



Village of Clarendon Hills Trustee Topics

November/December 2011

Message from the President and Board

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

For many years I have used this page to alert you to the many fiscal challenges we face as a community and what we have been doing to proactively address and confront those challenges. Not unlike many families in Clarendon Hills, the shared community resources of the Village have been deeply impacted by the downturn in the economy. As a Village, we have focused on making sure that we have the resources to keep our community vibrant and strong for generations to come.

The Village Board, together with all of the Department Heads and employees of the Village, has continually looked for ways to reduce costs over the last several years while maintaining the necessary services that are provided to the community. In some cases, we have cut expenses that are not part of our core services, e.g., sidewalk snow removal and seasonal plantings in the downtown. We have also looked for and have taken advantage of opportunities to increase Village revenues without increasing real estate taxes, e.g., the Ogden Avenue TIF district. It is clear, however, that to maintain our financial strength and continue to provide core services cutting costs simply won't be enough.

Recently, the Village began a community dialogue on ways we can take charge of our own future as a community and provide us with the greatest flexibility and "tools" to address our long term financial well being. Part of this discussion has been the possibility of seeking home rule status through a community referendum. The Village Board appointed a Home Rule Research Committee in May. The Committee spent several months studying what home rule is and whether it would be a good fit for our Village.

Continued on Page 2

Community discussion on home rule continues

The Village Board announced recently that it was considering seeking Home Rule status for the Village through a community referendum. The Village recently held a community meeting to discuss home rule and the Village's proposed uses for it.

The Village Board began its discussion of home rule as it considered options to improve its long-term financial strength. In April, the Board appointed a Home Rule Research Committee to research and make a recommendation on whether home rule would be appropriate for Clarendon Hills at this time. Following several months of research, the Committee voted 10 to two recommending home rule for the Village.

Home rule grants municipalities additional flexibility to solve local problems, including flexibility with fees, taxes and procedural issues. In Illinois, municipalities with more than 25,000 people automatically receive

home rule status while other municipalities can seek home rule through a referendum.

The Village Board is currently evaluating using home rule to maintain funding of the Village's capital program, including the Village's ongoing Road Improvement Program. Currently, the Village funds the road program with special service areas. Special service areas spread a portion of the cost of the construction among the property owners in that area. If the Village received home rule status, it is proposing to eliminate the SSAs and establish a road improvement property tax. A general property tax allows the Village to tax properties located on non-Village streets, such as the commercial properties on Ogden Avenue and 55th Street, and reduce the cost of administering the program. Under the current proposal, the Village will have available other revenues, such as a

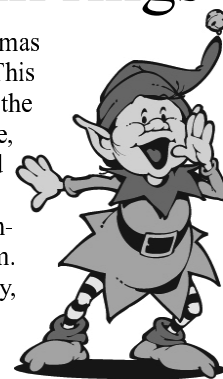
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Christmas Walk rings in holiday

Visit downtown for the annual Christmas Walk for an "Evening with Elves." This year's Christmas Walk, sponsored by the Clarendon Hills Chamber of Commerce, the Clarendon Hills Park District, and the Village, will be Friday, Dec. 2.

The evening will begin with the 8th Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony at 6 p.m. Following the Tree Lighting Ceremony, enjoy refreshments at Village Hall.

You can then head downtown to help find Santa's sleigh. You may pick up your game card at any participating business the night of the Christmas Walk and help to solve the clues to find Santa's sleigh. Each business will have a clue to solve to complete the puzzle. Completed game cards can be turned in for a chance to win Santa's sleigh, complete with gifts from many local businesses. You will also get a "CHoupon" book when you turn in your completed game card. The coupons can be used at local businesses after the Christmas Walk.



Save the Date!

Evening with the Elves
Friday, December 2 | 6-9p

More details to come.

The Christmas Walk will again feature refreshments and activities, a Dickens caroling quartet, reindeer, ice sculptors, sleigh rides and roasted chestnuts.

Refreshments and other merriment will run until 9 p.m. Visit the Chamber's website at www.clarendonhillschamber.com for complete details.

And don't forget your camera – Santa arrives at 7 p.m. in the Ken Sloan Triangle so don't be late for this long-standing holiday tradition!



