

Items recently addressed by the Chamber president at Village of Downers Grove Council Meeting (12.06.2011)

1. Energy Aggregation:

Information: The Village of Downers Grove intends, should a referendum pass, go into a one-year only agreement with Will County Governmental League (price of \$20,000) in an effort to aggregate electrical rates with several other communities, passing 100% of the savings along to the residents.

Chamber Reaction: As a matter of full disclosure that the Chamber has a program offering a .057 rate, 28% savings from a typical Com Ed bill. Although the Chamber does not believe that a core service of government is to provide any service that undercuts private sector pricing, nor duplicate what the private sector offers – we appreciate their work to lower the cost of electricity for all of our residents. Please note also that one the Chamber's primary reasons for existence is to behold the philosophy of free enterprise; we typically however, don't expect to practice this philosophy with government.

VOTE: Unanimous Council Support

2. Proposal to enter into an intergovernmental agreement with SEASPAR and School District 58 for maintenance and repair of their vehicles.

Information: SEASPAR and District 58 outsource approximately \$23,000 (combined) for fleet maintenance and repair work done at a local business. The Village of Downers Grove has offered these taxing bodies an opportunity to use the Village's Public Works for fleet maintenance and repair at a lower rate than they currently pay.

Chamber Reaction:

- a. One local shop, which pays property tax and sale taxes (the Village does not) on parts purchased in Downers Grove, will have to find another way to earn about \$18,000 that will be missed in 2012 because of this agreement.
- b. KEEP IN MIND – IT IS EXPECTED THAT ALL TAXING BODIES SPEND OUR MONEY WISELY; private sector negotiation would have been the preferred method of choice.
- c. Again, we defend the standards of free enterprise, and ultimately, anticipate a positive outcome.

VOTE: 6 in Support of the Agreements; 1 Nay

3. The Manager's report which included a proposal for a process, to extend the compliance date of the sign ordinance.

Information: Manager Fieldman reported on a proposal to move forward with a two-year extension for the signage compliance deadline scheduled for 2012. 66% of the signs are in compliance and 33% non-compliant. It appears that compliance is occurring at about 200 signs per year, and extending the deadline would bring the majority into compliance. He explained the reasons for the extension include the changing economic conditions. The extension is consistent with the "facilitate not regulate" approach.

Chamber Response: Staff has done their research on compliance and recognizes that our world was very different when the ordinance was passed in 2005. The Chamber asked for Council support of the Staff recommendation.

VOTE: Will be addressed in First Reading on February 7, 2012; voted upon on February 14, 2012