Our Tax Money

Newsletter

February 14, 2024

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A Recap: O'Fallon District 90 Building/Finance Meeting on Feb 6th, 2024

A little disappointing. Not all bad news, however.

Superintendent Hruby put forth a prioritized listing on 80+
items in approximate order of importance, ranked tier A, B
or C, and actually put some funding sources next them!

Most importantly, some of the funding was from dollars
already in the present accounts!! Terrific!

So the meeting was for the committees to further prioritize the priorities. One member asked a question about the meaning/scope of one of the expensive projects. It was a question which needed to be asked, but should have been asked 4 to 6 months ago. One member asked about the financial information related to budget/reserve requirements. The answer provided by Hruby was patently wrong and misleading.

The meeting didn't seem to actually accomplish much of anything, so at the bitter end, the committee asked Hruby what they were to do next? Really? The answer was to take the information they had just reviewed to the February Board meeting for review and prioritization. That was the purpose of this meeting! Oh well.

The 80 items are at a cost of over \$40 million. They're just now taking \$18.5 million with the approved Working Capital Bond sales that will cost us \$30 million to repay. Therefore, you can count on them 'needing' a bit more of Our Tax Money!

How does the O'Fallon, Illinois city property tax levy differ from that of the school districts?

Technically, there is no difference other than your real estate property tax is the largest portion of each school district's annual revenue. They also receive revenue from the state and federal governments.

The city of O'Fallon, Illinois draws most of its tax revenues from the sales and use tax and the state income tax. The real estate property tax levy is currently used within the city's budget solely to fund the Public Library, Emergency Medical Services, Fire Department, and employee social security/pension funds.

As part of the city's Property Tax Relief Program, the real estate property tax levy for the city's General Fund and Park Fund was eliminated and replaced by a ½ percent sales tax levy. Half of this ½ percent sales tax levy goes to the Park Fund and the other half to the Capital "Build O'Fallon Trust" Fund. This change was implemented beginning with the 2021 real estate property tax year.

As of 2024, the sales tax rate for O'Fallon, Illinois is 9.35 percent on qualifying goods and services. This is the sum of a 6.25 percent state sales tax, a 1 percent city sales tax, and a 2.1 percent "Special Tax". There is currently no St. Clair County sales tax.

The property tax levy amount calculated is based on the city's previous year's budget. The requested property tax levy must be filed (in dollars not tax rates or percentages) with the county every December for the next fiscal year. For example, the city submits it property tax levy to the county in December 2023 for their fiscal year 2025.

The city's budget operates on a 01 April – 30 May fiscal year while the school districts operate on a 01 July – 30 June fiscal year. For example, the city's fiscal year 2025 budget begins April 1, 2024 and runs through May 30, 2025.

When you review your property tax bill you will note the City of O'Fallon, Illinois and the O'Fallon Public Library submit their real estate property tax levies separately.

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