

State of Illinois

County of Will

Town of Crete

CRETE TOWNSHIP SPECIAL BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

January 13, 2025

The Special Board meeting of the Crete Township Board of Trustees was called to order by Supervisor Liccar at 4:00 PM.

The board members present were Trustee Elton, Trustee Albrecht, Trustee Piacentini, and Supervisor Liccar. Trustee Hawkins was absent. Clerk Buiter was also present.

A Pledge of Allegiance was given.

REPORTS:

Supervisor Liccar mentioned that there is a push to put on the April 1, 2025, Consolidated Election ballot this referendum petition for the annual property tax rebates. Clerk Buiter and our attorney discussed via email that we have until today, January 13, 2025, as a board to vote on placing this referendum. He is sensitive about this issue with it being an election year and we are up for election in this cycle. Supervisor Liccar would like to recommend that we don't go forward with placing this referendum petition on the April 1, 2025, ballot. He came up with seven reasons backing his recommendation:

1. This is an advisory referendum which carries no legal weight, nor does it involve Crete Township policies. The language appears to be designed such that it would only receive "yes" votes and as it carries no legislative weight affection Illinois State policies which are determined by solely by the Illinois State legislature not other government agencies within the state.
2. The deadline of December 30th to circulate a petition and to acquire the proper number of signatures from Crete Township residents was missed by the residents. The resident provided a request for the Township board to approve and present the proposed referendum during its regular board meeting on the evening of January 8, 2025, during the public comment period, consequently, this proposal was not included on the Board's agenda for that meeting and thus was not further addressed. The deadline for the Board to make a decision on including a referendum for the upcoming April 2025 election is January 13, 2025, literally 3 business days from the date of the request. This does not provide sufficient time to properly evaluate the proposal and to adequately research the legislative history. Moreover, the residents of Crete Township were given no opportunity to consider and comment to the Board's on the proposal as the next time it could have been included on the Board's agenda would have been for its February 12th meeting to occur well after the January 13th deadline.
3. To provide that the proposed referendum is supported by the residents in the Township, petitions should have been properly circulated and the required number of signatures from the voters should have been obtained by December 30th. Instead, the deadline passed without the

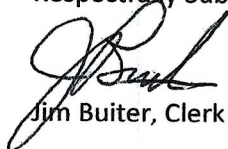
required signatures from the voters and request came to the Township Board the evening of January 8th, well after the December 30th deadline.

4. The language provided is inaccurate. Per the Illinois State Statutes, the rebates provided for from the Illinois Property Tax Relief Fund appear to be only for qualified residential properties who were granted general homestead exemptions from their respective counties. The proposed language failed to make that important distinction. Moreover, we do not know the actual number of Illinois residential property taxpayers who have been granted homestead exemptions by their respective counties.
5. The purpose of the proposed referendum appears to be a moot point in that it carries no legal weight with Illinois law even if agreed to by the majority of voters. Moreover, the "Illinois Property Tax Relief Fund" is unfunded and cannot provide rebates to the residential property owners who have obtained a general homestead exemption.
6. We understand that negotiations are currently underway at the Federal level to provide a greater tax deduction for local property taxes (under the so-called "SALT" deduction), which would in effect, provide actual relief to taxpayers paying property taxes who utilize itemized deductions.
7. Other Townships, such as Washington and Homer Townships are not including such a referendum.

In addition, he stated the residents never got the chance to see and sign the petition. The residents or parties should have circulated the petitions. We as a board would like to have it on the agenda so the public could come to a public forum and discuss among themselves to accept or reject it. Trustee Albrecht brought up the point of how we are going to fund this petition and would be reckless as elected officials to put these words out there as a referendum and not knowing how we are going to fund the mandate. A motion was made to deny the request to place the referendum question on the ballot by Trustee Elton, seconded by Trustee Albrecht. All were in favor. Roll Call was taken as follows: Trustee Elton – yes, Trustee Albrecht – yes, Trustee Hawkins – yes, Trustee Piacentini – yes, Supervisor Liccar – yes. Motion passes.

Motion

Respectfully Submitted


Jim Buiter, Clerk

Approved 2/12/2025