| Logo VILLAGE OF RICHFIELD VILLAGE BOARD COMMUNICATION FORM  MEETING DATE: August 25, 2022 |
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| SUBJECT: DATE SUBMITTED:SUBMITTED BY: | Richfield Volunteer Fire Company – November 8th Referendum August 18, 2022Jim Healy, Village Administrator  |
| *policy question: Does the Village Board wish to accept the recommendation of the Richfield Volunteer Fire Company Board of Directors and postpone the Referendum placement on a ballot until the financial implications to the taxpayers can be reasonably determined?**Issue summary:*On July 12th, the Board for the Richfield Volunteer Fire Company provided to the Village President a written request for $800,000 to be the stated amount placed on the November 8, 2022 ballot for Referendum. Shortly before the start of the July 21st Village Board meeting, the Village received notification a “petition for election” was filed with the RVFC Board of Directors by the West Bend Firefighters Union seeking to organize a union for certain full-time employees of the Company. The RVFC Board of Directors has communicated to the Village they will not voluntarily recognize the union, which will require an election to occur if the process for unionization moves forward. On August 15th, the Village received a third correspondence from Fire Company President (and Village Trustee) Dan Neu. In it, he states the following:*“In the event the union were to win the election, collective bargaining negotiations would need to occur between the RVFC and the union. Collective bargaining is unpredictable. There are many issues that constitute mandatory subjects of bargaining, which the Company would be required to negotiate in order to fulfill the duty to bargain. Through the give-and-take of collective bargaining negotiations, certain current compensation elements, including wages, benefits and hours of work, are all subject to negotiation. Because of the pending nature of the issue involving the West Bend Firefighters union, the Company cannot predict with accuracy what the costs would be for hiring five (5) more full-time firefighter/EMTs if those positions are within the bargaining union. Based on the above, the RVFC Board of Directors is not able to currently ensure the accuracy of the original dollar amount requested”.* Given the fact that the Board of Directors for the RVFC cannot ensure the sufficiency of the amount originally requested because of the unpredictable nature of union negotiations, I believe if our contracted service provider cannot ensure the accuracy of their request to the Village Board that it is not reasonable or fiscally prudent to bring this matter to referendum in November. The Village needs to understand the potential costs that unionization may have on its residents and then make a value-based decision on how to move forward. If the Village Board were still of a mind to approve the proposed Resolution and place this matter on the ballot for the November 8th General Election, by taking the previous assessed value of the community ($1,932,798,000) and dividing that number into the proposed additional referendum levy of $800,000, you see estimated mill rate for this referendum to be approximately $0.41 per thousand of assessed value.  |
| *Fiscal Impact: Reviewed By: ­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_* *Village Deputy Treasurer*Initial Project Costs: Cannot be determined. Future Ongoing Costs: Cannot be determined. Physical Impact (on people/space): Cannot be determined. Residual or Support/Overhead/Fringe Costs: Cannot be determined.  |
| *Attachments*:1. Letter dated August 15, 2022 from Fire Company President Dan Neu
2. Resolution R2022-08-01, A Resolution Authorizing a Referendum for the Village of Richfield to Allow the Village to Exceed the State Imposed Levy Limit for Fire and EMS Services for the Richfield Volunteer Fire Company
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| *staff recommendation*: **To Not Approve the Resolution:**Motion to accept the recommendation of the Richfield Volunteer Fire Company Board of Directors and not place on the November 8th ballot a referendum related to the Richfield Volunteer Fire Company. **To Approve the Resolution:** Motion to approve Resolution R2022-08-01, A Resolution Authorizing a Referendum for the Village of Richfield to Allow the Village to Exceed the State Imposed Levy Limit for Fire and EMS Services for the Richfield Volunteer Fire Company and to direct Staff to work with the County Clerk and Wisconsin Department of Revenue to ensure the placement of this proposed referendum question on the November 8, 2022 General Election ballot.  |
| APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL BY: | VILLAGE CLERK USE ONLYBOARD ACTION TAKEN |
| \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Village Staff Member\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Village Administrator | Resolution No. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Ordinance No. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Approved \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Other \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | Continued To: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Referred To: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Denied \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_File No. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |