



Village of Clarendon Hills Trustee Topics

May/June 2011

Message from the President and Board

Dear Neighbors,

The Village begins a new fiscal year on May 1. For the past few years, we have discussed the impact that the recession has had on the Village. While the recession is “officially” over, we continue to experience its consequences and do not expect to see much progress at the Village level in the 2011-2012 fiscal year.

While the nation’s macro-economic statistics and unemployment figures point to a better future, our local economy – as measured by residential real estate sales, new housing starts, and commercial development projects – is experiencing only marginal improvement. As a result, the Village’s revenue growth has been flat for the last several years and is not keeping pace with essential services and required expenditures. Our long-term financial projections indicate that the current revenue versus expense trend is not sustainable.

During our budget workshop held in March and subsequently as part of the overall budget process, the Village Board and staff began identifying ways to ensure the Village’s long-term financial health. Over the last three fiscal years, the Village has eliminated or deferred \$1.9 million in expenses from the total annual budget of \$12.4 million. The deferment of capital programs and expenditures cannot continue indefinitely, however, and will ultimately result in greater future costs. So far, the Village has been able to make these reductions without significantly impacting current services to its residents, but some of these cuts are not sustainable. To address these concerns, the Village Board will continue to study ways to increase revenues, while of course keeping a watchful eye on expenditures.

One option that we have begun to examine is to seek approval for Home Rule authority through a local referendum. The Board recently appointed an ad hoc committee to study the potential for Home

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Make summer plans in CH! Dancin’ in the Street in its 12th year

The 2011 Dancin’ in the Street summer concert series kicks off in June. Fifth Third Bank will again sponsor the ever-popular summer concert series. This year marks the 12th consecutive year for the concert series in downtown Clarendon Hills.

The 2010 concert series will run Wednesdays for six weeks beginning June 22 and ending July 27.

Look for the band line up coming soon on the Village’s website and on the Dancin’ in the Street Facebook page.

The Village’s Special Events Committee works hard each year to plan and organize the event. The Committee members work to find high-quality bands, local food vendors and sponsors. With out their volunteer effort, the summer concert series would not be possible.

During the concert series, food will be provided each week by different local restaurants, including Maijean, Scapa, Village Gourmet, Redd Herring, Absolutely Delicious and Uncle Bub’s BBQ. Beer will be available, and All Wined Up, a specialty wine shop in downtown Clarendon Hills, will provide wine in the beverage tent. Food and bev-



The Neverly Brothers perform during Dancin’ in the Street in 2010.

erages will be available starting at 6:30 p.m. with music kicking off at 7:00 p.m.

Each year the concert series serves as a community gathering place where families can enjoy the summer and catch up with friends and neighbors. The event, which takes place on Pros-

pect Avenue in downtown Clarendon Hills, also showcases many downtown businesses to residents and visitors.

Please note that no private alcohol, skates, or skateboards are allowed downtown during the event.

For additional event information, please contact the Village at (630) 286-5402 or visit www.clarendonhills.us/concerts.cfm.

Be in the know: Find Dancin’ in the Street on Facebook to find out about bands, food and more

Chamber plans Daisy Days

The Clarendon Hills Chamber of Commerce will host its annual Daisy Days Celebration in downtown Clarendon Hills on June 17 and June 18. Daisy Dash will take place June 19.

This year’s Daisy Days will feature a “Taste of Clarendon Hills,” giving attendees the opportunity to sample special offerings from many of the restaurants in downtown Clarendon Hills.

Daisy Days will begin Friday evening with the band Junkyard Groove. Saturday’s feature band will be The Neverly Brothers.

Daisy Days will also feature carnival rides and other entertainment, as well as an opportunity to meet local business owners. Look for more information to come on the Chamber’s website, www.clarendonhillschamber.com, and in upcoming issues of the Trustee Topics e-mail newsletter.

Culinary Treasures benefits Historical Society

The Second Annual Culinary Treasures Event will take place on Friday, May 13 from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Clarendon Hills Park District. The event will feature food, music, wine and a silent auction.

Tickets are available on the Historical Society’s website, Clarendon Hills Bank, Carpet Showcase, All Wined Up and Village Gourmet. Tickets are \$50 each.

Proceeds will benefit the Historical society and the renovation of Heritage Hall. Information about Culinary Treasures and the Historical Society is available on their website at www.clarendonhillshistory.org.



Board approves FY2012 Budget

At its April 18 meeting, the Village Board approved the Fiscal Year 2011-2012 Budget. The Board reviewed the budget at a special workshop on March 19 and held a public hearing during the April 18 meeting.

