



TIMBERLAKE TIMES

73rd Year || 311th Issue || October 2020

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The *Timberlake Times* is a monthly publication staffed by volunteer villagers and sponsored by the Village of Timberlake. Please contact the editor with article submissions (*electronic submissions are preferable*).

Volunteer Staff:

Editor – Jackie Orabone || **P:** (440) 815-1951 || **E:** jackelyn.orabone@gmail.com

Printer — Gary Warner

Distribution – Debbie King and Allen Peterson

On the web:

www.villageoftimberlake.com

Social:

www.facebook.com/TimberlakeVillageClub

Follow the Village Club on Facebook to stay informed of current Village Club events, photos, and videos! We actively update it with announcements and reminders!

Announcements

Village Club Events

Fall Fest: Sat, Oct 10 @ 2pm

- New this year, we are hosting an all-outdoor fall festival at the Village Hall!
- Pumpkin painting, games, and a scavenger hunt will all be part of the fun
- Deadline is Weds., Oct 7 to reserve your pumpkin
- You can still attend even if you don't want to paint a pumpkin! We'll have games and other things to do.
- Please see page 3 for details! Rain date will be Sun, Oct 11 @ 2pm.

Trick-or-Treat

Happy Halloween! Trick-or-Treat will be on Sat, Oct 31 from 6pm-8pm. Please leave a front light on if you are passing out candy. Trick-or-treaters should remember a flashlight so they can easily be seen! Additional details on COVID-safe practices can be found on page 4 of this issue.

The Origin of the Timberlake Times

The Timberlake Times is a monthly newsletter featuring Council meeting minutes and social events occurring in the Village. The editor position is a volunteer position staffed by a resident as are the printer and deliver positions. The Village was incorporated in October 1947 and the Women's Club published the first issue in 1948. The issues continued to be published by the Women's Club, Men's Club, and currently the Village. Previous publications are now kept in the Eastlake Historical Society at Eastlake City Hall and can be viewed there. Copies of past publications are thanks to Ralph Heil, Alan Curtis, and Margo Zahler. The entire collection is filed in yearly order from January to December; 1948 - August 2020.

**Deadline to
order
pumpkins is
Weds., Oct 7!**

Sponsored by the
Timberlake Village Club

Fall Fest

Saturday, October 10, 2020
2pm

Outdoors at the Village Hall

Rain date is October 11 @ 2pm

Pumpkin Painting, Scavenger Hunt,
Games, and Fall Fun!!

PUMPKIN PAINTING DETAILS:

\$5/pumpkin. Advance notice is required if you'd like to participate so we can get an accurate count.

Please text (440-815-1951) or email Jackie (jackelyn.orabone@gmail.com). All ages are welcome! Prizes for the best pumpkins!

Social distancing and COVID-19 safety protocols will be in place so you can attend while knowing that we are keeping your family safe!

Please do not bring food to share - we appreciate your understanding.

This event will take place entirely outdoors and will be rescheduled in the event of inclement weather (rain date is October 11 @ 2pm).

Recommended COVID-19 Best Practices for Trick or Treating

If you are planning to distribute Halloween treats this year, please consider the following recommendations:

- Refrain from distributing treats if you have an underlying health condition, a compromised immune system, or are displaying any signs of the coronavirus infection (fever, cough, congestion, difficulty breathing, fatigue, achiness, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, headache, loss of taste or smell)
- Wear a facial mask at all times (scary is optional!)
- If you are not handing out candy but plan on leaving it out for trick or treaters, consider placing individual “treat bags” out instead of a single bowl filled with treats
- If you are handing out treats, wear disposable gloves and watch for children approaching your home so they do not have to touch the doorbell
- Avoid distributing home-made treats

If you or your children are trick-or-treating, please consider the following recommendations:

- Stay home if you have an underlying health condition, a compromised immune system, or are displaying any signs of the coronavirus infection (fever, cough, congestion, difficulty breathing, fatigue, achiness, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, headache, loss of taste or smell)
- Avoid close proximity to other children who are not in your immediate household or a common association
- Refuse treats from those distributing treats directly without gloves or a mask
- Avoid “bunching up” of children by waiting your turn to approach homes and maintaining social distance between other groups of children
- Utilize hand sanitizer at regular intervals while trick or treating
- Consider sanitizing unopened, sealed treats with a sanitary wipe or safe aerosol sanitizer at the conclusion of the event
- Dispose of any opened treats immediately



