

August 9, 2001  
Le Mars, Iowa

Vice Chairman, Vander Hamm called to order. Present were Spies, Sitzmann, and Kestner. Absent was Philips.

Motion by Spies, seconded by Sitzmann, to adopt the following letter to the editor and to request the Le Mars Daily Sentinel to publish on August 10<sup>th</sup>. Ayes---Spies, Sitzmann, Kestner and Vander Hamm. Motion carried.

**LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

August 9, 2001

To the Citizens of Plymouth County:

Plymouth County needs a new jail/law enforcement center. The present jail does not meet state or federal standards, and the conditions pose a major liability risk for the county. If a funding mechanism is not approved to construct a new facility, Plymouth County would be forced to house all prisoners in another county at an estimated cost of \$520,000 a year. Because the county is responsible for housing its prisoners in a facility that meets state codes, the other funding mechanism would increase property taxes.

We can fund the jail/law enforcement center with a Local Option Sales Tax and lesson the burden on property owners. It is estimated that the tax revenue from the one-cent option tax would be \$1,403,242 the first year if all eleven incorporated areas (cities) and the unincorporated area (rural) have the local option sales tax. Of this amount, \$541,049 would be used to fund the proposed jail/law enforcement center. With input from citizens, local officials would determine how the remaining revenue is used.

On Tuesday, August 14, residents of Akron, Brunsville, Craig, LeMars, Remsen and the unincorporated areas of Plymouth County will have the opportunity to cast their vote for the proposed local option sales tax of one percent. The communities of Hinton, Kingsley, Merrill, Oyens, Struble and Westfield currently have the one-percent local option sales tax. Those communities already receive a check every three months for their share of the revenue generated by this local tax. If the tax is approved by all entities, each community's share of the revenue will increase.

If the community you live in does not pass the referendum, it is possible that you would pay the additional one-cent tax when purchasing items in other communities, but not receive any of the benefits from the additional revenue.

As we draw to the election date, we express our sincere appreciation to all the individuals and volunteers who put in many hours looking at alternative methods in funding this project.

We ask all registered voters eligible to vote to go to the polls on Tuesday, August 14 and vote YES for the local option sales tax.

Plymouth County Board of Supervisors

The Board adjourned at 10:50 A.M.

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K. Kae Meyer, Plymouth County Auditor

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Richard Philips, Chairman