

**Staff Responses to Council Questions**  
**April 2, 2013**

**6. Consent Agenda D. Resolution: Authorize an Agreement with the Illinois Department of Transportation for the Replacement of Traffic Signals on Certain State Highways**

*Does this affect the intersection at Ogden and Finley where Packey Webb has been involved on this intersection.*

Yes, the State will be replacing the traffic signal controller, posts, signal heads (replacing with LED) and installing a battery back-up. The improvements made by Packey Webb will not be affected and will remain in place.

**6. Consent Agenda E. Resolution: Authorize an Agreement with Traffic Control Corporation**

*What other similar vendors are there? Of course Econolite Autoscope is a unique vendor, it's a brand name. What other brands are there?*

The only other vendor is Brown Traffic who supplies Eagle brand parts, which are not interchangeable with the Village's equipment.

*Considering the placement, why do these lights need to interface with DuPage County?*

The traffic signals along Main Street through the downtown operate as an interconnected system to provide efficient traffic operations. When the County upgrades the intersections of Main and 55th and Fairview and 55th they will install an interconnected system along 55th Street. At that time we will gain additional efficiency by coordinating the Village and County systems.

*What other systems were looked at?*

The Village selected Econolite over ten years ago because they are a leading industry manufacturer of traffic control equipment and because DuPage County DOT uses Econolite equipment throughout their system. This allows us to integrate our signals with the County's signals where possible.

*Which intersections are currently equipped with these cameras?*

All of the Village's signalized intersections along Main Street (five intersections from Maple to Grant) are equipped with video detection cameras. There are also cameras at Fairview and Maple, Brook and Finley, and Woodward and Prentiss.

*Are they all currently functioning as programmed?*

The cameras are functioning as programmed.

*Which ones are being replaced?*

This is the third location to be replaced with new equipment. Replacements at Main & Maple and Main & Curtiss have been completed.

*Does the intersection timing change based on the time of day and traffic volumes?*

No, the signals respond to traffic and give green times as needed to each approach. The Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) sets parameters for the signal operation close to the railroad crossing, and we have been working with them to reduce delay time for the cross-streets close to the crossing.

*Has the Village considered switching signals to 4-way flashing red lights during the overnight hours?*

No, a night-time 4-way flash operation is not advisable and creates more problems for emergency vehicle activations.

### **8. First Reading A. Ordinance: Amend Fence Provisions for Non-Residential Uses in a Residence District**

*If the amendment is approved, where will the 6 foot tall fence be installed? Will it be constructed along Sherman? If so, why would the 6 foot tall fence be permitted at this location? What is the zoning of the funeral home to the north?*

If the amendment is approved, a six foot tall fence could be installed along Main Street and along Sherman Street near Downers Grove North High School, instead of the four foot tall fence currently allowed by the zoning ordinance. Staff has not received a fence application yet, but in previous correspondence the applicant proposed a six foot fence along Main Street and Sherman and indicated a desire for improved pedestrian safety by reducing the potential for mid-block crossings from the parking lot using a taller fence. If the amendment is approved, a six foot fence along Sherman Street would be allowed because the residentially zoned parking lot abuts a business district. The funeral home on the north side of Sherman Street is zoned B-3, General Services and Highway Business.

*Is a gate in the fence along Main Street being proposed?*

No.

*Where would a 6 foot tall fence be permitted at St Mary's parking lot? Would it be permitted along Prairie?*

The only location eligible for a fence is along Fairview Avenue, should the amendment be approved. Prairie Avenue is a collector street, rather than the eligible arterial street, so the fence could not be installed along Prairie Avenue. Under the current ordinance, a four foot tall fence is allowed.

*Where could a 6 foot tall fence be permitted to be constructed at Ebersold park?*

With the amendment, the two portions of the park that abut Main Street would be eligible for a six foot tall fence. Currently, a four foot fence is allowed.

*What is meant by "open design"? Some examples and what is meant by a 1:2 ratio?*

An open design is design that allows people to see through the fence. Examples can be found throughout the Village, including at Downers Grove North High School along the west side of Main Street, which is an even more open design. A 1:2 ratio is defined in the zoning ordinance as the ratio of open area to board area, so that a fence could, for example, have a pattern of one inch of vertical open space followed by two inches of board space extended vertically--that pattern is allowed only to repeat.

*Should there be any provisions for entrance and exit to such fenced-in properties for safety purposes?*

The Village zoning ordinance currently does not regulate entrances/exits in permitted fences. It is not part of the proposed amendment.

### **8. First Reading B. Motion: Award a Contract for \$1,882,214.50 to A Lamp Concrete Contractors Inc., Schaumburg, IL for the Oak Grove Unit III Reconstruction Project**

*Project includes streets, lights, and storm sewer. Any funding coming from the Stormwater Utility?*

No. The Stormwater Fund is not paying any portion of the project costs. The storm sewer work is minor in nature, and primarily due to the street reconstruction. At a total cost of \$116,568, it amounts for just over 6% of the total contract. Because it is due to the street reconstruction, and not due to an identified drainage need, it is proposed to be paid for out of the capital fund (220).

*The bid is substantially under budget. What factors account for this?*

There are two primary factors contributing to the difference between the budget amount and the low bid. First, the budget for the project is greater than the engineer's cost estimate. The budget for this project was prepared in 2012 as part of the bond issuance planning efforts. A detailed review of the project scope including an engineer's cost estimate was not prepared at that time. The final Engineer's Estimate for this project, prepared in 2013, was just under \$2.5 Million. Second, the current bidding environment is favorable. Bid prices so far this year have been very aggressive and many of the contractors' unit prices are below what was anticipated. The bids ranged from around \$1.9 Million to \$2.2 Million.

