

To: The Honorable Mayor Robert (Bob) Leone  
Honorable Council Member George Huntington  
Honorable Council Member Merl Abel  
Honorable Council Member Robert Lombardo  
Honorable Council Member Rick Denison

From: *Citizens for Lower Sewer Cost*

Regarding: Local Sales Tax Initiatives

Dear Mayor and Town Council,

Thank you for your concern and willingness to help the community help themselves by way of granting permission for the preparation of a *special* ½ cent sales tax initiative, requiring a 2/3s voters' majority to pass, with the expressed *sole* purpose of directly lowering sewer assessment rates.

As you are all aware, the cost of this infrastructure deficit is unprecedented in our Town and has the potential of financial harm to community members.

For the past year, *Citizens for Lower Sewer Costs* Committee has been working with the town to evaluate potential local revenue options to lower the cost of the sewer system, and maintain essential local Town services, public safety being top priority, along with street repair and infrastructure.

We have met numerous times with town staff and members of the Town Council and have received extensive feedback from citizen groups and individuals regarding the community's desire for a sales tax initiative to reduce the cost of the sewer.

On the community's mind as well, is their desire for adequate public safety to feel safe in their homes and on the streets, and to meet the community's growing needs for improved streets and public infrastructure.

At the January 19, 2016 Town Council meeting, *Citizens Lower Sewer Cost* Committee recommended that the Town Council seriously consider two local revenue measures for the November 2016 ballot, one sales tax measure to lower the cost of the sewer, and a separate measure to provide needed local funding of Town services.

In April, 2016, with our continued input and involvement, the town commissioned an independent community survey of residents on these issues. The survey showed residents are interested in local revenue generation with 74% of respondents indicated they would support a special purpose measure to lower the cost of the sewer system for residents and 71% indicated they would support a general purpose measure for local town services.

**We are no fan of taxes**, however, we are very much aware that all potential sales tax revenue would remain local and directly benefit all of our citizens.

After careful consideration, we believe that the best option available to the Town is local revenue generation sales tax initiatives.

**We strongly recommend** that the Town Council place a ½ cent *special* sales tax measure to lower the cost of the sewer system for residents and a ½ cent sales tax measure for needed town services on the November 2016 ballot for voters' consideration.

Sincerely,

*Citizens for Lower Sewer Cost*

Committee Members

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