

Village of Clarendon Hills

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Press Release

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Village Board and Library to consider sharing phone, IT services

The Village of Clarendon Hills and the Clarendon Hills Public Library may soon be sharing phone, Internet and information technology services under a proposal that brings cost savings to both.

Over the last several months, the Village and Library have negotiated an intergovernmental agreement to add the Library to the Village's current Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) phone system, Internet services and information technology consulting contract. The agreement also formalizes many financial and benefit management services the Village currently provides to the Library, including payroll, IMRF, and tax levy services among others. The Library Board approved the agreement at its July 19 meeting. It will now go to the Village Board for consideration on August 1.

The Library's phone system was in need of replacement and updating. The Village upgraded its phone system several years ago and had excess capacity that could accommodate the Library. As part of the agreement, the Library will pay the Village \$730 per month, or a savings of \$320 per month over its current monthly costs for the same services. The Village will incur an additional \$425 expense for adding the Library to its phone, Internet and IT services. The net gain of \$305 for the Village recognizes the expense and time the Village has already invested in establishing its phone and Internet services and the ongoing costs of managing its information technology contract. Over five years, the Library is expected to save nearly \$10,000 after paying for infrastructure costs necessary to connect them to the Village's network. The Village will gain approximately \$18,000.

"The Library has had a new phone system on its wish list for sometime and has been investigating increasing its bandwidth to provide faster Internet services to our patrons," Library Board of Trustees President Lisa Cosgrove said. "We are pleased this agreement with the Village will enable us to achieve these goals more economically."

Village President Thomas Karaba agreed.

"We are glad our two governments, which serve the same constituency, will be able to work together, save money, and improve services," he said. "This partnership will truly be win-win for both organizations."