

**Staff Responses to Council Questions
November 20, 2012**

Commissioner Waldack has requested that Consent Agenda Items 6E: Resolution Authorizing an Agreement with Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Illinois for Stop Loss Coverage and 6I: Resolution Authorizing an Agreement with Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Illinois be removed from the Consent Agenda for individual consideration.

6. Consent Agenda D. Motion: Award a Professional Services Contract for \$25,900 to SE3, LLC, Downers Grove, IL for Traffic Signal Modernization at Finley Road and Finley Mall

SE2 indicates that they believe this proposal can be reduced by several thousand dollars. Why are we not aware of these options when we go out to bid? How does this process get improved?

The scope of work that was included in the proposal was based on the standard work items that are typically part of a traffic signal design project. The consultant suggested that three items could possibly be reduced in scope including traffic counts, preparation of an intersection design study (IDS), and removal of the vertical profile information from the topographic survey. It is staff's recommendation that the traffic counts and the IDS be completed as described to optimize the performance of the signal and update the Village's database with respect to traffic operation and volumes in this area of the Village. Staff may consider reducing the scope of the topographic survey. This contract award is the maximum amount; the actual expenses would be reduced if the work scope is reduced.

6. Consent Agenda K. Motion: Authorize \$50,000 to Downers Grove Economic Development Corporation for Tourism Related Activities

The amount requested is within the EDC agreement. What is the basis for this request? Why is staff providing no details? Why does this appear to be a blanket approval?

The agreement between the Village and the EDC states that the Village Council may allocate additional funding, above the 50% share of the hotel tax, to the EDC for tourism-related activities. The EDC has requested this funding from the Village for funding for its marketing activities, including activities such as the following:

- Advertising in annual guides such as the Illinois Tourism Guide, the Chicago & Beyond Regional Visitors Guide, the DuPage CVB Visitors Guide, and publications such as West Suburban Living magazine.
- Publishing an annual Visitors Guide and other printed materials.
- Participation in trade shows and conferences such as the annual Hospitality Expo and the Governor's Conference on Tourism.
- Digital marketing platforms and social media, including a website, Facebook, and the official mobile app for Downers Grove.
- Support for local civic organizations that host events that attract visitors, including the Downtown Management Corp. and the Downers Grove Park District.
- Support for group tours and special events such as the annual State of Devry Meeting, which brought nearly 1,000 people to Downers Grove.
- Membership in the Illinois Council of Convention & Visitors Bureaus, and the DuPage Convention and Visitors Bureau.

What amount of funding was provided to the EDC from hotel taxes this year? Is there a way to provide additional tourism funding to the EDC if hotel tax revenues exceed \$1 million annually?

This year, the EDC received \$389,779 as part of its hotel tax share. Hotel tax revenue has not historically exceeded \$1 million. However, the tourism funding is not limited by the agreement; the agreement provides Council with the ability to allocate additional funding.

6. Consent Agenda I. Resolution: Authorize an Agreement with Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Illinois

What are the other company comparisons for these services?

The Horton Group is responsible for seeking quotes for the Village's health benefits plan administration. The Horton Group sought other quotes, but other companies did not choose to bid because they could not provide the deep discounts for services that Blue Cross/Blue Shield can provide. Separately, the Horton Group sought quotes for Stop Loss insurance. The quote from Blue Cross quote is \$21,000 less than the quote from Chartis and \$44,910 less than the quote from HCC.

Why are domestic partners not covered?

The Village does not cover domestic partners unless they have completed the civil union process. Pursuant to State law, the Village extends coverage for civil union spouses of those employees that obtain and submit the required civil union documentation.

8. First Reading C. Ordinance: Adopt the 2012 Edition of the International Energy Conservation Code

What is the penalty for not adopting this code? What are the financial and operational impacts of adopting this code on typical construction projects?

The Village is not required to adopt this code, specifically; rather, the code becomes law for all architects, builders and municipalities on January 1, 2013. The purpose of adopting the code is to maintain clarity for staff and building permit applicants, as the current code identifies the 2009 version. Whether or not the Village adopts the 2012 version, its plan reviews must take into account the requirements of 2012 IECC. An architect who does not use the 2012 design element would risk losing his or her license in Illinois.

There are two aspects of the 2012 IECC amendment that have received significant attention: blower and duct tests for new residential construction, and outcome-based measurements for new commercial construction. The increased cost to builders/owners associated with this testing and measurement is 1%-3% of the cost of a commercial HVAC system or about \$500 for residential.

8. First Reading D. Information: FY13 Budget Implementation Actions

Why are the commuter parking rates at Fairview less than the rates at Main Street and Belmont?

The rates at Fairview are lower to encourage commuters to purchase Fairview permits rather than waiting several years for Belmont and Main Street permits. The demand for parking permits at the Fairview station is less than the demand for permits at Belmont and Main Street.

Non-Agenda Related

Have there been any lot consolidations approved this last week? If so, please provide address(es) and names of petitioner(s) and number of lots consolidated in each request.

The following lot consolidation was approved at 4816 Stanley.

Applicant: Matthies Builders, Inc.

Owner: Lisa & Kevin Monague

Description: Consolidating two lots (one is 40' x 150', the other is 25' x 150').