

RESOLUTION 2010-16

INITIATING THE SUBMISSION OF A PUBLIC QUESTION TO SUPPORT REGIONAL ACTIONS TO ATTAIN LONG-TERM PENSION SUSTAINABILITY

WHEREAS, preserving the public safety, health and welfare of its citizens is a critical priority and of paramount concern of the Village of West Dundee; and

WHEREAS, the Village of West Dundee, like many communities across the State of Illinois, has been experiencing significant increases in required contributions to fund the pension of eligible municipal employees; and

WHEREAS, the actuarially determined contribution for the Village of West Dundee Firefighter Pension Fund has increased by \$105,767 or 62% from the 2003 tax levy to the 2009 tax levy; with the 2009 tax levy equaling approximately \$23,000 or 30% of salary per plan member; and

WHEREAS, the actuarially determined contribution for the Village of West Dundee Police Pension Fund has increased by \$208,901 or 76% from the 2003 tax levy to the 2009 tax levy; the 2009 tax levy equaling approximately \$23,000 or 30% of salary per plan member; and

WHEREAS, a combination of factors including legislatively-mandated pension benefit increases, investment losses, cumulative wage increases and others have contributed to this situation; and

WHEREAS, these steadily escalating pension costs have created a fiscal concern that is consuming an ever increasing portion of the Village of West Dundee's municipal budget and threatens the long-term sustainability of the pension funds and the continuation of existing levels of public safety services; and

WHEREAS, while the Village of West Dundee recognizes that offering a quality pension program is vital for the recruitment and retention of quality public employees, it also recognizes that increasing public safety pension costs place local pension funds in financial jeopardy; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly reformed the pension systems for all public employees in the spring 2010 session with the exception of police officers, firefighters and sheriffs; and

WHEREAS, without both immediate and long-term legislative relief from these escalating pension costs, the Village of West Dundee and many other communities across the state are faced with complex choices, including budget cuts that reduce or eliminate vital services; compromise public safety service levels; defer critical infrastructure maintenance and repairs; and/or increase the burden on local taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, because Article XIII, Section 5 of the Illinois Constitution does not allow earned pension benefits to be diminished or impaired, the General Assembly must exercise extreme care in any pension enhancements that may cripple governments' ability to fund both pension and other essential operations, especially in times of economic hardship.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the President and the Village Board of the Village of West Dundee, County of Kane, State of Illinois, that:

SECTION ONE: Incorporation of Recitals. The foregoing recitals are by this reference incorporated into and made a part of the resolution as if fully set forth.

SECTION TWO: Public Question on Pension Sustainability. A public question shall be submitted to the voters of the Village of West Dundee, County of Kane, State of Illinois, at the November 2, 2010 general election (or at the next available election permitted by the general election law) as follows:

Shall the Illinois General Assembly and Governor take immediate steps to implement meaningful public safety pension reform which will relieve the extensive burden on local taxpayers now that the General Assembly and Governor have reformed the pension systems for all other public employees?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
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SECTION THREE: Publication: Filing. The Village of West Dundee Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to publish this authorizing resolution within ten days after passage in a newspaper of general circulation within the Village and to file this authorizing resolution or other related matters with the appropriate election officials in accordance with applicable law.

SECTION FOUR: Effective Date: This Resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage, approval, and publication in the manner provided by law.

PASSED this 16th day of August, 2010.

AYES: Trustees Gillam, Osth, Hanley, Yuscka and Voss

NAYS: Trustee Price

ABSENT: None

APPROVED this 16th day of August, 2010.

ATTESTED AND FILED:

By: Larry A Keller
Larry A. Keller, Village President

By: Barbara Traver
Barbara Traver, Village Clerk