Village Continues Balanced Budget Approach for Fiscal Year 2016 - 2017

The Village Board recently reviewed the draft budget for fiscal year 2016 - 2017 (May 1, 2016 - April 30, 2017), which is balanced in all major operating funds for the eighth consecutive year.

Spending in the Village’s General Fund, which pays for general municipal services like police protection, street maintenance, right-of-way maintenance, and building and construction inspections, is down $59,402 from last year, and is projected to operate at a surplus.

In addition, the fiscal year 2016-2017 budget includes a number of major infrastructure improvements throughout the community.

Highlights include:
- Lake Michigan Water Internal System Improvement
- Beck Road Reconstruction Project
- Year 4 of the Village’s Multi-Year Emerald Ash Borer Removal Project
- Road Repair and Patching throughout the Village.

2016 Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) Notification

Please go to www.lindenhurstil.org/2015waterreport to view your 2016 annual water quality report and learn more about your drinking water. This report contains important information about the source and quality of your drinking water during 2015.

If you would like a paper copy of the 2016 Annual Water Quality Report mailed to your home, please call the Village Hall at (847) 356-8252.
From the Mayor’s Desk

I’d like to discuss three subjects this edition—our annual budget, construction, and water quality.

Back in March, the Village Board reviewed the proposed budget for the 2016-2017 fiscal year (May 1 - April 30). Here are a few highlights:

- Total operating spending is projected to be $29,208 less than last year’s budget estimate.
- Personnel costs are projected to be $183,000 less than last year’s budget, a 4.7% decrease.
- We have reduced operating expenses by $1.6 million since 2008. We have also reduced our headcount 30% (from 55 to 38.5) since 2008.
- There is a continued investment in key infrastructure improvements—Lake Michigan water, Beck Road construction, Lindenhurst Drive Flood Grant, and Fairfield Road storm sewer repair—to name a few.

In comparison to other communities,
- Our water rates are 200% below the average.
- Our garbage rates are the fourth lowest.
- Our police pension fund continues to be the highest funded.
- Our per capita spending of $866 is the lowest in the area.

Staff spends a lot of time annually preparing a budget, and subsequently, adheres to the budget throughout the year. We want to be as cost-effective as possible, while still improving the service we provide to our residents and businesses. For more information on our budget and financial outlook, please visit the Village’s website at www.lindenhurstil.org.

As noted two editions ago, we have many construction projects planned for this year and next. Thanks to some good weather, we were able to get an early start on some of this year’s projects. We are doing our best to minimize the disruption. We have hired some experienced part-time help to assist in coordinating and communicating all of the activities underway. Please don’t hesitate to give us feedback; we want to minimize the impact and inconvenience to you. And once again, thank you for your patience.

Finally, many residents have asked about our water quality in the wake of Flint, Michigan’s problems. I want to assure you that our local drinking water supply is safe. Our water supply is highly regulated and is tested, inspected, and treated daily to ensure compliance to EPA standards. Annually, the Village publishes a water quality report communicating specifics on the condition of the Village’s water system. And unlike Flint, to the best of our knowledge, there are no lead service lines in Lindenhurst.

For more information on the quality of your drinking water, please visit www.lindenhurstil.org/2015waterreport.

Donie Martin

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SPRING CLEANING TIPS - PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE REMINDERS

Now that the warm weather seems to be settling in, it is a good time to think about home and property maintenance. The Village has adopted the International Property Maintenance Code that governs general conditions of property, including:

**Landscaping**

Grass should not exceed 8 inches in height, and weeds are not permitted. The burning of yard waste is not permitted.

Shrubs and trees should not encroach over public sidewalks, nor block the line-of-sight for roadway traffic.

**Vehicles**

No vehicle may be parked on the front lawn or obstruct a public sidewalk. Boats, RVs, and trailers have size and parking restrictions. All vehicles shall be operable, with current plates displayed. 2 AM to 6 AM street parking is prohibited.

**Garage Sales**

Two garage sales are permitted within a calendar year, and may not exceed 4 consecutive days in duration. Signs can not be affixed to lamp posts, fences, mailboxes, electric lights, utility poles, street signs, or public buildings.

**Structure Maintenance**

Display reflective address numbers, a minimum of 4-inches high, using a color contrasting with its background.

Keep trim and wall exteriors free from chipping/peeling paint and rotting wood. Maintain hand and guard rails.

**Storage/Debris**

All garbage must be sealed in a tight-fitting container, and may not be stored in front of the house. Receptacles, yard waste, and other items can be placed roadside after 6 PM the night before a scheduled pick-up, and must be removed by 8 PM the day of pick-up.