The Village's total budgeted expenditures for Fiscal Year 2012 are \$12.4 million. Over the past three fiscal years, the Village has reduced or deferred \$1.9 million in expenditures, including additional \$227,000 for FY2012.

The economic turmoil continues to take its toll on the Village's overall financial condition. While the decline in revenues seems to have leveled off, any increases in revenues have been minimal and have not kept pace with required expenditure growth.

The Village receives revenue from property tax, sales tax, income tax, franchise fees, interest earnings, fines, services charges, permit fees and grants.

Revenues

Property taxes are the largest portion of the Village's revenue. The weakness in the housing market has limited property tax growth over the past several years, with a projected increase of 3.6 percent for FY2012 from the prior year. This increase includes the 2.7 percent Consumer Price Index (CPI) at year end 2009 and 0.9 percent growth from new construction. Property tax rates are based on the Equalized Assessed Valuation (EAV) of property in the Village. The Downers Grove Township Assessor estimates that the Village's EAV will decline by 5.79 percent.

However, strong financial management has helped the Village weather the past several years. Overall, General Fund revenues, which provide for the core operations of the Village, are projected to increase 3.6 percent to \$5.7 million.

Also troubling for the Village's revenue forecast is the uncertainty of the state shared revenue distribution. The State of Illinois collects and distributes sales and income tax to local governments, however distributions are currently four months behind schedule and there has been discussion in the state legislature of reducing or eliminating the municipal share of these revenues. The Village will continue to

monitor any actions by the state legislature that will impact the Village.

Expenditures

As a result of these factors, the Village has continued to reduce expenditures to maintain the Village's financial health. General Fund expenditures increased by 1.8 percent, while expenditures for the Village's core operations decreased by 1.3 percent. A serious commitment was made by the Village to reduce costs to balance the budget while maintaining vital services.

Capital Projects highlights for 2011-12 include the Village's road improvement program, which targets those streets in the Village with the lowest condition rating. The Village will continue with its

new road standard, which installs concrete shoulders instead of the gravel shoulders that have been used in the past. The Village will also be making improvements in the downtown area, in part through a grant the Village received to improve the streetscape in downtown. Work is also planned to replace an aging major water main in downtown Clarendon Hills to accompany the streetscape improvement project.

Long-term projections

The Village has continued its efforts to control expenditures and to seek alternative revenues sources to support Village operations. However, if revenue growth remains low, projections indicate that even with very conservative expenditure growth, the Village will fall below its required 40 percent reserve balance by 2020.

To ensure the Village's long-term financial health, the Village Board is currently studying options for revenue growth for the Village. One such option being explored is to seek Home Rule authority for the Village. Home Rule would allow the Village greater authority to seek revenues from various sources. A Home Rule Research Committee has been appointed to study Home Rule and its potential impacts and benefits for Clarendon Hills. To learn more about the Village's Fiscal Year 2012 Budget and the Village's long-term financial projections, visit the Village's website at www.clarendonhills.us/2012budget.cfm.

To learn more about the Fiscal Year 2012 Budget and the Village's long-term financial condition, visit the Village's website at www.clarendonhills.us/2012budget.cfm.

Village welcomes new Board, thanks outgoing Trustee

The Village will welcome a new Board of Trustees at its meeting on Monday, May 16.

At the April 5 consolidated election, Village President Thomas Karaba was re-elected to his second term as Village President. Trustee Paul Pedersen was elected to a third term and Trustee Steve Wallace was elected to his second term in office. Paul Flood, who previously served on the Village Board, was also elected as Trustee. Village Clerk Dawn Tandle was also re-elected.

The Board also will bid farewell to Trustee Diane Smith Cochran who has served on the Village Board of Trustees since she was appointed in 2005. Mrs. Cochran was then elected in 2007. As a Trustee, Mrs. Cochran has served as the Chair of the Public Safety Committee and as Co-Chair of the Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs Committee. The Village would like to thank Mrs. Cochran for her loyal and dutiful service to the Village.

Village anticipates water rate increase

The DuPage Water Commission recently approved its annual budget, which includes a \$0.20 increase in the cost of water sold to municipalities. The Village purchases Lake Michigan water through the DWC.

The Village Board has historically passed this rate to residents in the Village as the Village's Water Fund could not absorb the rate increase without significantly affecting the ability to invest in the water utility infrastructure.

The water rate will increase to \$8.13 from \$7.93 per 1,000 gallons of water. This represents a 2.5 percent increase.

