

League of Women Voters
Kane County Government
Monitoring Committee Report

MEETING: Public Service

DATE: 4/16/07

REPORTING: Kimberley Haag

ATTENDING: Kenyon, Allan, Collins, de la Isla, Lewis, Kudlicki, Van Cleave

ABSENT: Collins

WAS PRESS IN ATTENDING: YES

DID PRESS COVER SIGNIFICANT ISSUES: The Daily Herald covered the part about the taxes, but that was all.

SUMMARY OF MEETING: Minutes from the last meeting were passed without any comment. A representative from Recorder Wegman's office gave a very short report saying that everything was all to expectations. There was no comment.

Treasurer David Rickert gave the treasurer report. Tax bills are due to go out on May 1. The billing will bring in \$949,966,006. Last years taxes brought in \$873,041,219. There is no percent increase over last year as the new developments have brought in enough tax dollars to make up for any needed increase. The average tax bill is \$5163, which is about \$1.00 lower than 2006. Taxpayers can pay their bills by credit card over the Internet. Not receiving your tax bill does not negate your tax liability. The top ten taxpayers are Simon/Chelsea Chicago Development, Geneva Commons, Spring Hill Mall, Algonquin Commons, Liberty Property, Toyota Motor Sales, Arthur Andersen, Aldi Inc., Kimco Reality and Kraft Foods. 62% of taxes go to schools, 5% to community colleges, 11% to the cities, 5% to the county, 4% to park districts, 3% to fire districts, 3% to libraries, 2% to the forest preserve, and 5% to other. Mr. Kenyon commented that there is a perception that businesses do not pay their fair share, but from Mr. Rickert's report, it is obvious they pay quite a bit.

A representative from the County Clerk's office discussed briefly the intergovernmental agreement with the village of Hampshire. This would establish a special service area, which would include a separate line on the tax bill of persons buying in a new development to pay for infrastructure such as sewers and roads. This bill can be a part of their tax bill from 20-30 years. The attorney for Hampshire assured the committee that buyers are made aware of the special service tax before they buy. The clerk's office expects turnout for the April 17 election to be light, usually 25-28% of the 206,000 registered voters. In 45% of the polling areas, they are not able to set up the voting machines until the afternoon before. They are working to be able to set up earlier for the '08 election to avoid the problems encountered in the last election: long lines, polling places not open, not enough machines for some areas.

A representative from the Regional Office of Education reported on and handed out a map showing the current school boundaries in Kane County. There are several school district that are in Kane County as well as in another county, at least one in two other counties. Kaneland takes up the greatest number of square miles (141) and currently has the lowest population. Chairman Kenyon commented how crucial it is for everyone to know and vote for local school board members as schools take the greatest amount of one's taxes.

MOST CRITICAL ISSUES(S): In this meeting, the taxes and school district boundaries engendered the most comment, although none of it was negative.

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S): Continue to monitor taxes and the impact referenda will or will not make on the tax disbursement as well as user satisfaction with the schools. It is also important to monitor how voting proceeds in this election as well as the preparation for the primary in '08.

NEXT MEETING: Monday, May 21, 2007, 9:00 AM