Village of Westmont

Stormwater Management - Infrastructure Sales Tax Referendum

Metropolitan Planning Council/Calumet Stormwater Collaborative Presentation - Nov. 6, 2015
Village of Westmont

Stormwater Management
Sales Tax Referendum

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Mike Ramsey - Westmont Public Works Director
Larry McIntyre - Westmont Communications Director
Westmont Stormwater Concerns - Past Decade

2004-Present - Increase of heavy rainfall incidents resulting in increased area flooding concerns

2008 - Devastating flood coinciding with budget concerns - community meeting to discuss problems - hire Christopher Burke Consulting to review problem areas

2011 - Christopher Burke Study released with various recommendations coincides with loss of Home Rule
Westmont Stormwater Concerns - Recent Timeline

2011-2013 - No funds available to address costly Stormwater Management solutions
April 2013 - Historic flooding throughout northern Illinois
May 2013 - Within one month of flood, new Mayor calls special town hall meeting to discuss the problem and hear resident concerns
The process to find solutions and include the community was going to be vital to the success of this initiative.
May 2013 - Town Hall Meeting

- Hearing feedback from residents regarding April 2013 flood
- Engaging the community in a respectful manner, hearing concerns, creating Stormwater Committee
June 2013 - Stormwater Committee

- Representation from throughout the community
- Changing the tone of the conversation from “them” to “us”
- Manage the conversation, but let the residents help drive the direction & be empowered to get involved
- Twice-a-month meetings through Oct. 2013
July-Sept. 2013 - Stormwater Committee

- Research into funding methodologies
- Review and prioritization of problem areas
- Review Downers Grove’s program
- Discuss if this is the issue of a few (those most affected) or a conversation for all (community-wide infrastructure updates)
Oct. 2013 - Stormwater Presentation

- Discuss topic comprehensively including funding mechanisms and prioritization of community needs
- Discuss “green” stormwater technologies
- Make specific recommendations for the Village Board to consider

- Expert advice needed for developing a Stormwater Utility
- Experience needed for gathering information regarding utility methodology and individual lot size and pervious areas - ERUs
- Stakeholders Committee
Spring 2014 - Stakeholders Committee

- Similar to Stormwater Committee, but expanded to include business community, NFPs & public agencies
- Making decisions based on utility rate as well as discussion regarding incentives
July-August 2014 - Decision Regarding Utility

- Presentation to Board from consultant re: utility
- Timeline to get on Nov. referendum ballot
- Reconsidering the Stormwater Utility methodology
- Discuss of a special local sales tax dedicated specifically for Stormwater-Infrastructure
Fall 2014 - Decision Regarding Utility

- Board began discussing Sales Tax option
- School District issued fall referendum
- Board directed more public input regarding utility vs. sales tax options
- Focus was dedicated revenue source
Winter 2015 - Sales Tax Referendum Decision

- Utility methodology too confusing
- Utility option too costly for businesses and opposed by NFPs
- Village could not advocate for referendum, but was clear regarding what a NO vote would mean
April 7, Westmont voters passed the referendum
Referendum had a high voter turnout due to School District referendum
Passed by less than 100 votes and less than 50% approval
Westmont Stormwater Management Program
Moving Forward

Sales Tax Implementation

● Affected businesses notified in June
● Sales tax collection began July 1
● Last night, Nov. 5, Village Board began discussing the future of Westmont Stormwater Program in regard to staffing, project priorities, and possible bond issues
Westmont Stormwater Management Program
Moving Forward

Recent Stormwater Projects

- Mariano’s largest underground water storage of its kind in State of Illinois
- First pervious concrete road in State of Illinois
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