THE VILLAGE OF TIMBERLAKE: SEPTEMBER 2020 MINUTES

John Marra, Mayor

JoAnne Clapp, Fiscal Officer

MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

Sherri Falkenberg

Vince Cronin

Nancy Marra

Ritu Sharma

Shannon Sharma

Kimberly Saba

TIMBERLAKE COUNCIL MEETING

September 15th, 2020

The Mayor opened the meeting with the pledge of allegiance followed by the prayer at 7:30 PM. He asked for roll call of the officers. All council members were present along with the Fiscal Officer, JoAnne Clapp. The Solicitor, Jeremy Iosue, was also present.

The Mayor asked all residents to support the upcoming tax levy. There are more seniors, which is great, but it has led to a loss of revenue. He thanked all of the village residents that have worked hard to beautify their properties. He hopes that will help buyers move into the Village. He also noted the water fountain in the park has been shut off due to COVID; that should help with the revenue, as well.

The Mayor asked for a motion to approve the Minutes for August 18th, 2020.

Motion to approve: Marra

Seconded: R. Sharma

Motion carried; Minutes approved.

PUBLIC PORTION

Please refer to the comments below:

- Ron Mona: I volunteered with a few friends. We planted flowers and spruced up flower beds to help beautify the Village. I asked the Mayor to take the cost of the flowers; but was denied. So, I paid for the flowers. A tree was removed, but the roots were not taken away. I put some seeds and mulch, but nothing grew as there was a stump there. I paid \$80 for the stump removal. I turned in the bid per the Mayor's recommendation; 4 months later, I still have not heard anything about this. I paid for the flowers, I paid for the mulch for the bedding. How can we improve the Village if we don't take care of the volunteers? How much did it cost to put up the fence?
 - Mrs. Marra said the labor was free. She said the bill was \$250. Ron asked how can we afford that, but not be able to reimburse the volunteers even 4 months later. He would also like to know how much revenue the Village received with the beach keys. Ron said he appreciates being thanked for his work. He was happy to pay for the flowers but doesn't believe it's fair that he had to pay for the stump removal in a

Village island. Ron asked how many keys did we order? The Mayor said the Village made \$790; had 79 orders thus far.

- George Transky: A resident recently passed; a COVID casualty. He said when his wife was hired for the bookwork for Timberlake, she was told she will not be held liable financially for any issues. Ms. Clapp said this was due to the state auditor, not herself. Mr. Transky said Mr. Stanton would not find his wife liable or accountable for the errors. The books were found unauditible which is what she inherited when she helped the Village. She spent 20 hours and was only reimbursed for 6 hours. She put her heart into it. What is the course of action here? Again, she was verbally conveyed in her employment contract that she will not be held financially liable. Ms. Clapp said when you are sworn into this position, you are held liable. She also told Mrs. Transky that she will be allowed one month for not going after her; but everything has to be documented. She spent time trying to help her straighten out the books, but it did not work. Ms. Clapp said it was her fault. Mrs. Transky sat through the training; she was told she needs to follow the Village official handbook. Mr. Transky said this advice was given after she was in employment. He is asking the attorney their intentions as it was stated to his wife that she will not be held liable. Mr. Stanton said there was insurance to cover an issue like this. Mr. Iosue asked Mr. Transky to have his wife contact him. He said he will be happy to talk to her about it. Mr. Transky said she walked in there with no credentials besides 3 classes in accounting and is now being held accountable \$7000. Ms. Clapp said she should not have taken the job. He asked who will take the job? Ms. Clapp said she would have. Mr. Cronin said that the way this audit went down was wrong; if the individuals did not do anything maliciously, we should not go after these individuals. He agrees with Esser and Claridge, but not the others. He doesn't agree with their call. Dr. Sharma concurred with her colleague; she said if it wasn't done maliciously, these individuals should not be held liable. Ms. Sharma agrees with this, as well, as these individuals stood up when the Village needed them and volunteered.
- Debbie King: I would like something done with the bushes at the corner of Waban and Lake Shore Blvd. Those bushes are way too tall. The stop sign is way back. The Mayor said it is in the right of way. They were

trimmed but need to be trimmed more. The service department will work on this. She asked if we can take them out. He will look into this.

