

Stafford County Country Club is a valued member of Stafford County. For over fifty years, the Golf Course has served the public for social enjoyment, exercise, outdoor and indoor gatherings, business meetings and other uses. The club was formed not to be profitable, but to continue to serve the community and its members.

The club has been used by the High School Golf team and has hosted regional golf events which have showcased our community. The course has served as a Cross-Country venue which has attracted numerous participants and has received newspaper and TV coverage. Through the actions of the course, the after school STARS program has raised money for continued activities and the Breast Cancer Golf Tournament has raised over \$20,000 for the American Cancer Society to be used locally to assist patients. Organizations like the Kanza Co-op and Elks use the golf course for special events.

2012 sales tax: \$3199.66
2012 property tax: \$454.19
2012 real estate tax: \$1638.36
35 golf carts taxed for township.

Over 500 people from outside the Stafford, St. John, Macksville area played golf on the course during the 2012 season. The course can serve as an attraction to Stafford County.

Local elementary P.E. students have visited the course while learning basic skills of the game of golf.

With the difficult economic times right now, many entities are struggling with funding issues. Stafford County Country Club is one of those struggling with retiring or moving membership ,rising upkeep costs, and all the while trying to be a viable part of the community.

Stafford County Country Club is seeking .25 mills per year in order to be used for:

1. equipment maintenance and improvement (mowers, cart rentals, etc)
2. course management such as aeration, weed control and fertilizing
3. course stability for continued participation in the county economic development.
4. items that have not been able to be budgeted for because of lack of funds i.e. chemicals, equipment, upkeep, maintenance, etc.

The course would offer additional programs in return such as:

1. Youth golf on Thursdays throughout the summer where children (ages 8-13) play free with an adult paying half price. Ages 14-17 play free.
2. Cooperation with the county Recreation Commissions to access youth programs.
3. Passes for visiting economic development groups or commissioner designees to showcase our community.
4. Perhaps a name change to further highlight Stafford County.

As per the last time we met, we have continued to publicize the course, we have communicated with the recreation commissions and we have expanded our membership with special programs and membership deals as the commissioners have asked. We have also done some research with other communities and their golf funding. We have discovered that most municipal courses generate approximately 70% of the operating budget through green fees, rentals, and income. The rest of the budget is from the city or county. This information and the events of the past few months have left the club with a list of options.

1. If the commission chooses, \$80,000 per year would guarantee the continued operation of Stafford County Golf Course. The course would be essentially run by the county. The county would determine the employees, equipment, fertilizing, weed control and course management. Operation hours and rules would be set by the county. STAFFORD COUNTY PROPERTY OWNERS COULD PLAY FOR FREE SINCE THEIR TAXES FUND THE COURSE.
2. .25 mills to the Course as previously discussed
3. If no support is given by the county, the course may be forced to close or be sold. If the course is closed, Stafford County would lose a viable asset to the county. If the course is sold, there would be no control over the ownership. Youth programs, use of the course by groups, special tournaments, and other activities would no longer be guaranteed.

In light of these options, we are asking the county to support the above options number 1 or number 2.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to present this document.

Respectfully,

Stafford County Country Club