

Walstad, John M.

From: John Kautzman <Johnk@ci.williston.nd.us>
Sent: Monday, July 22, 2013 10:13 AM
To: Walstad, John M.
Cc: Kempenich, Keith A.; Skarphol, Bob J.; Drovdal, David O.; Froseth, Glen A.; Onstad, Kenton B.; Rust, David S.; Sukut, Gary; Hatlestad, Patrick R.; Lyson, Stanley W.; Warner, John M.; Bowman, Bill L.; Andrist, John M.; 'drbekk@wil.midco.net'
Subject: Notice Requirement Burdens

Mr. John Walstad;

I am sending this to you as a response to our required notification requirement from the last session. I understand if we tax more than \$100,000 and have any dollar increase from last year that we will be required to send notice to all that received a valuation increase notice during our equalization hearing process. I think you and any committee that reviews this issue must keep in mind that for us that will require sending near 5,000 notices out at an estimated cost of \$3,500 if we do the envelope stuffing in house. My staff is very busy and to ask them to find added time to stuff 5,000 envelopes may not be possible so it is very likely I will have to contract out the folding of the letter and stuffing of the envelopes at an added cost of \$500. When everyone seems concerned by increasing taxes it seems ironic that we are required to incur an added \$ 4,000 cost to notify our residents. We have great press coverage already and our budget process seems to gain local headline notice in the paper and radio and TV so it does not seem likely that our normal notice hearing publication would have gone unnoticed by those that may have wanted to attend and protest. What notice requirement did the legislative process post to notify everyone that this may be a requirement? Were the lobbyists notified that this was going to be an added area of requirement?

I have a board that has historically held increases to around a 3% increase at max per year. This seems very low when looking at and comparing us to all other major cities around the state. We have in fact one of the lowest city mill levies of the 12 largest cities and in total we do have the lowest mill levy at 249.50 mills. Even with this history we are required to send notices out? When one looks at the 12 largest cities from around the state it shows that SCHOOLS are the leading area for tax requests with Fargo Schools leading the 12 largest cities with a 57% share request for their taxes. While in Williston they also lead but with a 49% share. Again when looking at the 12 largest cities the schools are the leading requester with the lowest being 32% and again the highest at 57%. I recognize that property taxes are the hot button item for the legislative process and maybe the only way you fix this is open up a local option voter approved areas of allowing all taxes to possibly be implemented on a local basis like income/personal property or any area the state presently enjoys but restricts us from implementing?

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