- Dr. Sunny Sharma: I just wanted to clarify some of the comments being made during the meeting about COVID-19. As the secretary, it is my job to transcribe the Minutes exactly as what is being said in the meeting. However, as a physician, I want to remind all of the residents that COVID is still a threat to our community. We have done our due diligence and have had low cases reported; however, we do not know the amount of people actually being tested in Lake County or even in Timberlake. There have been studies showing there is a 25% false negative rate for the tests. That means 1 in 4 people that tested negative for the virus were actually positive. It is also been proven scientifically time and time again that asymptomatic carriers can transmit the virus to others. I recently had a 33-year-old patient who had to be intubated due to COVID and will likely not come off the ventilator. I would hate to see that happen to any of my neighbors. Please do your due diligence in following the safety precautions that have been placed in order to protect your health. If we are able to get the COVID testing approved for the Village, I would be happy to personally swab residents and volunteer with this initiative. Mrs. Marra asked if testing is available in Lake County. It is in several locations including Lake Health and the Beachwood express care. It is also available in many drive-thru stations in and around Cleveland.
- Police officers saw my grandchildren riding bikes with helmets and were rewarded for their due diligence. I hope that the Village can provide informational sessions about keeping Villagers safe while walking or riding their bike around the Village. He says he has a lifelong love affair for the police department who stand between us and disaster. He says that the police are overworked and underpaid. We need to be alert and report to the police department. The Mayor said that his words will be in the Timberlake Times. If someone is walking or riding their bike, they must walk against traffic.

The Mayor presented Resolution No. 2020-13: A resolution authorizing the Mayor and Fiscal Officer to expend funds received from the CARES Act Fund and declaring an emergency. This is the CARES Act money. It must be earmarked by the end of this month; otherwise, we must refund the money. There are very strong restrictions on this money. It is being watched very closely. They will review equipment and transportation. The police department can get one laptop justified. The justifications must be very detailed. The touchless faucets and supply lines were approved, but the sink base was not. It is the Village's responsibility to pay any funds that are not approved. It is the Village's responsibility to review what the spending is done on; if the Village donates any funds to another entity, it is still the council that are responsible for the expenditure even by another entity. Mr. Cronin said he believes no money should be given to

another entity; he recommends the council spend the money with anything that they can. Per Ms. Clapp, the money cannot be stockpiled. Mr. Cronin notes this is free money. Ms. Clapp says we have cleaning and sanitizing of village hall, PPE, touchless equipment, automatic hand sanitizers and paper towel along with soap dispensers, electric static sprayer. However, the credit cards only have \$500 on them. She will try to increase the limit. The video recording in the Village can be covered. Self-cleaning sleeves are covered, as well. Per Dr. Sharma, there are nano septic self-cleaning sleeves. The surface coating is approved by EPA. There are also self-health diagnosis stations that are touchless. Ms. Sharma recommended sanitizing stations around the Village. Dr. Sharma recommended touchless doors, as well. The Mayor said that apparel could be covered too but must be directly related. Ms. Clapp said there is \$68,439 in the budget through the CARES Act. It must be encumbered by the end of September. A resident recommended touchless water fountains at the playground. The servicemen will sanitize the Village and complete the installation, and they will be paid with the CARES money. The electric sanitizer can be put outside too. A resident asked about touchless car wash. The council will work on obtaining quotes and giving Ms. Clapp prices. **Residents are welcome to suggest ideas to anyone on council.** There is no extra charge for Hall clean up as of right now. Only a one-time sterilization cleaning will be covered per the CARES fund.

Motion to suspend the rules: Cronin

Seconded: S. Sharma

Motion to approve: Falkenberg

Seconded: Saba

All were in favor of the Resolution; Motion approved.

The Mayor presented Resolution No. 2020-14: A resolution authorizing the Fiscal Officer to amend the Certificate of Estimated Resources for the Year 2020 and declaring an emergency. The Village received \$22,000 more from the CARES Act.

Motion to suspend the rules: Saba

Seconded: Marra

Motion to approve: Saba

Seconded: Falkenberg

All were in favor of the Resolution; Motion approved.

The Mayor presented Resolution No. 2020-15: A resolution amending the permanent appropriations fund for the Village of Timberlake, Ohio for the year 2020 and declaring an emergency. This is a resolution allowing the Village to spend the additional \$22000.