Village discussing police department changes with Hinsdale

The Villages of Hinsdale and Clarendon Hills recently began discussing a possible merging of the two communities' Police Departments. The two Villages are in the initial phase of a likely year-long discussion.

Initial research shows that merging the two departments may be a way to maintain service levels in a new, more cost sustainable model. Such an arrangement could achieve both operational cost savings and a reduction in manpower over the long term.

Conversations are currently focusing on operational and logistical challenges of such a merger. Neither Village is contemplating layoffs or involuntary reductions in force as

part of any possible merger, but rather staffing reductions through normal attrition.

"In this difficult economic time, the Villages of Clarendon Hills and Hinsdale are committed to looking at new and innovative ways to achieve the high level of services our communities demand," Village President Thomas Karaba said.

Clarendon Hills and Hinsdale currently participate in a number of joint services. The two villages established an automatic aid agreement for their fire departments in 2010. The two communities already participate in various regional cooperative law enforcement efforts such as dispatch, tactical response teams, and major investigations assistance.

Both communities recognize that in order to achieve consolidation, numerous issues and obstacles will need to be overcome. Leaders in both communities believe the benefits of such a merger warrant a serious attempt to make it work. Once the fundamental challenges are resolved, the two communities will have to discuss implementation and impacts with their labor unions.

The Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority, a state agency for improving the administration of criminal justice (www.icjia.state.il.us/public/), is lending research and legal assistance to the effort to the Village of Hinsdale and Clarendon Hills for this process.

Home Rule

Continued from Page 1

home rule sales tax and a demolition tax, to ensure the Village has resources to sustain necessary community services provided for in the Village's General Fund for years to come.

The Village of Clarendon Hills has a long history of fiscal responsibility, recently earning a AAA bond rating from Standard and Poor's. The Village has sought innovative ways to reduce costs, including a shared services agreement between the Clarendon Hills and Hinsdale Fire Departments and opportunities to contract for services at a lower cost, and it continues to seek such opportuni-

ties. Since Fiscal Year 2008-2009, the Village has reduced its expenditures by \$1.4 million and deferred an additional \$530,000 in costs. The Village has maintained lean staffing levels while demanding a high quality of work from its employees. The Village's number of full-time equivalent employees is 35.9 this year, compared to 36 in 1992, despite a 15 percent increase in population.

If the Village Board does not pursue or obtain home rule status, it would likely seek a property tax increase as well as more drastic service and infrastructure maintenance reductions. Home rule offers revenue options beyond property tax increases, which would allow the Village to seek a lower property tax increase in the future

than would otherwise be the case.

The Village Board will continue its dialogue with residents on this issue, including discussions about the Village's financial condition, home rule and its potential impacts. Residents may then be asked to vote on whether the Village should become home rule during an upcoming election.

Residents can learn more about home rule and stay up to date on community meeting dates by checking the Village's website, www.clarendonhills.us/homerule.cfm, and through the Village's e-mail newsletter. You can also stay up to date on Village news through Facebook (www.facebook.com/VillageofCH) and on Twitter (@VillageofCH).

Message from the President and Board

Continued from Page 1

Based on their research, the Committee voted 10 in favor and two against for the attainment of home rule for Clarendon Hills. Now, the Village Board is seeking input from residents on home rule. We recently held a community discussion on November 2nd and will continue to hold such meetings in the future. We received excellent feedback from community members, and hope to continue this dialogue.

Home rule provides the Village additional flexibility to chart its own course. As a non-home rule organization, we are bound by state regulations from everything from how we operate in certain

departments to our ability to levy taxes. As a home rule community, the Village would have more flexibility to determine how best to meet the needs of our residents and to address the long term capital and infrastructure plans of the Village.

I encourage you to become educated on this issue and the Village's proposal for home rule. You can find information on the Village's website at www.clarendonhills.us/homerule.cfm, or you come to an upcoming Board meeting or community meeting to ask us questions about it.

In the midst of all this community dialogue and serious consideration for the future of our town, I also wish everyone a safe and joyful holiday season.