Please remember that building permits are required for roofs and siding, garages, new windows, patios, decks, fences, generators, water heaters, interior renovations, and other home improvement projects. Visit www.lindenhurstil.org for more on Village Codes and permits.
Linden Notes

Landscape Collection
Groot, the Village’s contracted waste hauler, began picking-up landscape waste April 4th, and will continue through November 28th. Landscape waste includes grass, shrubbery, small tree limbs and weeds. Sticker service: Each sticker is $3.15 and one must be affixed to each 32-gallon container or Kraft bag placed curbside each week. There is no limit to the number of containers that may be placed curbside with sticker service. Subscription service: This service is $140 annually. Residents may place up to four 32-gallon containers or Kraft style bags curbside each week; any additional containers would require a sticker. Stickers can be purchased at the following locations: Groot’s website (www.groot.com), at Walgreen’s (399 S. Rte. 45), or Butera Finer Foods (1500 W. Grand Avenue). For more information, please contact Groot at (847) 693-2700.

Tree Replacement Program
The Village offers a program to assist residents who wish to plant a tree. Under this 50/50 tree replacement program, the Village will reimburse residents who wish to purchase a new tree for their property or parkway area. The program parameters are as follows:
• Residents will be reimbursed 50% of the cost of a single, acceptable tree, excluding sales tax, delivery, installation, etc. up to $200.
• Program dollars would be dispersed by the Village to the homeowner after the purchase and planting of a new tree.
• Households could participate once per year.
• Residents can submit a receipt to Village Hall for reimbursement.
• First come, first serve basis as budgeted funds are available.
• A list of acceptable trees is available on the Village website.

Rain Barrel/Compost Bin Reimbursement Program
The Village of Lindenhurst and the Environmental Commission are offering a 50/50 rain barrel and compost bin reimbursement program. This program will allow residents to be more sustainable by reducing residential water consumption or improving soil and plant life. Residents will be reimbursed 50% of the cost of a single rain barrel OR compost bin up to $75, excluding sales tax, delivery, accessories, etc. Program dollars will be dispersed by the Village to the homeowner after proof of purchase is demonstrated with a paid receipt and proof of residency is verified. Households may participate once during the Village’s fiscal year (May 1 – April 30). Funds are available on a first-come, first-served basis, as budgeted funds are available.

Shoreline Stabilization Program
The Village offers a lake shore stabilization program for residents who own lake shore property. Through this program, the Village will reimburse residents who plant acceptable shrubs and plantings that help to preserve the shoreline and water quality of the lakes. The list of acceptable plantings is taken from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency. This list is also located at www.lindenhurstlakes.com. Other guidelines include the following:
• First come, first served, as budgeted funds are available.
• Eligible residents may be reimbursed 50% of their expenditure, up to $100.
• Residents must submit a receipt to Village Hall that itemizes the acceptable purchase.
• A list of acceptable plantings is available on the Village website www.lindenhurstil.org.

Utility Bill Payment Options
Residents can take advantage of the Village’s on-line utility bill system, at no additional cost. Residents can use the My Utility Account to pay their utility bill, view the bill or receive paperless billing through the e-bill program. To register, visit www.lindenhurstil.org and select the link “pay utilities” on the homepage. Visa, Mastercard and Discover credit cards are all accepted. Or, residents can download the Village of Lindenhurst app on iTunes or Google Play. Please contact Village Hall at (847) 356-8252 if you have any questions about on-line utility bill payments.

Where do my property taxes go?
As depicted in this picture, the Village of Lindenhurst receives less than 3% of your total tax bill. A $250,000 home pays an average annual tax bill of approximately $10,000 with just $270 of that going to the Village.
Q: For how many years has Lindenhurst been the Daffodil capitol of Illinois?


To promote a healthy environment, the Village has banned the use of fertilizer containing phosphorus. Support our efforts to reduce overgrowth of vegetation in our lakes.

Culverts 101: How Residents Can Maintain Their Infrastructure

What is a culvert? A culvert is a pipe located in the right-of-way, usually under a driveway, that allows water to drain from one area to another. Culverts allow water to drain more effectively than to pool on the roadway, which causes traffic hazards and road deterioration. You may not realize it, but many houses in Lindenhurst have culverts located at the base of and underneath your driveway. It can be easy to ignore culverts until a problem arises. Most culverts are made of metal, steel, aluminum or plastic and can erode or corrode from road salt, erosion and the weather’s elements. They can also become clogged from sediment, dirt and other materials.

Similar to a driveway apron, a culvert falls under the homeowner’s responsibility for maintenance and repairs. Here are some tips for maintaining your culvert:

- Keep the pipe free from obstructions, like debris, silt, garbage, litter, etc.
- Be watchful after an inclement weather event for increased debris build up
- Monitor the pipe to ensure it’s not corroded or eroded
- Ensure the pipe is aligned correctly and that the ends are not collapsed
- Watch for large brush or other large items upstream that may get caught in your culvert

Here are some signs your culvert is in need of repair:

- The roadway and driveway is sinking, uneven or you see a sinkhole
- The pavement has cracks or settling on the driveway or roadway surface
- The pipe is eroded or corroded - this may mean the integrity of the pipe is compromised and should be repaired

These all may be signs that your culvert is damaged. For more information on how to maintain a culvert, please contact the Village at (847) 356-8252.

Pictured above is a culvert that was not properly maintained. As a result, the driveway is cracked and sinking.