Motion to suspend the rules: Cronin

Seconded: Saba

Motion to approve: R. Sharma

Seconded: Saba

All were in favor of the Resolution; Motion approved.

The Mayor presented Resolution No. 2020-16: A resolution authorizing the Mayor and Fiscal Officer to enter into an agreement with the Regional Income Tax Agency (RITA) to provide the Tax Authority Portal (TAP) Assistance in the

administration of income tax ordinances and other services and declaring an emergency. This authorizes the online access for Ms. Clapp.

Motion to suspend the rules: Saba

Seconded: S. Sharma

Motion to approve: Falkenberg

Seconded: R. Sharma

All were in favor of the Resolution; Motion approved.

The Mayor presented Resolution No. 2020-17: A resolution accepting the amounts and rates as determined by the Budget Commission and authorizing the necessary tax levies and certifying them to the County Auditor. This is from the County Auditor. This was sent on August 18th and must be sent back by October 1st.

Motion to suspend the rules: Saba

Seconded: Cronin

Motion to approve: Cronin

Seconded: S. Sharma

All were in favor of the Resolution; Motion approved.

The Mayor presented Resolution No. 2020-18: A resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with Lake County, by and through the Lake County Board of Commissioners for sanitary sewer billing and collections for the Village of Timberlake and declaring an emergency. This is from Lake County. Matt from records found that there was no contract in place, so this needed to be passed. This won't affect any sewer bills or any changes per Mr. Iosue. This is the standard agreement.

Motion to suspend the rules: Falkenberg

Seconded: Saba

Motion to approve: Marra

Seconded: S. Sharma

All were in favor of the Resolution; Motion approved.

The Mayor presented Resolution No. 2020-19 and placed on first reading: A resolution authorizing and directing the Mayor and Fiscal Officer to enter into an agreement with Vitalones for tow service and declaring an emergency. Mr. Cronin said that there is a contract going through December 31st, 2020. The agreement is they tow any police tows. It doesn't cost us anything. If any of our vehicles need to be towed or have a dead battery, they will provide a free service to tow any village-owned vehicles. The Village received a \$25 kick back for every vehicle that is towed. Vitalones will give us that money back. No other company that was reviewed does that. Council needs to look at the fee; the Mayor recommended increasing the fee to \$35. Nick at Vitalones is okay with that as long as he can increase the cost of the tow an additional \$10.

Mayor

The Mayor asked Ms. Clapp to discuss the income tax levy. Ms. Clapp said this does not affect the seniors. Anyone retired or receiving a pension does not need to pay income tax. Going forward, Ms. Clapp forecasted the budget for this year and next. At the rate of spending, we will only carry over \$38,000 to next year. Loans are due in the beginning of January equaling about \$70,000 that must be transferred out of the general fund. We will

be in deficit spending. The Village has cut as much as it can. There are two levies coming up next year; one could expire if this income tax levy passes. This will help take the burden off of the seniors. The Mayor will talk to the City of Eastlake to see if there can be some negotiations in place along with CT Consultants to see if they can reduce their fees. The City of Eastlake charges the Village \$98000 for their contractual services. They charge Village residents the equal amount they charge their own residents per Mr. Cronin. This levy will go into our general budget so the Village can be operated. Ms. Clapp noted there is also no disaster plan or budget.

Solicitor

The Solicitor has nothing to report.

Fiscal Officer

Ms. Clapp said that residents have received letters in the mail about switching to RITA. The employer should be notified in regard to this. Next year, all taxes will be filed through RITA. They will receive files from CCA. If you are exempt, Ms. Clapp suggests filling out forms and send it to RITA, so they know you are exempt. The state auditor's report is on the Village and the state's website. There are several findings for recovery; there were 14 findings. All of them incurred after May 2018. They are as follows:

Angela Johns \$710

Elizabeth Laub \$450

Michael Stanton \$668

Nina Transkey \$7014

Geoffrey Esser \$2,965

David Clarich \$1,277

Joanne Clapp \$135 – I paid it back in January 2020; I could have fought these findings, but I chose not to do that. This was due to me being new, but I figured it was best to pay those. Everyone in these findings has the opportunity to pay the Village within 130 days from September 9th, otherwise they go to the Attorney General for repayment. The audit is on the website under finance. Going forward, the council should approve new employees at the meeting so the paperwork can get done.

