

**Minutes from the
Committee of the Whole Meeting
Of
December 7, 2017**

Attendees:

Mayor John Hucker
Trustee Regina Miller
Trustee Larry Wells
Trustee Richard Gust
Trustee Don Jensen
Trustee Mark Ottersen

Village Clerk Mary Jo McDonald
Jon Kindseth - Administrator
Tracy Miracle – Assistant to the Administrator
Peggy McHugh – Finance Director
Jerry Nellesen – Community Dev Director

Trustee Linda Sittig was absent

Roll call was taken and the meeting brought to order at 6:05 p.m.

Village Administrator Jon Kindseth discussed the fact that the village has been looking at putting a referendum for Home Rule on the ballot during an off-season election when no Village Officials are running for re-election. It was also discussed at the Priorities Session earlier this year.

Home Rule Discussion Presentation

A Presentation was given by Doug Petroschius of DP Consulting on the following:

- Dillion's Rule (Non-Home Rule) vs. Home Rule
- Requirements for Home Rule – populations greater than 25,000 or passage of referendum
- Opposition to Home Rule – can be removed by voters
- Popularity of Home Rule – 215 Municipalities in Illinois are Home Rule
- Major Benefits to the Village
 - Increased local authority on video gaming and rental/business licensing
 - Diversify revenue streams
 - Capitalize on non-resident revenue
 - Can increase property tax above non-home rule tax cap
 - Improved bond ratings
 - Opting out of State legislation inconsistent with Village needs
 - Enhanced enforcement & penalties ability of property maintenance issues
- Home Rule Referendum Process
- Public Awareness Campaign
- Summary of Differences – Home Rule vs. Non-Home Rule

Discussion Occurred

Trustees asked numerous questions to Doug Petroschius regarding Home Rule and some of the following issues:

- Video Gaming
- Business Licensing
- Property Taxes
- Rental Property
- Bonds
- Voting on the Referendum

Community Development Director Jerry Nellessen previously worked in a Village that had Home Rule and he discussed how it would give the Village more flexibility with housing problems.

Mayor Hucker discussed with the Trustees his opinion of Home Rule.

Trustee Miller stated that she will support a Home Rule Referendum.

Trustee Jensen was against the Referendum.

Trustee Ottersen asked that the Village Staff make a list of Pros and Cons regarding Home Rule to give the Board more information.

Trustees Wells and Gust commented that they would like more information before they could make a decision.

It was agreed by all Trustees and Mayor Hucker that if a Referendum would be pursued it should be placed on the November 2018 ballot.

Public Comment - None

No Action will be taken at this time. The Village Staff was given direction to work on the Pros and Cons list to present to the Board and to generate information for the public via the Village Newsletter.

Motion was made by Trustee Gust to adjourn and seconded by Trustee Jensen.
The meeting was adjourned at 7:56 p.m.