy Hawk noted that voters may be misled to read on the ballot that the levy being voted on is a replacement rather than a renewal implying that it is an additional or increase of the tax already in place. Several other Council members agreed that the wording may be interpreted by voters as imposing a higher levy than the one that they approved 5 years ago if it appears on the ballot as a "replacement" rather than a "renewal". The Mayor agreed. It was the consensus of the members present that Resolution 2021-18 should clearly indicate that the levy appear on the ballot as a renewal not as a replacement. The Solicitor is to take the necessary steps to place the levy on the November ballot by obtaining a Certificate of Estimated Tax Revenue from the Auditor and submitting it to the Board of Elections in the appropriate Resolution thereafter.

Diana Burritt moved that Resolution 2021-19 be under consideration for adoption by council as a Resolution of Necessity and Request to Certify the Estimated Tax Revenue to place a renewal levy for Current Expenses of 5.00 mills on the November ballot. Further discussion centered on the fact that the importance of the funds generated by the levy was critical to the financial health of the Village and that voters could be misled if the ballot shows the levy to be anything but a renewal. There being no further discussion on the language, Diana Burritt moved that Resolution 2021-19 be adopted. Tammy Hawk seconded the motion. The Solicitor asked if there is any other discussion. Tammy Hawk asked whether the Village could try again if this levy fails to pass. The Solicitor said yes, the Council can seek to place a levy on the ballot at any election. The Mayor indicated that she wished to place the levy on the primary ballot this year, but no primary was held and the cost to the Village to hold an election solely for this levy was prohibitively expensive. There being no further discussion, the question was called upon roll call vote;

Connaught Cullen-yes

Tammy Hawk-yes

John Canter-yes

Diana Schoonover-yes

Diana Burritt-yes

Evelyn Nagy-yes

The Motion to Adopt carried and Resolution No. 2021-19 Declaring a Necessity and requesting a Certification of Estimated Tax Revenue to place a renewal levy for Current Expenses on the November Ballot was adopted.

The Solicitor turned the meeting back to Mayor who called for a motion to adjourn, which was promptly moved and seconded and all members Voted in favor at 5:47 PM.

Prepared by:



Robert J Shostak, Solicitor

Date prepared 18 June 2021

Approved as amended by Council.



Kevin Simons, Fiscal Officer

Date 7/19/21