For the monthly report, the beginning balance was \$268,74 6.91. The month to date revenue was \$129646.73. That is increased from the COVID money and tax money. The YTD revenue was \$562144.12. The month to date expenditure for August was \$28394.88. The YTD expenditure is \$441325.31. We are starting August with \$369998.76. There are several restrictive funds; so only the general fund can be used for that.

The Mayor swore in Dustin A. Kubiak as a police officer and congratulated him on his new role. Chief Tryon reported 4 criminal complaints last month, 3 civil complaints, 1 suspicious person in a vehicle, 1 disturbance, 3 warrants, 4 hang-ups, 4 noise complaints, 3 animal complaints, 1 hit and run accident, another accident from Eastlake, 15 traffic stop citations, 4 written warnings, 3 verbal warnings, 2 parking citations, 70 beach, park, and house conducted checks.

Finance/Ordinances/Record Retention

Ms. Saba says she has nothing to report. Her and Ms. Clapp discussed having a work session about the budget for next month.

It was decided to not conduct one as everything is running smoothly.

Safety

Mr. Cronin said last month we did not install the stop signs. He has been in constant contact with the senior engineers at CT Consultants. The stop signs will be erected for the safety of the residents, not for speed control or increased revenue. CT Consultants were in 100% agreeance with the Village and believe it will help not keep the Village liable in case of an accident. They will be erected within this month. Mr. Cronin recommends not taking any comments by the public about this.

Village Hall

There is nothing to report.

Recreation/Trees/Environment

There was a dead tree by the basketball court and one by the parking that was in dispute. It would be longer and more costly to save the tree without any guarantee. There were three total trees taken down; one completely dead, one 75% dead, and one 50% dead. Mrs. Marra is planning stumps and put out in the Timberlake Times about restarting the tree commission. Mr. Cronin was part of the tree committee. Three people came to the meeting; in order to go forward, we need 6 volunteers. John, the soon to be eagle scout, is raising money to buy trees to plant around the Village. If anyone would like to be on the tree commission, please contact anyone in council. Mrs. Marra has also gotten calls about going to other neighbor's properties and cut parts of their trees. The ordinance notes that the neighbors are allowed to cut a branch of a tree but must ask the neighbor to go on their property. The permission of the neighbor must be received. She hopes there are no big storms coming through. She received calls about COVID; there was one incident reported in Timberlake, so the Village has been very blessed. COVID is a money business, but Timberlake has done a great job. People have not been congregating on the streets. Thank you for being safe. Lake County went up one level. There have been reports that kids are super spreaders as they went back to school. But there has been no story of kids giving it to grandparents. Asymptomatic people may not be able to transmit the virus. There are signs about being 6 feet apart. A villager wanted one page designated to COVID on Timberlake Times. However, the news changes daily. The one case has recovered. Ohio has 11 million people. The cases in Lake County have totaled 1459; 1206 of them have recovered. There are 45 total deaths.

Grants

Dr. Sharma had a meeting with Mr. Formica and the Mayor. They discussed grant money. Mr. Formica came to the meeting. He discussed potential grants. Today was the due date for next year's round of Ohio Public Works funding. After speaking with the Mayor, a small storm basing repair program was submitted. He believes the Village has a good chance of getting the grant. The total cost was \$18400 for the project. The Village asked for half of that in grant money. Hopefully, this will be a free \$9200 for the Village. That amount will help adjust 10 catch basins with new castings; 3 of them will be reconstructed. The other half will be paid by the Village. The next step in the process is to have the County and integrating committee to review the application. It

involves Geauga and Lake County. Then the Village will know if we are on the list based on the point system; if we are close to the line, we will put in a final application. Legislation will be needed for that authorizing the Mayor to submit funding. The Mayor said that Mr. Formica has received 2 quotes back about the road repair. One is from Titan Asphalt paving. Their quote includes patching up the area and replacing the concrete; it was way over the budget. The budget is \$4400, they came in at \$6000. Infinity Paving came in at \$17000 including repairing 2 catch basins. As this is way above our budget, Titan was contacted for another bid. That was for patching up the area, which would be approximately \$2400. This expenditure is coming out of the county grant money that was received in the beginning of the year. The Lake Shore extension will be done out of this budget.

