

To: Strasburg Village Council

I have reviewed Ordinance O-30-2016 Effective January 1, 2017.

I see the council members have given themselves another raise of approximately 13 percent starting on January 1, 2017. Raising their pay to \$5200 from the 2016 pay of \$4600.

In January 2016, council also raised their pay to \$4600 from the 2015 pay \$4000 a 15 percent raise.

Combined, this amounts to a 30 percent raise from 2015 to 2017. I don't know of anyone in this village that has had that kind of increase in their pay while doing the same job.

I did not research the 2016 pay of the employees of the village, but using the 2017 and 2018 pay scale in the ordinance I did some numbers to a sampling of their pay increase for that period. Each getting fifty cents per hour raise.

Full-Time Street Employee: 2017 to 2018 – 3.29 percent

Police Chief: 2017 to 2018 - 2.28 percent

Laborer II: 2017 to 2018 – 3.06 percent

All Other Firemen: 2017 to 2018 – 4.85 percent

Paramedic: 2017 to 2018 – 4.17 percent

This was a small raise for all the hard-working village employees. They are worth a lot more to the residents and they are much appreciated.

The U.S. Government approved a .03 percent raise (not 3 percent, but .03 percent) for all Social Security, Government retirees and veteran disability recipients. How can you justify raising the council member compensation by 13 percent?

I feel the recent raise in pay for the six council members is unwarranted. I do not think those in the position of managing the village should pay out of their own pocket to cover expensed incurred in the performance of their duties. I do feel that \$4600 is fair compensation.

Recently the village residents approved a one-half percent income tax increase from 1 percent. A fifty percent increase. This was asked for to make much needed improvements in the village and maintain daily operations. It just doesn't look good when the village has increased income tax and shortly afterword the compensation of the council members is increased twice in as many years. Service to our Country, State and local communities is a duty and privilege and each citizen should be proud to help where they can. As an elected council member, I do not think any of you were forced to run for that position. If serving your community creates a hardship on your lifestyle, then maybe it was a wrong choice on your part. You are free to resign at any time

As a tax paying resident, I don't appreciate seeing our tax money managed poorly. Please reconsider the 2017/18 raise for the council members.

Jerry Schultz