

Joliet Herald News

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PRESS CLIPPING

Collectors sound like a fine idea

Some people haven't been paying their debts and fines to Will County and to municipalities in Will County. The Will County Board is considering hiring a debt collection agency to find the scofflaws and to make them pay up.

County officials estimate they could receive between \$2 million and \$3 million on currently unpaid debts. County finance director Paul Rafac explained the municipalities owed money and the debt collection firm would also get their cuts. The program under consideration wouldn't cost the county any money.

While we wouldn't wish to see local residents hounded by overly aggressive debt collectors, county officials seem to have that issue covered. One debt collection company under consideration, Harris & Harris of Chicago, requires employees to be professional and courteous, and limits calls to reasonable hours.

We applaud the Will County Board on a good idea whose time has come. Money owed the county and municipalities belongs to the taxpayers. If everyone paid the debts they owe local governments in a timely manner, just maybe our next tax increase could be a little delayed and a little smaller.

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