Sewers

Ms. Sharma said we are looking at repairing the area by the park. Two quotes were received from Ciro's and Campbell plumbing. It is for vacuum cleaning and jetting near the park. The quote was for \$385/hr by Ciro's and \$175 per yard. It is around \$1300. Campbell's quote was higher at \$1500. She is still waiting on quotes from Wyatt Works and United. This is a repair that is definitely due, but she is waiting on better quotes before going through with a company. The Mayor said the service department checked the catch basins and cleaned many. There are no more broken gates; one catch basin still needs to be taken care of around the Village. There is a blockage on Waban and Keewaydin that will be taken care of with the cleaning. The Village wants to get estimates from as many companies as we can. Ciro's was added on just for quoting purposes.

The Mayor asked for a motion to approve the August 2020 Financial Report.

Motion to approve: Falkenberg

Seconded: R. Sharma

All were in favor.

Motion carried; Report approved.

The Mayor asked for a motion to approve the following hiring assignments: Sarah Bittner, Christopher Pattie, Dustin Kubiak and Adam Nunns.

Motion to approve: R. Sharma

Seconded: Cronin

All were in favor.

Last month, Mrs. Saba reported that all the ordinances were reviewed. Right now, the Village has done what they can do. Now it will be turned over to the police department. The department will take it upon themselves to issue warnings and issue citations. The biggest complaint has been garbage cans. The penalty on it is \$500. He doesn't want to enforce that, but they are unsightly and have been one of the biggest complaints.

The Mayor asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:19 PM.

Motion to adjourn: Marra

Seconded: S. Sharma

All were in favor.

The next Council meeting will be on 10/20/20 at 7:30 PM.



Oct. 6th – Nov. 3 2020

ISSUE 1

TIMBERLAKE 1% INCOME TAX

Why?

Timberlake's Issue 1 is a necessity to maintain and protect our lakefront community. The revenue from this increase will allow the Village to maintain the day-to-day operations including *Emergency Medical Services, police and fire protection, snow and leaf removal, infrastructure improvements and maintenance of parks and land.* ***Social security, retirement and dividend income is not subject to the tax,*** which will primarily be paid for by people who live or work in the Village. **This increase in funds is critical because** Timberlake is strictly residential, by design, and there is no revenue from taxing businesses.

The increase to 2% brings us in line with 75% of Lake County municipalities and would help offset the rising costs of providing Village services, along with a 30% loss due to COVID -19.

Village residents who work in another community with a 2% income tax or higher will not see an increase in their tax rate.

Without Issue 1, we would have to rely on neighboring communities for assistance and risk significant cuts and possible loss to services that we all rely on to keep us safe and to protect our Village and property values.

VILLAGE SERVICES:

- EMS & FIRE = LOCAL FAST RESPONSE TIMES
- POLICE = PROTECTING OUR VILLAGE FAST RESPONSE TIMES
- SNOW REMOVAL
- TREE SERVICE & LEAF REMOVAL
- STREETS MAINTAINED
- STORM SEWER MAINTENANCE
- PARKS MAINTAINED AND SAFE

*** Questions: Please contact your Mayor or Council person(s)**

* Village financials are available at <https://villageoftimberlake.com/finance-department/>

FACTS about Issue 1

- Timberlake's Issue 1 is a necessity to maintain and protect our lakefront community.
- The revenue from this increase will allow the Village to maintain the day-to-day operations *including*
 - Emergency Medical Services
 - Police and fire protection
 - Snow and leaf removal
 - Infrastructure improvement
 - Maintenance of parks and land
- ***Social security, retirement and dividend income is not subject to the tax,*** which will primarily be paid for by people who live or work in the Village.
- **This increase in funds is critical because** Timberlake is strictly residential, by design, and there is **no revenue from taxing businesses.**
- The increase to 2% brings us in line with 75% of Lake County municipalities.
- It is a necessity to help offset the rising costs of providing Village services, along with a 30% loss due to COVID -19.
- Village residents who work in another community with a 2% income tax or higher **will not see an increase in their tax rate.**
- **Without Issue 1, we would have to rely on neighboring communities for assistance and risk significant cuts and possible loss to services that we all rely on to keep us safe and to protect our Village and property values.**

Remember to vote Oct 6- Nov 3

* Questions: Please contact your Mayor or Council person(s)

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