**8. First Reading C. Award a Contract for \$1,918,509.63 to Central Blacktop Company, Inc., LaGrange, IL, for 2013 Resurfacing (A) Project**

*Please provide a summary showing how much of the total contract price will be spent on each street segment.*

The following costs are estimates based on an average cost per foot. The actual cost of each segment will vary based on the condition of the street and the presence of curb and gutter.

Street	Approximate Segment Cost
41st St	\$100,054
59th St	\$457,745
61st St	\$128,016
67th Pl	\$47,646
68th Pl	\$31,312
Barrett St	\$119,074
Belle Aire Ln	\$179,593
Brookside Ln	\$78,155
Chase Ave	\$63,980
Commerce Dr	\$50,479
Duchess Ct	\$37,908
Highland Ave	\$185,800
Hillcrest Rd	\$78,390
Lindley St	\$91,322
Pershing Ave	\$38,268
Powell St	\$115,523

Ridge Ct	\$18,691
Woodward Ave	\$96,555
TOTAL	\$1,918,509

**8. First Reading G & H: Award a Contract for \$111,500 to Crawford Murphy & Tilly, Inc., Aurora, IL, for Watermain Construction Engineering Services & Award a Contract for \$66,900 to Strand Associates, Inc., Joliet, IL, for Watermain Construction Engineering Services**

*Please provide the cost proposals from the other proposers.*

<b>WA-018 and WA-028</b>		
Robinson	\$105,279	
CMT	\$111,500	Recommended firm
Strand	\$127,400	
HLR	\$154,042	
<b>WA-039</b>		
CMT	\$62,600	
Robinson	\$63,080	
Strand	\$66,900	Recommended firm
HLR	\$85,945	

**8. First Reading I. Motion: Authorize \$717,429 for the Purchase of Four (4) Vehicles**

*Please provide more information about the truck replacements for the PW department. What are the uses of the existing 3 trucks and the proposed 2 replacement trucks? What are the operational impacts?*

Unit # 273 is a 5-ton truck. In the winter months it is primarily used as a back-up truck for front line trucks during snow operations and provides a supplemental vehicle for snow operations. In the non-winter months this vehicle is used for hauling of construction materials and debris from work sites.

Unit # 287 is a 1-ton service truck that is primarily used by the Water Division for repairs to water services, breaks and maintenance of the Village's water system.

Unit # 299 is a 1-ton dump truck primarily used for clearing snow from the Village's parking lots and cul-de-sacs. During non-winter months # 299 is used to haul equipment on a trailer, construction materials and debris from work sites.

The new replacement vehicles will be larger than the two 1-tons and smaller than the 5-ton. This size will provide more versatility and allow for more year-round use. The new vehicles will be available for use during snow operations as well as for non-winter operations. Staff agrees this

vehicle re-sizing and reduction will not negatively impact operations.

*How will the cargo van be used?*

This vehicle will be utilized by the Building Services Division. During the day it will transport building material and supplies needed for repairs to the Village's multiple building locations (cabinets, drywall, plywood). In the evenings this vehicle will transport cleaning supplies needed to clean the Main Street train station and other Village locations.

*The supporting documents show a \$12,000 rebate. Is this for each vehicle or only the fire engine?*

This rebate is for the compressed natural gas vehicles and is \$4,000 per CNG vehicle.

*Which fire station will receive the new engine?*

The fire engine will be in service at Fire Station 5.

### **8. First Reading J. Ordinance: Amendment to Ordinance No. 5232 and the Village of Downers Grove Budget for Fiscal Year 2012**

*The E-Sheet describes revenue and expense changes, the ordinance only reflects expenses (as required by law) – why not reflect the revenues as well – or are we doing the minimum?*

The Village's budget ordinance is an expense ordinance. As such, revenues do not affect the ordinance. Staff provided revenue information for the General Fund in the report. The estimated revenues in the other funds are as follows:

<b>Fund</b>	<b>Budgeted Revenue</b>	<b>Estimated Revenue</b>
Tax Rebate	\$750,000	\$810,000
Risk Fund	\$1,889,750	\$1,872,187
Health Fund	\$6,290,738	\$6,338,359

*There are ongoing claims, can we expect additional amendments?*

Staff does not anticipate the need for an additional amendment for the Health Fund.

*Does the law require a deadline in which to pass the amendment?*

The budget amendment must be in place prior to the completion of the financial statements. The auditors will begin reviewing the financial statements in April.

*The General Fund reflects revenue increases. What are the options for the additional revenue? Can it be used to restore cuts made to programs in previous years to save budget shortfalls?*

The balance in the General Fund will be part of the Long Range Planning discussions in the summer of 2013. The Village has financial needs identified in previous planning sessions including the infrastructure maintenance gap of \$1.2 million per year, the accumulated deficit in the Transportation Fund of \$1.9 million, improvements to Village facilities and the potential reduction of state shared revenues of up to \$550,000 per year.

### **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.*

There have not been any lot consolidations in the past week.

*What is the current status of the Brookbank project, when will it be completed?*

The project is on hold due to pending litigation.

*Claims and Bills Payable – accessible to the public?*

The claims and bills payable ordinances are available to the public by FOIA.