

the interest in its entirety, rather cut in half to 6% for those who pay their owed taxes by a certain deadline.

Chairwoman Addonizio questioned if the 1,300 properties going into foreclosure are also delinquent in their school taxes.

Legislator Albano stated the County makes the towns and school whole. He noted that the towns and schools do not receive any of the interest therefore it is solely in the County's authority to make these decisions. He stated he believes this proposal will increase the revenue collected by the County in interest and penalties.

Legislator Nacerino stated the property owners who are in arrears are unable to catch up at this point to get in front of their debt. She stated even if a small percentage of people took advantage of this, it would alleviate some of the burden on the Law Department as well. She stated it is important to note the adverse effect this could have on the County's budget.

Legislator Sayegh stated she would like to look into this more before making any decisions. She stated there are some property owners who choose not to pay their taxes and look at it as a loan, while there are others who do everything possible to pay their taxes on time.

Legislator Albano stated there are instances when people are going through a tough time financially, which was exacerbated by the COVID pandemic. He stated this would provide an opportunity for the County to collect the money they are due, plus an appropriate amount of interest. He stated in terms of the financial impact, he believes this would have a positive effect on the County's budget.

Legislator Sayegh stated she can understand allowing leniency for property owners during the time period of the COVID pandemic because many people lost their jobs and were facing financial hardship. She stated she is apprehensive to go all the way back to 2014.

Legislator Sullivan stated he likes the concept of this proposal for many different reasons. He stated the financial impact is on money that has not yet been collected. He stated those who take advantage of this would be paying 100% of the back taxes they owe, plus 50% of the penalties and interest which would be a positive financial impact. He stated this may even speed up the collection process since there would be a window of time when this offer was available. He stated 12% interest is very high and believes forgiving some of that interest is a fair thing to do. He stated he would support this. He requested a financial impact statement be requested from Finance.

Legislator Albano stated in terms of the financial impact, this is anticipated money. He stated he believes this would result in the County bringing in more revenue than budgeted. He stated it is not realistic to expect all the delinquent taxes and interest to be paid, therefore the County can only benefit by offering such an opportunity.

Legislator Nacerino stated this would be a good opportunity for property owners facing a real burden. She stated the financial impact this may have on the County is on money that has not yet been realized. She stated she does not believe the County will be inundated with payments, but even if a few are collected it is still a benefit.

Legislator Albano stated property owners are the backbone of the community and he believes this is a good gesture for those it can really help.

Legislator Sayegh clarified that a property owner who has not paid taxes since 2014 could pay their taxes in full with their interest from those eight (8) years halved.

Legislator Albano stated he does not anticipate anyone with that many years of back taxes to come forward.

Legislator Sullivan stated this proposal is for a 60-day window for property owners to take advantage of the decrease in interest.

Chairwoman Addonizio questioned how property owners would be notified.

Legislative Counsel Firriolo stated he was discussing this with the Law Department and per the Code it is required that every property owner be treated fairly. He stated he believes a letter would need to be sent to every property owner notifying them of this.

Legislator Gouldman questioned if other counties have done this. He suggested researching what other counties have done and if this is feasible.

Legislator Sullivan stated similar things have been done.

Legislator Albano stated he does believe it is feasible.

Legislator Castellano stated if the property was foreclosed on, the property owner might settle with the County and agree to pay, for example, \$0.60 on the dollar. He stated in essence, they would be getting that reduction anyway if they wanted to fight it in a foreclosure case. He stated he likes that this would be a 60-day window and he does not believe very many people will come forward.

Legislator Albano thanked the Committee for including this discussion on the agenda this evening.

Item #6 – FYI/ Fund Transfer 22T353/ County Attorney/ NYMIR Invoices through Year End – Duly Noted

Item #7 – FYI/ Fund Transfer 22T356/ Board of Elections/ Purchase Letter Folder, Stuffer, Postage Machine to be Reimbursed by Federal Grant

Commissioner Primavera stated the grant is a State grant, not Federal.

Item #8 – Other Business

Chairwoman Addonizio made a motion to waive the rules and accept the two (2) other business items; Seconded by Legislator Sayegh. All in favor.

a. Approval/ Appointments to Electrical Board

Chairwoman Addonizio made a motion to pre-file the necessary resolution; Seconded by Legislator Nacerino. All in favor.

b. Approval/ Village of Cold Spring Request to Amend Use of ARPA Funding

Chairwoman Addonizio made a motion to pre-file the necessary resolution; Seconded by Legislator Sayegh. All in favor.

Item #9 – Adjournment

There being no further business, at 6:59pm Chairwoman Addonizio made a motion to adjourn; Seconded by Legislator Sayegh. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Administrative Assistant, Beth Robinson.