

On Monday November 13, the Village Board will consider establishing two Business Districts within the Village. Our goal in doing this is to grow our local businesses through improvements in infrastructure, visual appeal, property improvement grants, and Capital Improvement projects that will entice customers to shop in Bethalto and new businesses to locate here.

We have held two public meetings on this issue and have created the following list of items that were discussed:

- There will be a 1% increase in Sales Tax within the business districts
- The 1% tax collected by retailers is restricted to expenses within the district for projects such as those identified in the Redevelopment Plan.
- Bethalto's Sales Tax would increase from 6.85% to 7.85%, still one of the lowest rates in Madison County.
- The current proposal is for two districts, Route 140 and Prairie/Downtown

Questions generated by local Business Owners at the Public Meetings:

Can the Business District be expanded to include businesses that are not currently included in the two proposed Business Districts?

The boundaries of the Districts can be altered or new Districts added, but only semi-annually. The Board has heard requests from local business owners desiring to see additional areas designated as business districts and has no objection to doing so at the next allowable time of April 1 2018.

Can the currently developed commercial areas along 140 be given priority for improvements before the undeveloped stretch of 140?

Yes, it can and we are willing to do so. However, if grants from other sources are received for improvements within the District this could possibly affect the priority list.

Will the formation of the Business Districts create a tax on labor or Real Estate?

No. In addition to this being addressed by our Consultant, neighboring municipalities with multiple Business Districts have confirmed that labor and real estate are not affected. This is only an increase in the existing Sales Tax. Additionally we have a local businessman that will be addressing the Board regarding additional locations of his that are located in Business Districts in a neighboring town. This gentleman will share his experiences of conducting business within a Business District and confirm for the Board that this is sales tax only and has nothing to do with labor or real estate.

How is the Development Consultant paid?

*A one-time up front fee. There is **no** commission or percentage of funds collected paid to the Consultant.*

Can the lifespan of a Business District be reduced?

Yes, a Business District can be terminated at any time by a vote of the Village Board

Does the Sales Tax increase have to be 1%?

The maximum allowed by law is 1%. The Village Board can vote to lower the percentage at any time.

Please refer to the Plan Documents for in depth information regarding the proposed Business Districts.