

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

600 West Fourth Street
Davenport, Iowa 52801-1030

Office: (563) 326-8749

E-Mail: board@scottcountyiowa.com



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February 8, 2018

Mayor Larry Guy
Blue Grass City Council Members
Blue Grass City Hall
114 North Mississippi Street
Blue Grass, IA 52773

RE: City of Blue Grass's proposed amendment to its Urban Renewal Plan to allow Tax Increment Financing of residential infrastructure improvements in Prairie Woods Estates 3rd Addition

Dear Mayor Guy:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed amendment to Blue Grass's Urban Renewal Plan. The Scott County Board of Supervisors has reviewed the information provided to our TIF Review Committee by your City Clerk Ann Schmidt. That information stated that the proposed amendment was to allow the use of Tax Increment Financing to pay the costs of sanitary sewer system and stormwater management improvements in the residential development known as Prairie Woods Estates 3rd Addition.

Over the last twenty years the Board of Supervisors has consistently opposed the use of TIF to cover the cost of infrastructure improvements in residential development. Those costs should be borne by the private developer who then recoups such costs in the sale of the individual lots. Providing TIF for such improvements gives an unfair advantage to such development when competing in the market place with other developments that bear the total cost of such development without TIF.

In September of 2017 the Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution establishing the principles under which it reviews TIF proposals when given the opportunity to comment as an affected taxing entity. Included in the resolution was the statement that "*Scott County adamantly opposes the use of tax increment financing to fund public and private infrastructure for single family residential development.*"

The Scott County Board of Supervisors appreciates the opportunity to comment on this URA Plan amendment and desires to continue a spirit of cooperation with the City of Blue Grass on municipal development projects but opposes the use of TIF for this residential development.

Sincerely,

Tony Knobbe, Chairman
Scott County Board of Supervisors

cc: Scott County Board of Supervisors
Mahesh Sharma, Scott County Administrator