

need to think about that...

SENATOR WILL: One minute.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: ...from the perspective of is there any reason for us to believe that that will provide any better outcome than what we have right now? I'm certainly not crying wolf with this amendment. I'm not trying to raise a problem where it doesn't exist. I have a great deal of faith in our towns and villages. They're very creative. They respond to the needs of their communities as diverse as they are around the state. I'm concerned because I'm trying to take a broad view of this, look at it from an overall statewide basis but still recognize that there are a lot of individual differences amongst those various communities. I believe the amendment before you is a sensible adjustment to the committee's work. It still reduces the levies from what they currently are...

SENATOR WILL: Time.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: ...able to levy and think that it is one that we should adopt.

SENATOR WILL: Thank you, Senator Maurstad. Senator Coordsen.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. Perhaps an example of how terribly burdensome these requirements are might be appropriate in light of some of the conversation that we've had about villages and the other smaller units of government. If you wanted to look on the bottom part, Section 2 on page 4, you will find, and I will just use an arbitrary example of a village that had 700 residents and that for rural Nebraska is actually a pretty good size town; 700 residents and we're going to assume that those 700 residents are really public spirited and there are 400 registered voters, 400 registered voters which exceeds any statistical percentage. According to this bill, if they wish to have a project that caused a levy that was greater than 45 cents, 40 of the village residents, remember, we have 5 town board members, too, in most cases that are going to be there, are going to have to come to an annual meeting that's publicized in the papers. And the majority of those present have to vote to exceed the limit in whatever amount they want. And statistically in my hypothetical example, that would mean in this village of 700 people that 21