New Business: McCarthy Communications, Inc.

McCarthy Communications, Inc.
Owner: Nancy McCarthy
1 Walker Ave., Suite 202
630-734-3962

ZBA/PC: May 19

Case 449-12 Fairview Ct. (Front porch variation)



Road Improvement Program construction to begin this summer

The Village's Road Improvement Program aims to pro-actively maintain Village streets and the investment made in them. This year's program targets roads impacted by the Flag Creek Water Reclamation District construction, as well as those streets with the lowest condition rating.

Construction is anticipated to begin this summer and conclude during the fall. Homeowners will be notified of work directly impacting their property. Residents can also stay up to date on the construction plans by checking the Village's website and by subscribing to Trustee Topics e-mail.

The streets planned for improvement include Fairview Court, Juliet Court, Iroquois and Mohawk from Norfolk to Algonquin, North Jackson from Ogden to Chicago Avenue, Hudson Avenue from Hosek Park to Walker, Ridge Avenue from Western to Walker, Eastern Avenue from Park to Harris, and Harris from Holmes to Route 83.

The 2011 Road Improvement program will incorporate the Village's new road standard, which was first installed on Grant, Churchill and a segment of Hudson Avenue. The new road design uses a concrete shoulder instead of the previous gravel shoulder. The concrete shoulder has a higher cost to install, but it extends the life of the road surface, reducing maintenance costs over the life of the road.

As with the last road improvement cycle, the road improvement projects will be funded in part through Special Service Areas (SSAs), which will share the cost of road repair and resurfacing between homeowners and the



The Road Program will incorporate the Village's new road standard, which uses concrete shoulders.

Village. The new SSA rate would be the same or lower than previous SSAs for road repairs and will not overlap with the previous SSAs. Homeowners proposed to be included in an SSA have been notified by the Village.

The proposed road program will benefit from lower-than-anticipated construction, with bids coming in 23 percent under the engineer's estimates. In addition, debt costs are expected to be lower as a result of the Village's recent S&P rating upgrade to AAA.

Flag Creek construction

Flag Creek Water Reclamation District will soon conclude work in Clarendon Hills on its major sanitary system upgrade.

However, there will be additional construction on roads impacted by the project. FCWRD will be doing initial restoration on those streets most impacted. In addition, the Village is currently negotiating with FCWRD for the Village to conduct the final street restoration for the project. This would ensure the work is completed to the Village's standards.

Reminders

Amnesty Day in May

The Village's annual Refuse Amnesty Day will take place on your regular refuse collection day the week of May 16. Amnesty Day allows for residents of single-family homes to place unlimited unwanted items free of charge.

Please note that all materials must be bundled or in a container weighing no more than 50 pounds. Bulk items such as couches, chairs, bicycles and major appliances will be accepted. Construction material is limited to two cubic yards.

Refuse should not be set out more than one half hour before sunset on the day prior to collection. Please note that yard waste will be collected through the normal procedures, requiring a sticker. Household hazardous waste will not be accepted. If you miss the pick-up, it will not be rescheduled.

Vehicle Licenses Now Available

The Police Department is now accepting vehicle license applications. The Police Station, located at 448 Park Ave., is open 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday and 8 a.m. to noon on Saturday. License applications are also available at Village Hall during regular business hours. Vehicle stickers must be displayed by July 1, 2011 and are required for all vehicles registered in Clarendon Hills or kept in the Village. Licenses not obtained by July 31 carry a 50 percent penalty. Senior citizens qualify for a discounted Village vehicle license.

Pet licenses will also be available. A current rabies inoculation certificate is required. Pet licenses are \$15.

President's Message

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Rule in Clarendon Hills and to assess its pros and cons. Municipalities with Home Rule have greater flexibility to do what fits for their community rather than what the State of Illinois requires, including impact fees and taxes. In Illinois, Home Rule is automatically granted to municipalities with populations of more than 25,000 or through referendum. More than 80% of the population in Illinois lives under Home Rule. We anticipate that the Committee will present its findings to the Board and to the public some time this fall.

The Village Board and I look forward

to learning more about Home Rule. As with any democratic process, we also look forward to getting input from the community and looking hard at whether it is the right thing to pursue for Clarendon Hills.

Amid the troubling news about the pressures on the Village's long-term financial outlook, we recently received a vote of confidence in how the Village is managing its finances. Standard & Poor's credit rating service recently improved the Village's general obligation debt rating to AAA from AA+. The S&P cited the Village's continued stability and strong financial operations. The Village's low debt burden, strong reserves

and strong income and wealth levels among its population were also highlighted in the report. Less than 1% of Illinois municipalities have an AAA rating. I am very proud of (and thankful for) the prudent, long-term financial planning that has been undertaken by the Board, staff and prior Village Presidents and Trustees, and which has resulted in this vote of confidence by S&P.

