

**TOWN COUNCIL  
CONSTANT YIELD TAX RATE  
(CYTR)  
PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES  
Monday, June 3, 2024  
GoToMeeting**

Mayor Paulin called the Public Hearing to order at 6:02 p.m. Those in attendance were:

Brandon Paulin, Mayor  
Ron Sitoula, Vice Mayor  
Cassandra Grumbine, Councilwoman  
Ryan Hicks, Town Manager  
Andrea Brady, Town Clerk  
Ginger Foster, Finance Officer

**NUMBER OF CITIZENS AND GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE: 4**

The purpose of the Public Hearing is to receive questions and comments from Town residents regarding the Constant Yield Tax Rate.

As stated in the ad for this evening's meeting, for the taxable year beginning July 1, 2024, the Town Council of Indian Head proposes to increase real property tax rates from \$0.30 per \$100 of assessment to \$0.34 per \$100 of assessment.

The Town tax rate has not been increased in decades.

Council has seen an increase in criminal activity, especially violent crime in recent months and years (data from CityProtect.com via Charles County Sheriff's Office). Charles County Sheriff's Office is stretched then addressing this issue county-wide which leads to response times in the Indian Head area leaving some waiting 30-45 minutes on average for serious incidents and over hours for minor incidents. The tax increase is to combat these issues by offering more public safety improvements such as: extra duty patrols, bolster our residential camera rebate program, and create a more permanent public safety presence in Town. The goal is to be more proactive to address public safety and reduce response waits for emergencies. Additionally, these investments will calculate against the county tax differential, which is a formula that addresses duplicate services and gives municipal residents (in this case, Town of Indian Head residents) a credit/rebate on their county portion of their property tax bill. Mayor Paulin explained that on your County tax bill you will see a rebate for the tax differential.

Mayor Paulin made a motion to open the floor to public comment. Vice Mayor Sitoula seconds the motion. All in favor. The floor was opened to public comment.

Cynthia Simmons, Jennifer Drive – Ms. Simmons asked why the increase is being made and what it is going towards. Ms. Simmons stated the demographic of the town is a lot of seniors on fixed incomes, and this will be more of a stretch for them. Ms. Simmons moved to the town for affordable housing and feels that it is becoming less affordable. Mayor Paulin stated the tax increase will be going toward public safety efforts. He understands Ms. Simmon's concern and he explained that the tax differential will provide a rebate on County taxes that should help alleviate the increase.

Renee Posey, East Poplar Lane – Ms. Posey asked if the Council will be opening up the window of time listed on the camera rebate program. Ms. Posey asked since the residents are indirectly funding this program, will the window be open to allow people who have cameras on their property prior to the purchase date listed. Council is open to discussing this at a future meeting on how they can alter the program to open up the window of purchase. This will be added to the June Work Session agenda.

Macia Fletcher, Helen Court – Ms. Fletcher asked in terms of the increase, is the public safety piece the only reason for the increase. Mayor Paulin stated that the Public Safety portion is reflected in the budget to the tune of what the increase is.

Laura Butrick, Meadowside Court – Ms. Butrick asked what the estimated increase in the dollar amount is. Mayor Paulin said roughly \$162,000. Ms. Butrick asked for the number of units in Anchor Point. Mayor Paulin said around 150 units, and they are included in the increase. Ms. Butrick asked when the final decision is to be made. Mayor Paulin explained there was a budget public hearing held on May 23<sup>rd</sup>, a work session on May 29<sup>th</sup>, tonight's CYTR hearing, and the voting of the budget Ordinance is on the Town meeting agenda for tonight.

Prior to this evening's hearing Town Clerk Brady received a letter of public comment from Laura Butrick on Meadowside Court. Ms. Butrick's comments were read aloud, and the letter was submitted as part of this evening's record. (see attached)

There being no additional comment, Mayor Paulin made a motion to close the floor to public comment. Councilwoman Grumbine seconds the motion. All in favor.

Mayor Paulin thanked everyone for attending. These decisions are not taken lightly. Moving into homeownership himself and having everything increase over the last couple of years has been hard on everyone. He thanked everyone for coming out and offering their opinions. It is not an easy decision to get to this point, but the data is really speaking to what the Council needs to be investing efforts into.

Mayor Paulin asked if there was any Town Council deliberation. There being none, Mayor Paulin made a motion to close the public hearing and adjourn this evening's meeting. Vice Mayor Sitoula seconds the motion. All in favor. The public hearing was closed.

Mayor Paulin adjourned at 6:20pm.



Andrea Brady  
Town Clerk

RECEIVED  
MAY 2 12 2024

BY: AB.....

5/30/2024

TO THE INDIAN HEAD TOWN COUNCIL

I OPPOSE THE INCREASE OF  
REAL PROPERTY TAX RATES FROM 0.3000  
TO 0.3400 PER \$100 OF ASSESSMENT.

AS A 30+ YEAR RESIDENT OF INDIAN  
HEAD I QUESTION THE NEED FOR THIS  
INCREASE. THE INCOME FROM ADDITIONAL  
HOMES + THE INFLATION VALUE OF MY  
HOME SHOULD BE ADEQUATE.

THE ASSESSMENT OF MY HOME HAS  
INCREASED BY \$52,867.00 IN TWO YEARS.  
NOT BECAUSE OF IMPROVEMENTS. THIS  
HAS INCREASED MY COUNTY TAX BILL OF  
WHICH THE TOWN OF I.H. RECEIVES  
\$575.00 AS OF 2023.

WHY AND WHAT WILL THIS ADDITIONAL  
INCOME BE USED FOR? CAN YOU (THE TOWN)  
JUSTIFY THIS INCREASE? HISTORY OF  
THE TOWN COUNCIL REFLECTS DEAF  
EARS TO CONCERNS OF RESIDENTS.

mead

PLEASE RECONSIDER THIS INCREASE  
UNTIL AFTER INCOME RECEIVED  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025  
IS CORRECTLY ALLOCATED + EVALGATED  
FOR ON THE ANNUAL BUDGET.

SINCERELY,

L. BURRICH

15 MEADOWSIDE COURT

I. H. MA 20240