Warmest regards,
Tom Karaba

New Businesses

Infiniti of Clarendon Hills

Automobile sales and service
415 Ogden Ave.
Horst and Gunther Korrallus
630-468-9000

Scapa Italian Kitchen

1 Walker Ave.
Anthony & Kristin Swigon, John Small
630-323-7000

ZBA/PC Activity

September: No meeting
Oct. 20: #452—Side yard variation — 235 Coe Rd. (Denied)

Schedule:

Nov. 17: Rezone vacant lot upon annexation to O-R Office Research District, parking lot setback variations—241 – 55th St. and 5505 Clarendon Hills Rd. (Country House parking lot expansion)
Dec. 15: No cases scheduled at this time.



Village receives financial report

At the October 3 Village Board Meeting, independent auditor Sikich LLP presented the Village's Fiscal Year 2010-2011 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR). The Village was honored once again for excellence in financial reporting by the Government Finance Officer's Association Certificate of Achievement for its 2010 CAFR. It has received this honor for the past 22 years.

During FY 2011, the Village saw several new businesses. It also approved plans for the new Infiniti of Clarendon Hills dealership that is expected to open soon. As a result, the Village had an increase in permit revenues for the year. The Village also benefited from \$660,000 in grants from various federal and state sources that allowed for the completion of several important projects, including the replacement of aging and inadequate water mains.

Despite these positives, the Village continues to see stagnant revenues overall. The Village relies heavily on property taxes as

a major revenue source, comprising nearly 54 percent of the Village's General Fund revenue in FY 2011. Property values within the Village decreased for the first time since 1975. The slow housing market continues to impact the Village's financial condition as revenues have not kept pace with required expenditures.

The Village also saw a decline in its sales tax revenue. For FY 2011, sales tax decreased by 5.8 percent compared to 2010, to its lowest level in the last 10 fiscal years.

The outlook for FY 2012 and beyond remains stable but worrisome. State-shared revenues such as Income Taxes, Sales Taxes and Motor Fuel Taxes remain stagnant, and the Village has limited opportunities for new revenue sources at this time.

A complete copy of the Village's FY 2011 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report is available at Village Hall, the Clarendon Hills Public Library or online at www.clarendonhills.us/finance.cfm.

New address for water bill payments

Beginning November 1, the Village will be outsourcing all water bill payment processing to a new lockbox location. Your water bill will include an envelope addressed with the new mailing address. To ensure timely delivery and processing, please use this return envelope to make your payments. As a reminder, there is a 10 percent late penalty for all bills not received by the due date.

Please note that this change also impacts residents who use online bill-pay through their bank. You must update the Village's address to send your payment to the correct address. Bills should be mailed to:

Village of Clarendon Hills
P.O. Box 66126
Chicago, IL 60666-0126

This will not impact those residents who use automatic debit to pay their water bills. If you are interested in enrolling in automatic debit to ensure timely payment of your water bill, you may do so by completing the form available at www.clarendonhills.us/wateraccounts.cfm.

In addition, residents will still be able to pay their water bills by dropping it off at Village Hall during regular business hours or depositing it in the mailbox (located near the front door) during non-business hours.

Prevent flooding by maintaining culverts, drains

Leaves and other debris blocking drainage culverts and stormwater inlets are the major reason for unnecessary local flooding in late fall, winter and early spring.

Public Works staff routinely inspects the 1,000 inlet grates and 2,400 culverts in the Village. However, the Village asks residents to help keep these areas clean in order to limit the amount of unnecessary flooding, ponding, and freezing of stormwater in the drainage swales.

During fall and spring, rake and remove all leaves and other debris in your park-

way or curb-line and dispose of properly. The annual free fall leaf pick-up started October 4 and will continue each Monday through the end of November. Leaves placed in biodegradable paper yard waste bags or loosely in trash containers will not require yard waste stickers during this period.

It is also helpful to avoid piling snow where it will block the inlet grate or drainage culvert in your parkway. The freeze-thaw cycles throughout the winter can create an ice dam that will block the drainage.

Reminders

New Village Hall hours

Beginning November 1, Village Hall will close each day between noon and 1 p.m. due to a recent staffing reduction. Staff may be available to respond to phone calls during that time, however the office will be closed. Village Hall opens at 9 a.m. and closes at 5 p.m. each day.

