

VEHICLE STICKERS ELIMINATED BEGINNING MAY 2014

In an effort to extend a savings to its residents, the Village Board approved an ordinance at the January 16, 2014 board meeting eliminating the requirement to purchase vehicle stickers beginning May 1, 2014.

The Finance Committee reported during its 2014 budget review that they believed the program was inefficient based on preliminary findings and directed Village staff to perform a comprehensive review. The results of a detailed cost analysis were presented to the board which reflected that the program was not cost effective.

“When comparing the cost to administer and enforce the program to the revenues collected, the Village retains only 35% of the revenues collected,” said Trustee and Finance Committee Chair Mary Lou Hutchinson. “Continuing a program in which so little of the revenues are retained for their intended purpose is ineffective”

The decision was made in conjunction with discussions regarding whether or not a flat tax levy should be pursued. After considerable analysis it was agreed that the elimination of vehicle stickers was the more fiscally sound decision given the cost to administer the program and in most cases it will provide residents a greater savings. Pursuing a flat levy would save the average household approximately \$8 annually, but eliminating vehicle stickers will provide a savings of \$20 annually to a household with two vehicles.

Revenues derived from the sale of vehicle stickers are used to support the cost of street lighting. The recent implementation of the new video gaming tax has provided the Village a new user based revenue that can help cover the cost of street lighting. “By using the video gaming tax to support the cost of street lighting, the Village is able to eliminate vehicle stickers and provide a savings to its residents,” said President Ed Hettermann.

The action taken by the board will take effect beginning May 1, 2014. Residents should note that vehicle stickers are still required at this time.