

Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Committee Recommends Village Pursue Home Rule Status

The Village's Home Rule Research Committee recently concluded its study of Home Rule and voted ten to two to recommend the Village Board pursue Home Rule status for the Village of Clarendon Hills.

The Home Rule Research Committee was appointed in April by the Village Board of Trustees. The Committee was tasked with studying Home Rule and determining whether it was an appropriate tool for the Village, as well as what Home Rule powers might exercise under Home Rule. The Committee met five times through the course of the study. At the meetings, the Committee learned more about Home Rule, the Village's current financial condition, heard presentations from a Home Rule expert and the Mayor of Warrenville, a similar community with Home Rule status.

In Illinois, Home Rule status is automatically given to those municipalities with a population of 25,000 or greater. Municipalities with populations of less than 25,000 may seek Home Rule Authority through referendum. Home Rule grants more direct authority to local governments to make decisions about their community, including certain taxes, provides for additional economic development tools and exempts municipalities from some state mandates. Currently, 203 communities in Illinois have attained home rule status. Two-thirds of Illinois residents live in a Home Rule community.

At the conclusion of the process, the Committee was asked to make a formal recommendation to the Village Board. The Committee voted on the following items:

1. The attainment of Home Rule Status is appropriate for the Village of Clarendon Hills at this time (10 yes, 2 no).
2. Home Rule Status should be utilized to affect an increase in the Village's Property Tax rate beyond the authority allowed Non-Home Rule Municipalities (9 yes, 3 no).
3. Home Rule Status should be utilized to affect increases in other revenues as determined by the current and future Village Board to offset increases in property taxes (11 yes, 1 no).
4. The Village Board should utilize non-financial Home Rule powers as they deem appropriate and necessary (9 yes, 2 no, 1 abstention).
5. If a Home Rule Referendum is attempted and failed, the Village should pursue and increase in property taxes by referendum (11 yes, 1 abstention).

The Village Board is continuing to study Home Rule and will host a series of public meetings and distribute additional materials through its regular newsletter and e-mail newsletter. Home Rule Authority can only be granted to the Village through a referendum, which would be held during an upcoming election. The Home Rule Research Committee's final report is available on the Village's website at www.clarendonhills.us. Additional information about Home Rule will also be available on the website.