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VBH BOT FYI Finance

2 messages

Robert Kosin <rkosin@barringtonhills-il.gov>**Sat, May 14, 2011 at 10:54 AM**

To: Dolores Trandel <clerk@barringtonhills-il.gov>

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Sun City divided over tax bills

By Larissa Chinwah

Daily Herald

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Discrepancies in the assessed values of homes in the Sun City neighborhood of Huntley have some residents calling for changes to the assessment process.

That's because the Del Webb retirement community is divided between two townships in two counties. Half of the community is assessed by Rutland Township in Kane County, while the other half falls under Grafton Township in McHenry County.

Hermann Faubl, a Rutland Township resident, said the decrease in assessed values for Sun City residents who live in Rutland Township were much lower than decreases for properties in Grafton Township, which has resulted in higher property taxes for Rutland Township residents.

Faubl said Rutland Township Assessor Janet Siers and Grafton Township Assessor William Ottley use different formulas to determine a home's value. That has led to wide differences in the value of the same model of home in Sun City depending on which side of the border it sits.

Faubl said Rutland Township homeowners are being assessed about 15 percent higher than their Grafton Township neighbors.

"We are being over-assessed in Rutland Township because the assessors have a difference of opinion," Faubl said. "Each of them believes they are doing it the right way and the other is doing it the wrong way. We just want them to get on the same page."

Frank Romain, also a Sun City resident in Rutland Township, said Siers uses the three-year market average based on home sales in the last three years. Ottley, on the other hand, used sale prices for the previous year, Romain said.

That means the Rutland Township values will take longer to catch up to current market values, Romain said.

And Ottley said that was the reason his office used current market values to determine assessed values.

"The Board of Review elected to use sales and the theory is 'Why do you have to file a protest to get the assessed value where it should

be,'" Ottley said. Siers, who did not return calls for comment, used the three-year average. In a letter posted on the assessor's website, Siers said she used the value of each property as of Jan 1, 2010, as well as three years' worth of sales.

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Sat, May 14, 2011 at 11:00 AM

III. House plans deep budget cuts

By Associated Press CHRISTOPHER WILLS (The Associated Press)
Created: Saturday, May 14, 2011 5:30 a.m. CDT

SPRINGFIELD – Schools, college scholarships and health care for the poor would face sharp cuts under a budget approved Friday by the Illinois House in a rare show of cooperation between Democrats and Republicans.

Meanwhile, partisan battles continued at full force in the Senate.

Democrats approved budget measures without giving Republicans a chance to review them. Republicans complained loudly and accused Democrats of spending more than Illinois can afford.

"What you offer is an increase in spending," said Sen. Matt Murphy, R-Palatine. "It guarantees that we will borrow yet again to pay our bills."

Although both the House and Senate passed new state budgets, there are major differences between the two versions. Gov. Pat Quinn has his own proposal, too.

Reaching a deal that can pass both legislative chambers and get the governor's signature could still prove challenging.

"I don't expect that this budget will be the final spending plan," Speaker Michael Madigan, D-Chicago, said shortly after House members voted for painful cuts to state services. "We're not sending any ultimatums by the adoption of this budget today."

The House plan would spend about \$25.2 billion from the state's general account for the budget year that begins July 1. That's about \$600 million, or 2.4 percent, below the current budget.

It would achieve that reduction mostly by cutting education and human services.

State support for schools would fall by about \$169 million, or 2.4 percent. The Monetary Award Program would lose \$17 million for college scholarships, a 4.2 percent cut. In human services, Medicaid bills would be paid more slowly, many would be trimmed 1 percent and administrative spending would drop \$181 million.

"There was a lot of hand-wringing and a lot of tears" in the appropriations committee that set those amounts, said Rep. Sara

Feigenholtz, D-Chicago. "We can go home to our communities and say, 'We done our job, we cut the budget.'"

Some legislators felt the cuts went too far.

The House version of the budget is about \$1 billion smaller than the version approved by the Senate on Friday and \$2 billion below Quinn's proposal.

A key difference between the House and Senate plans is in revenue projections. Senate Democrats are counting on state government taking in about \$1 billion more than the House estimates it will. That additional money allows the Senate to avoid deep human service cuts.

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