



CITY OF GROSSE POINTE WOODS

Memorandum

DATE: June 10, 2024
TO: Mayor and City Council
FROM: Frank Schulte, City Administrator
SUBJECT: Senior Millage

Earlier this year, representatives from The Helm appeared before the City Councils of the five Grosse Pointe Communities and the City of Harper Woods to express a need for additional funding for Senior Services.

Specifically, it was requested that each City Council approve the placement of a .5 mill ballot initiative for senior services that could be allocated to The Helm to meet current and expanded services.

Without any action taken by Councils, representatives from the respective communities attended several meetings with representatives from The Helm to discuss program needs.

As a result of those meetings, language has been drafted for a .35 mill ballot initiative for senior services. This is a reduction from the original .5 mill requested by The Helm. Under state law, up to 1 mill can be levied for senior services through a ballot initiative.

As a point of reference, a .35 mill levy would cost Grosse Pointe Woods the average homeowner \$61.00 based on a Taxable Value (TV) of \$175,000.

In addition to a senior millage, the City Managers of the Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods met to discuss an Interlocal agreement for senior service, which is a mechanism for determining how funds would be distributed if a ballot proposal was approved by the voters.

To that end, an Interlocal Agreement was drafted to establish an Active Adult Commission to serve as a policy-making body. The Helm would manage the day-to-day operations of senior services and report directly to the Commission. It is proposed that one resident be appointed by the City Councils of the five Grosse Pointes' and Harper Woods, similar to representation on the Grosse Pointe Public Library Board. In addition, an "at-large" member would be appointed from the participating communities on a rotating basis.

While the draft Interlocal Agreement has been created with input from the Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods city managers and attorneys, it is intended to provide one viable approach to the distribution of millage proceeds. Final approval of an Interlocal Agreement would not be necessary until the voters approve a millage.

Suggested action: consider placing the following proposed Senior Millage language on the November 5, 2024 ballot: **Do you approve of the addition of a new .35 mill levy for the period of six (6) years to collect approximately \$322,217 in revenue in the first year, to be disbursed to the Grosse Pointe Active Adult Commission, for the purpose of supporting services to older citizens, including transportation, activities and facilities directed toward improvement of the overall health and welfare of older persons? If approved, this senior millage will only be levied by the City of Grosse Pointe Woods if at least four (4) of the six (6) Grosse Pointe and Harper Woods communities approve their respective senior millages.**

Yes ___

No ___