You can learn more about the Village's budget and financial condition in this edition of Trustee Topics and by visiting the Village's website at www.clarendonhills.us.

Best regards,
Tom Karaba
Village President



Trustee Topics

Village of Clarendon Hills
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Clarendon Hills, IL 60514

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Community Schedule: May/June 2011

Monday, May 2

Village Board Meeting, 7 p.m.

Friday, May 13

Historical Society's
Culinary Treasures, 6 to 9 p.m.
Clarendon Hills Park District

Monday, May 16

Village Board Meeting, 7 p.m.

Monday, May 16

Refuse Amnesty Day, North of 55th St.

Wednesday, May 18

Refuse Amnesty Day, South of 55th St.

Tuesday, May 17

Special Events Committee Meeting, 7 p.m.
Village Hall Board Room

Thursday, May 19

ZBA/PC Meeting, 7:30 p.m.

Monday, June 6

Village Board Meeting, 7 p.m.

Monday, June 20

Village Board Meeting, 7 p.m.

Friday, June 17

Daisy Days, 6 to 10 p.m.

Downtown Clarendon Hills

Saturday, June 18

Daisy Days, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Saturday, June 18

Daisy Dash, 8 a.m.

Wednesday, June 22

Dancin' in the Street, 6:30 p.m.

Downtown Clarendon Hills

Wednesday, June 29

Dancin' in the Street, 6:30 p.m.

Downtown Clarendon Hills

Village Board Actions | March/April 2011

Passage of Ordinances: (1) adopting the Village's fiscal year 2011/2012 operating budget; (2) providing for the salary ranges for non-union Village employees and the pay rates for part-time and paid-on-call firefighters/paramedics for the year beginning May 1, 2011 and ending April 30, 2012; (3) proposing the establishment of Special Service Area Number 23 and providing for a public hearing and other procedures in connection with the Special Service Area; (4) amending various chapters of the Village's Building Codes regarding increased permit fees; (5) authorizing the sale of two surplus Police Department vehicles and cellular phones and accessories by eBay auction; and (6) authorizing the sale of a surplus Public Works Department dump truck with snow plow by eBay auction;

Adoption of Resolutions: (1) adopting the Municipal Legislative Positions and Priorities of the DuPage Mayors and Managers Conference for the 2011 Legislative Session; (2) approving a Landscape Maintenance Agreement

between the Village and The T.L.C. Group, Ltd.; (3) extending the period of participation in the South Central DuPage County Benefit Pool for an additional three year period; (4) approving an Intergovernmental Agreement among the Village, the Village of Hinsdale, and the Clarendon Hills Park District for the installation of a new automated gate on the grounds of the Lions Park Pool; (5) approving an Intergovernmental Agreement between the Village and the Flag Creek Water Reclamation District regarding the restoration of Harris Avenue; and (6) approving the annual employment contract for Village Prosecutor Linda Pieczynski.

Authorization to: (1) renew the contract for the fiscal year 2011/12 State bulk rock salt joint purchase with North American Salt Company; (2) issue a raffle license to the Robert Crown Center for its June 21, 2011 raffle; (3) approve the 2011 Zoning Map amendments and publication of the notice for the map; and (4) approve a temporary special event liquor license for the 2011 "Dancin' in the Street" summer concert series.

Contact

Village Board of Trustees

Village President:

Tom Karaba 630-286-5420

Trustees

Allan Alongi 630-286-5421

Edward Reid 630-286-5422

Mary Williams 630-286-5423

Paul Pedersen 630-286-5424

Diane Cochran 630-286-5425

Steve Wallace 630-286-5426

Village Clerk

Dawn Tandle 630-286-5403

Contact the Village

www.clarendonhills.us

Village Hall: 630-286-5400

Finance Press 2

Building Press 3

Administration Press 4

Fax: 630-286-5409

Public Works: 630-286-4750

Non-emergency:

Police: 630-286-5460

Fire: 630-286-5430

Village Manager: Randall Recklaus

Director of Finance: Peg Hartnett

Director of Public Works: John Hays

Directory of Community

Development: Michael Brown

Police Chief: Patrick Anderson

Fire Chief Brian D. Leahy

Community Numbers

Park District 630-323-2626

Public Library 630-323-8188