

Friday 5.4

We're back!! We hope everyone had a safe and happy New Year's Eve and are looking forward to a wonderful 2024.

A quick reminder: the South Barrington Park District created #Friday5 to answer questions regarding the auction/sale of Area N on Feb. 28. Our hope is to open the lines of communication between the park district and the people affected by the sale. As we said last week, questions or statements by residents were found on social media and answered here for everyone to read.

If you asked a question somewhere and we did not see it, check back next week to see if your question or statement is answered. If we missed it completely and want your question answered, feel free to send the question to Executive Director Jay Morgan at jmorgan@sbpd.net.

Here's the twist for this week: We expected this to happen at some point, but this came up quicker than we anticipated: This week we have only ONE question. That's right... maybe it was the holidays or people are happy with the sale, but the questions have trickled down to one single question this week.

Either way – here is the question and answer:

Q: In the first Friday 5, it mentions that a church can bid on the land. Based on the latest Friday 5, it indicates that while a church can bid on the land, it cannot buy the land or rather that the PD will not sell Area N to a church since churches do not pay property taxes. Is this accurate?

A: Not entirely – but we'll get into it here. Also, we don't want to pin this down to one specific group like the church... so instead, we'll answer it like this:

The way it works is anyone who would win the bid for the contract will be required to pay property taxes, regardless if they are considered "tax exempt." So, ANY entity that purchases the property and currently has 501C3 tax exemption status agrees to continue to pay property taxes on it (including the aforementioned church). So, basically, a church, school, charity can still choose to purchase the property. HOWEVER, if they chose to go out for bid and wins the auction on Feb. 28, the entity goes in knowing it will be required to pay property taxes on the parcel after the purchase is completed.

See you next week!