



**REPORTS OF VILLAGE OFFICIALS – DIR. ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES**

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**i. Discussion on Possible Referendum for Bus Services**

**REPORT PREPARED BY:** Chris Haltom

**REPORT DATE:** July 20, 2012

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This report is being prepared to give some additional information on a possible tax levy increase for bus services for the Village of Howard.

As you may know, the village is prohibited by state law to increase the tax levy to an amount higher than our growth from the previous year plus new debt payments. In order to increase the tax levy above state law limits, a referendum would be required.

Should the village board entertain the idea of adding bus services in 2013 at a cost of \$100,000, there are two ways to allow funding for this service: 1. Cut spending by \$100,000 in 2013 or 2. Increase the levy limit through referendum by \$100,000 to allow for adding bus service. Spending cuts could be reviewed during budget workshops but a referendum would be required to be placed onto the November ballot. The November election, which includes US President's race, is expected to be a rather large turnout, possibly as high as 90% of registered voters in Howard.

In order to have an item on November 2012 ballot, the village would be required to submit to the Brown County Clerk's office a properly worded referendum stating the amount of the levy increase by August 28, 2012. The ballots for the August 14<sup>th</sup> election have already been printed and cannot be changed, so the November election is the only remaining election available for including a village referendum question.

This agenda item is a discussion item only and being created to allow board members to begin to discuss and contemplate the idea of a possible referendum for November. No action is required now.