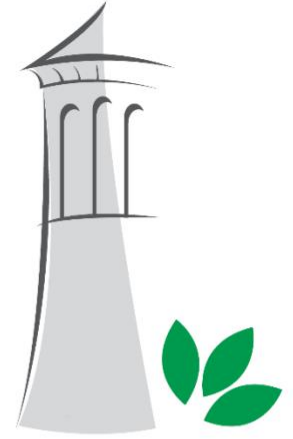


Western Springs FROM THE PRESIDENT



December 8, 2022

December 5, Board Meeting (the full agenda and meeting video is posted [online](#)):

The meeting opened with two public hearings: the first regarding the 2022 Tax Levy. Director of Finance John Mastandona presented information about the 2022 Property Levy, Tax, and Assessments. The 2022 Tax Levy increase is proposed at 5.03%, adhering to Property Tax Extension Limitation Law (PTELL) of 5% plus new growth. Your property tax is divided up among several public entities including the community college, the high school and elementary school districts, Cook County, the Western Springs Park District, and the Thomas Ford Memorial Library, among others. The Village receives 12.6% of the total billed amount on property tax bills for its operations and services. The Board passed a motion to place the Levy on the agenda of the December 19 meeting for final action and approval.

The second public hearing was on the Village's proposed 2023 Operating Budget. The Village proposed 2023 budget includes \$41 million in expenditures, supported by \$34 million of revenue. Director of Finance Mastandona stressed that the budget consisted of significant capital projects that are partially funded by grants and proceeds recognized as revenue in previous years, such as proceeds from General Obligation Bonds and funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). Following detailed presentations from Director Mastandona (regarding the Village budget), and Thomas Ford Library Executive Director Ted Bodewes, (regarding the Library's proposed Levy request), the Board voted to include the 2023 comprehensive annual budget for final action and approval on the next meeting's agenda.

The meeting then returned to the workshop portion of the agenda. The following reports were given by the Chairs of these committees:

Properties and Recreation: Trustee Chen reported that the committee planned to meet on December 5 regarding a right-of-way sale and will return with information to the Board at the next meeting.

Public Works and Water: Trustee Fink reported that the water treatment plant generator installation is still underway – the concrete slab has been set, but there are some challenges with extending the piping for the electrical connection, requiring an additional cost. The committee is recommending a contractor for the Harvey Avenue reconstruction project, which was postponed from last year's schedule due to higher than anticipated bid submittals. I'm pleased to report that the current low bid came in at 5% less than those received last year. A water meter replacement contractor is also being recommended by the committee and staff to the Board. The water meter replacement program, if approved, is slated to be funded in large part with ARPA revenue. These items will be placed on the agenda for the December 19 meeting.

Planning and Zoning: Trustee John noted that the Village received an application for development incentives using Tax Increment Financing funds (TIF) at 514 Hillgrove Avenue. The Economic Development Commission will review the application and make its recommendation to the Board for consideration of the request.

Finance: Trustee Rudolph reported that there are six proposed ordinances for the omnibus bill at the next meeting, relating to the proposed Tax Levy, 2023 Operating Budget, and budget amendments relating to additional fuel costs for 2022 and unanticipated maintenance costs for an aerial ladder on a Village-owned fire truck.

Public Health and Safety: Trustee Lewis conveyed a [safety message](#) from the Western Springs Police Department. Tips to keep you and your loved ones safe this holiday season include being sure to remove all valuables and keys from your cars and lock the doors, bring all packages inside as soon as possible after delivery, and never click on links in unsolicited texts or emails. For more tips, see the full safety message [here](#). Trustee Lewis also described the Fire Department’s “[Keep the Wreath Red](#)” initiative. This program promotes fire awareness during the holiday season. Holiday wreaths adorned with red light bulbs are hanging outside both firehouses. Should a holiday-related fire occur within the Village, a red bulb will be replaced with a white one. Please see the [full announcement](#) for tips on how to prevent holiday fires, “[Keep the Wreath Red](#)” and, most importantly, keep you and your loved ones safe. Finally, Trustee Lewis reported that a recent request for proposals for paramedic services resulted in 3 responses. Staff is working to negotiate a contract with the lowest bidder and the Village’s current provider, Paramedic Services of Illinois (PSI).

The final 2022 Board of Trustees meeting will be held on Monday, December 19.

Leaf Collection Program:

- The Village’s leaf collection program has concluded for the year and the PW Division of the Municipal Services Department has prepared equipment and vehicles for snow removal. Residents are now responsible for their own leaf disposal, and debris must be removed from the curb area. [Did you know that mulching leaves with your lawn mower is better for your lawn?](#) It’s easier than raking and improves the health of the soil, among other advantages.

Holiday Light Recycling:

- [Holiday light recycling](#) continues in the Village Hall lobby, at Thomas Ford Library, and at Village True Value Hardware. Bring your unwanted strings of lights and leave them in the collection boxes at these locations through January 31.

Until next time,



Alice Gallagher,
Village President