

8-8-2013 – PUBLIC HEARING ON LL#3 – 2013 – SCHOOL TAX REBATES

Present:

Councilman Cheryl L. Earl
Councilman Daniel L. Miller
Councilman David L. Montgomery
Councilman Douglas J. Morrell
Supervisor Mary L. Hannon

Also Present:

Attorney for the Town Linda Joseph
Town Clerk Betsy A. Marsh
Approx. 30 guests

The Sardinia Town Board held a Public Hearing on August 8, 2013, at the Town Hall/Community Center to hear comments on proposed Local Law #3 of 2013, a Local Law to amend the Town Code to add a new Article IV to Chapter 99 on Taxation, consisting of Sections 99-13 through 99-18: "TRUST". The public hearing was called to order by Supervisor Hannon at 6:30 PM, with the Pledge to the Flag. The Town Clerk showed proof of the legal notice of the hearing as it had appeared in both the Arcade Herald and the Springville Journal.

The Supervisor stated that this hearing is to take comments on the proposed "TRUST" law. She stated that a survey had been sent out and 154 responses were received back, or approximately 13% of the surveys mailed. She stated that the majority responded that yes, the economy and school taxes have effected them. Supervisor Hannon then opened the floor to public comment, and noted there would be a 5 minute limit on each comment.

John Schiener of West Schutt Rd. stated that the Board ought not pass this law tonight and should delay passage. He stated he feels that giving the surplus away shows a lack of vision, and it is not equitable with three different school district tax rates. He stated there is an opportunity to do something special with the money, repair Town buildings, add to the parks. He asked who will administer the program and who came up with the proposed law. He stated he felt the survey wasn't comprehensive, and felt the Board should go back to the people, and if the people say yes, they want the money, suggested that the Board find a more equitable way to do it.

Carla Fuller of Matteson Corners Rd. stated she feels that the Board should take a little more time with this proposal. She then read a statement from Senator Gallivan's office stating that there is no law that would allow the State to take the Town's surplus money. She suggested that instead of a one-shot give-away, the Town should create 1 or 2 other reserve accounts, perhaps a reserve fund in the amount of \$500,000.00 to off-set Town taxes when the landfill closes. She named several other projects which the surplus could be used for, and stated that a one-shot deal will not help, and no Town taxes for another 10 years is a lot more money to the people. She stated that this Town will not be able to accumulate this kind of money again, and stated the Town Board needs a plan that is clear, slow, legal, and well thought out.

Michael Hannon of Pratham Rd. stated he is all over other towns, as well as the Town of Sardinia, and stated that he has seen the condition of buildings and cars, etc. in the Town of Sardinia. He stated that the Sardinia people are up against it, and if this tax relief law helps 1 or 2 people, he is all for it. He stated people should look at how many foreclosures there are in Sardinia, and stated this will help them pay their school taxes. He stated that the Town should appreciate what this Board has done.

Tony Korcz of Gales Court, Fire Chief, stated he has been listening to all this and in the long run, there will be taxes again next year and there will always be taxes. He suggested that a project that would benefit all residents would be the house numbering project which had been started a few years back, but dropped. He stated that today there was an EMS call and they could not find the house due to no numbers being displayed. He stated that he would also like to see the Senior Citizens benefit, and this would not cost a lot.

Gene Parzych of Matteson Corners Rd. stated that when the windmills came to Town, Carla Fuller was on the Town Board, and sided with the anti-windmill people to get votes. He stated that this Town lost out on a lot of money then, and it is a money issue.

Jim Witter of West Schutt Rd. stated everyone would welcome a windfall and who wouldn't want their school taxes paid, but feels it should be more equitable, and the excess funds should be given evenly.

The Supervisor then asked Accountant for the Town Thomas Malecki if the rebated amount would have to be claimed on one's income tax. Mr. Malecki stated that the amount of the school taxes could not be claimed if a taxpayer itemizes on their income taxes, and the income would have to be claimed, which means the taxpayer would lose about \$.30 on a dollar in taxes.

Kara Kane of Pratham Rd, stated she is not a homeowner, but would like to see any decision made extend benefits to taxpayers for 10 or 20 years.

Supervisor Hannon called 3 times for any comments on the proposed Local Law. There being none forthcoming, on a motion by Earl, seconded by Montgomery, the hearing was closed at 6:18 PM. Carried, 5 ayes, 0 noes.

Respectfully Submitted,

Town Clerk

