

VILLAGE

Board approves 2019 village budget

Mike Ellis

The Clarendon Hills village board approved the 2019 village budget at its meeting at village hall on Dec. 3.

According to trustee Carol Jorissen, there were three substantial alterations to the budget since it was previously presented, to wit:

- The postponement of the Eastern Ave. pedestrian bridge project until 2020;
- An unexpected cost of \$70,000 incurred due to the collapse of the stormwater system at Hinsdale Golf Club (HGC), for which the village is presumed to be liable; and
- The creation of a separate account to track the collection of donations for the Richmond Education Gardens, as suggested by the village's auditors.

Village manager Kevin Barr said he believes the village is responsible for the HGC stormwater system as part of its ongoing cooperative agreement with the club.

"My understanding has always been...that the village's water system is designed to flow into the Hinsdale Golf

[Club], and that they take a lot of water for us, and that they flood accordingly when Prospect Park floods," trustee Don Knoll said. ... "It's part of the natural flow and design of the water system, and I'm assuming it will be the village's responsibility to maintain."

Additionally, Barr said the system failure also impacts residents on Middaugh Road adjacent to HGC.

Park Ave. basin

Trustee Wil Freve communicated to the board that the public services subcommittee has recommended the village not proceed with any attempts to ameliorate the flooding occasioned by the Park Ave. basin at the western end of the village.

"This extensive study over the last couple of months revealed that there are excessive costs and limited benefits from all of the study options," Freve said.

In June, the village engineer prepared a study of five potential options to mitigate flooding issues in this area, and two more were presented to the subcommittee.

"There was no merit in pursuing those any further,"

Freve said.

According to Freve, the option with the most promising prospects was the fourth, which called for creating more capacity in the Dallas Street basin in Westmont.

"Unfortunately, this option also came with the highest price-tag of about \$2.4 million," Freve said.

In addition, Freve said the Dallas basin involves an inherent complication with flooding, and by impacting it, the village would effectively be "transferring the flooding problem from our community to their community."

Even if this option had been pursued, Freve said residents near the Park Ave. basin would have experienced only a relatively minor degree of relief.

"There were still a considerable number of homes that would not have had full protection from the 100-year storm," he said. ... "There was a tangible benefit there, but the overall benefit compared to the cost of this project was deemed to not be feasible."

Knoll concurred with the information presented by Freve.

"I think we've explored this in as much detail as we can, and unfortunately, there's just not a cost-effective solution to help the residents at this time," he said.

In other news...

• The board approved permanent restrictions prohibiting parking on the east side of Middaugh Road from Chicago Ave. to 205 Middaugh, and at 209 and 211 Middaugh, (207 Middaugh only excepted).

The board had previously approved temporary parking restrictions, which police chief Paul Dalen reported had improved both safety and traffic-flow at an earlier meeting.

Freve inquired what the process of evaluation would be for similar areas of concern in the village.

Dalen replied that if a resident were to submit a complaint, the village would determine whether a traffic study should be undertaken.

• The board approved an intergovernmental agreement (IGA) with DuPage County at the same meeting.

According to Freve, this IGA is a condition of the village receiving a \$100,000

grant from the county for stormwater mitigation in the Chestnut Ave. alley north of the railroad tracks.

• The board approved class "C" and class "H" liquor licenses for Frida Kahlo, the new Mexican restaurant opening in place of Agumiel in downtown Clarendon Hills.

• Community development director Dan Ungerleider said the village received a pair of \$1,000 checks from the Clarendon Hills Lions Club, one of which was for the Richmond Education Gardens.

• Citizens for Clarendon Hills (C4CH) responded via e-mail communication to Barr's Nov. 30 memo to the board concerning a recent mailer distributed by C4CH that referenced village water rates.

C4CH took exception to Barr's reference to "borrowing for maintenance costs."

"Never has C4CH ever advocated for bonds to be used for maintenance costs.

"That would not be prudent, nor logical, nor normal accounting practice.

"It would be prudent and normal to issue 20-year bonds for pipelines and fire

hydrant replacement.

"We believe Kevin Barr made a mistake here."

In addition, C4CH found fault with the following statement Barr made in the memo: "Further issuing debt to be paid by future water customers specifically to provide reduced rates for current customers is *not* a standard practice."

"This statement is fundamentally flawed in several ways.

"First, future debt is paid for by future customers, so it is impossible to differentiate current customers and future customers.

"All future customers benefit from a lower water rate, and would benefit from the use of debt, as they might also benefit from the new water lines.

"Water rates could be reduced by spreading out the capital payments with bonds.

"Lower water rates also improve property values, and lower the operating costs for citizens—both are good things, and should be the objective of our civil servants and our village board."



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