Daylight saving time

Daylight saving time will end at 2 a.m. on Sunday, November 6. Residents are reminded to set their clocks back one hour at this time. Daylight saving time will resume on March 11, 2012.

Keep the Wreath Red

The Clarendon Hills Fire Department will again participate in the "Keep the Wreath Red" campaign through the holiday season. A wreath with red lights will hang at the fire house. If there is a fire in town caused by holiday decorations or displays, a white light will replace a red one. The Fire Department encourages safety awareness. Visit the Fire Department webpage on the Village's website or call Fire Prevention Officer Dave Godek for more information at 286-5430.

Offices closed for holidays

Village offices will be closed Friday, November 11 for Veteran's Day. Offices will also be closed Thursday, November 24 and Friday, November 25 in observation of the Thanksgiving holiday. Village offices will close for the Christmas holiday on Friday, December 23 and Monday, December 26. Offices will close Monday, January 2 in observation of New Years. Police and Fire Department staff will be on duty, and Public Works staff will be on call in case of an emergency.

Get Trustee Topics by e-mail

The Village is offering an e-mail newsletter so residents can stay up to date on the latest news and events. You can subscribe by visiting the Village's website, www.clarendonhills.us/subscribe.cfm. By subscribing, you will also receive emergency alerts distributed by the Village.



Trustee Topics

Village of Clarendon Hills
1 N. Prospect
Clarendon Hills, IL 60514

U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Clarendon Hills,
Illinois 60514
Permit No. 45

ENHANCED CARRIER ROUTE PRESORT
POSTAL CUSTOMER
CLARENDON HILLS, IL 60514

Community Schedule: November/December

Monday, November 7
Village Board Meeting, 7 p.m.
Friday, November 11
Veterans Day, Village Offices Closed
Thursday, November 16
ZBA/Plan Commission, 7:30 p.m.
Monday, November 21
Village Board Meeting, 7 p.m.
Thursday, November 24
Thanksgiving, Village Offices Closed
Friday, November 25
Village Offices Closed
Friday, December 2
Tree Lighting and Christmas Walk, 6 to 9

p.m., Downtown Clarendon Hills
Monday, December 5
Village Board Meeting, 7 p.m.
Thursday, December 15
ZBA/Plan Commission, 7:30 p.m.
Monday, December 19
Village Board Meeting, 7 p.m.
Friday, December 23
Village Offices Closed
Monday, December 26
Village Offices Closed
Monday, January 2
Village Offices Closed

Village Board Actions | September/October 2011

Passage of Ordinances: (1) reducing the number of Class C and Class H Liquor Licenses resulting from the sale of Scapa Italian Kitchen Restaurant; (2) increasing the number of Class C and Class H Liquor Licenses resulting from the purchase of Scapa Italian Kitchen Restaurant by Creative Foods, LLC; and (3) authorizing the sale of two surplus Police Department vehicles.

Adoption of Resolutions: (1) granting preliminary and final subdivision plat approval to LM Commercial Development LLC for the development of a new subdivision on the property located at 300 Holmes Avenue & 115 – 55th Street, the former headquarters of MidAmerica Bank; and (2) authorizing the execution of an Intergovernmental Agreement between the Village and Flag Creek Water Reclamation District regarding the restoration of certain portions of roadways following the completion of Flag Creek's relief

sewer project.

Authorization to: (1) award the annual bid for bulk rock salt to North American Salt Company; (2) award the 2011-2012 bid for Village sidewalk snow removal to Gasaway Maintenance Co.; (3) award the 2011-2012 bid for sidewalk removal and replacement to Globe Construction, Inc.; (4) reserve excess funds in the Village's General Fund with no year-end transfer to the Village's Capital Projects Fund for fiscal year 2011; (5) issue two raffle licenses to the Notre Dame Teacher Endowment Fund; (6) approve the engineering proposal from Christopher B. Burke Engineering, Ltd. relating to the Central Business District infrastructure improvements, the Prospect Avenue water main replacement project, and the Fairview Court water main replacement project; and (7) accept and place on file the Home Rule Research Committee's Final Report Dated September 27, 2011.

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

Paul Flood 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: Randy 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



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