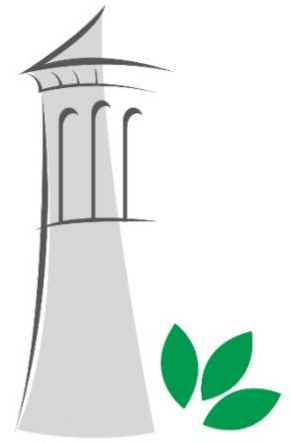


Western Springs FROM THE PRESIDENT

October 13, 2022



October 10 Board Meeting (the full agenda and meeting video is posted [online](#)):

It's my pleasure to announce that the Village has a [new Director of Community Development Director](#), Tony Budzikowski. Our meeting on Monday began with welcoming Tony to Western Springs. His appointment was approved by the Trustees at the last meeting, and he officially began his role on September 30.

The following committees presented items for consideration during the workshop portion of the meeting:

Properties and Recreation: The Committee recommended the Board approve the sale of a piece of right-of-way property, which was unanimously approved.

Public Works and Water: The Committee updated the Board on the Central Avenue reconstruction plans, which includes several utility conflicts that require resolution and add to the costs of the project. The Board unanimously approved a joint funding agreement with IDOT to help resolve these additional conflicts. Similarly, the Spring Rock Park water main replacement project is also impacted by utility location and condition. The Engineering Department is working on resolving these complications. The Committee recommended the Board approve a contract for engineering relative to asphalt work throughout the Village, to be completed in 2023, at its next meeting.

Public Health and Safety: The Committee recommended changes to parking restrictions at Field Park School and Lawn/Burlington. These proposed changes were previously reviewed by the Transportation and Safety Commission, the Public Health and Safety Committee, and Village staff. The recommended parking changes at Field Park School were first brought to the Board's attention by a concerned parent and the new restrictions are intended to improve safety near the school. In addition, changes are proposed to the 800-900 blocks of Lawn and Burlington. In this location, 2-hour parking (8 am – 4 pm) will be imposed 7 days a week, rather than being limited to Monday - Friday. This restriction prevents parking by those taking the train for a weekend day in the city and will open up those parking spots for local businesses and their patrons on weekends.

Finance: The Committee recommended increasing the competitive bidding threshold (for budgeted items) and the Village Manager's purchasing authority, which are both currently \$10,000. The Committee proposes that both amounts be increased to \$25,000 – which is similar to many other municipalities and is also recommended by the Illinois Municipal Code. This increase only applies to items that have been previously approved by the Board as part of the budget process and is designed to increase purchasing efficiency.

General Government: The Committee recommended the Board approve a 6-month extension of the personnel contract for GovTempsUSA.

Manager Baer reminded everyone that LRS collects organic yard waste from April through November (in a stickered brown bag or yard waste cart) and noted that the Village's leaf collection program begins October 24. More information is in the paragraph below. She also commended Police, Fire & EMS on their response to the tragic multi-vehicle accident

that occurred last week on Ogden Avenue, and recognized staff member Daisy Chavez for her role in assisting those involved in the accident.

The next Board of Trustees meeting will be Monday, October 24.

Leaf Collection Program Begins:

- While the greenest method of leaf disposal is to mow/mulch or compost, residents also have the option of disposing of leaves in craft brown bags (with sticker)/LRS yard waste carts or raking them to the curb for collection by the Village. The Village's leaf collection program begins on October 24 and runs through the end of November. Details are available on the [website](#) and an orange postcard has been mailed to households. Please: no branches, plants, or pumpkins in the curb. The annual [Pumpkin Smash](#) composting event is planned for November 5.

Stormwater Utility Fee, Phase II:

- The Village Board is considering adopting a Storm Water Utility Fee that will provide long-term funding for payment of debt service on issued bonds approved (by referendum) for stormwater improvements and maintenance. The utility fee model represents an equitable method of allocating the cost of improvements and maintenance of the stormwater management system by assessing - a higher fee on those properties that place a greater demand on the system. Under this model, all property owners will be assessed a stormwater fee based on their property's impact to the Village's stormwater system. A property's impact is calculated based on the amount of impervious surface area on the property. In the next months, Village staff and the Village's contractor, Raftelis, will undertake the process of public education, data collection, and determining the final fee structure. If adopted, the utility fees will be applied to the water/sewer bills in early 2023. For more information, visit the [website](#), or see this month's issue of [Tower Topics](#).

Upcoming November Referendum:

- The Village is considering several funding sources to more completely address capital infrastructure needs. The Board has approved placing a referendum question on the November ballot that asks voters to consider a non-home rule infrastructure sales tax of 1% on tangible goods and prepared foods. Tax on groceries and medicine/prescriptions will not be increased. The proposed 1% non-home rule sales tax would increase the existing 1% sales tax the Village currently collects and requires approval by referendum. Our neighboring communities, including La Grange, La Grange Park, Hinsdale, Countryside, Indian Head Park, Westchester, and others, already charge this additional 1% sales tax. Learn more on the [Finance page](#) of the Village website, and in this month's issue of [Tower Topics](#).

Halloween Hoopla Event:

- The Recreation Department hosts their annual Halloween Hoopla on Friday, October 28, from 4:30 – 6:30 pm inside the Recreation Center and outside at Safety Village. Come in your costume to enjoy games of chance, trick-or-treating, crafts, and more. Preregistration is required at wsprings.recdesk.com. Volunteers are needed for this event – if you can help, please contact rbartelt@wsprings.com. As usual, trick-or-treating hours in the Village of Western Springs (and La Grange, La Grange Park and Countryside) will be 3 – 8 pm on Monday, October 31.

Thanks to Chief Budds for 25+ Years of Service:

- This week Police [Chief Brian Budds](#) announced that he will be leaving Western Springs in November, after more than 25 years of distinguished service. He joined the Department in 1996 and has held several positions including Ordinance Control Officer, Telecommunicator, Patrol and Field Training Officer, Detective, Accident Reconstructionist, College Internship Coordinator, Sergeant, Lieutenant, and Deputy Chief. Our Village has been well-served by his dedication to excellence in police work. We wish Chief Budds well in his future endeavors.

Until next time,



Alice Gallagher,
Village President