



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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# **PRESS RELEASE**

## **Winthrop Harbor Village Board Approves Zero Tax Levy Increase**

**Winthrop Harbor, IL:** At its' December 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting the Winthrop Harbor Village Board unanimously approved a tax levy that will be flat. The action taken by the Village Board means that there will be no increase in dollar amount between the FY 20/21 property tax levy and that of FY 19/20.

Village Administrator Gregory Jackson presented the Village Board with projected increases in FY 20/21 expenditures that included wages for bargaining unit employees, health care expenses and capital improvement projects. Jackson also provided the Village Board with property tax revenue projections based on 4.9%, 2.5%, 1.8% levy increases as well as a 0% flat levy. "It is necessary for the elected body to be provided with as much data as possible for rational comprehensive decision-making," said Jackson. "The levy directly relates to the budget which is the important policy document for any unit of government."

As a result of the flat levy property taxes supporting day-to-day municipal operations that include police, fire, public works, parks, community development and administration will roughly come to \$2.00 per day per household. "The flat levy is something I felt we were better positioned to do this coming budget year," said Mayor Michael Bruno. "When I ran for office I made a commitment to find some relief related to property taxes," Bruno continued. "Since becoming Mayor we have taken steps to professionalize government, secured intergovernmental funding in the amount of \$1.3 million for various projects, and for the first time are conducting monthly revenue and expenditure analyses allowing us to be proactive versus reactive when it comes ebbs and flows in the economy. I am extremely pleased we could take this action"

Trustee Buddy Hargett stated that he has long advocated for a flat levy. "This year we find ourselves in a better position to give a flat levy serious consideration," said Hargett. "Seven months ago we brought on a Village Administrator who has since turned over every rock to provide us with the information we collectively needed to make this decision. I applaud our Village Board for their unanimous vote and Mayor Bruno for his leadership."

At the Board meeting Hargett along with Trustees Robert Marabella and Fritz Weiss reminded the public that the village portion of the property tax bill was miniscule in comparison to other taxing bodies, most notably the school districts that make-up over 65% of most property tax bills.

“Hopefully, our action will be a catalyst for other units of local government to take a look at how they spend taxpayers’ money,” said Hargett.

Village staff will be filing the approved tax levy later in December.

Winthrop Harbor Village Board meetings are held the first and third Tuesdays of each month at Village Hall, 830 Sheridan Road.

For media inquiries contact Gregory Jackson, Village Administrator, at 224-321-3157

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