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ORDINANCE NO.

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 167, ARTICLE II OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE TOWN OF DEWEY BEACH TO ADJUST THE BEACH ASSESSMENT TAX RATE FOLLOWING THE SUSSEX COUNTY PROPERTY TAX REASSESSMENT

WHEREAS, the Town of Dewey Beach levies an annual Beach Assessment Tax upon all taxable real property within the corporate limits of the Town, based on the Sussex County assessed value of such property; and

WHEREAS, Sussex County has recently completed a countywide property tax reassessment, which significantly altered the assessed values of properties within the Town; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Commissioners of the Town of Dewey Beach desire to maintain revenue neutrality in the Town’s Beach Assessment Tax following this reassessment, ensuring that the total amount of revenue generated from this tax remains approximately equal to that collected prior to the reassessment; and

WHEREAS, the Town has determined that adjusting the Beach Assessment Tax rate from \$0.40 per \$100 of assessed value to \$0.0022 per \$100 of assessed value will achieve this revenue-neutral objective.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED AND ORDAINED, by the Commissioners of the Town of Dewey Beach, Sussex County, Delaware, in session met, as follows:

Section 1. Amend Chapter 167-10 Article II of the Code of Ordinances as depicted by strikeouts and substitutions depicted below:

The tax rate shall be ~~\$0.40~~ **\$0.0111** per \$100 of the ~~1992~~ assessed value as determined by Sussex County. The Commissioners of Dewey Beach by majority vote may increase the rate of an aggregate of 20% in the original tax rate. Any tax rate change or changes exceeding 20% in the aggregate of the original tax rate shall require approval by referendum.

Section 2. If any provisions of this Ordinance shall be deemed or held to be invalid or unenforceable for any reason whatsoever, then such invalidity or unenforceability shall not affect any other provision of this Ordinance which may be given effect without such invalid or unenforceable provision, and to this end, the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby declared to be severable.

Section 3. This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon its passage by a majority vote of the Commissioners of the Town of Dewey Beach.

Adopted by at least a majority of the Commissioners of the Town of Dewey Beach on this 19th day of December, 2025.

SYNOPSIS

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This ordinance amends Chapter 167-10, Article II, of the Municipal Code of the Town of Dewey Beach to adjust the Beach Assessment Tax rate from \$0.40 per \$100 of assessed property value to \$0.0111 per \$100 of assessed value. This change is necessary to maintain revenue neutrality following the Sussex County property tax reassessment, ensuring that the total revenue generated from the Beach Assessment Tax remains approximately the same as before the reassessment.

Mayor, William Stevens

Town Manager, Bill Zolper