

Staff Responses to Council Questions

February 18, 2014

7. Consent Agenda

E. Bid: Authorize \$204,661.78 for the Purchase of Seven (7) Replacement Vehicles

Please explain why the Village is purchasing Tahoes (as opposed to sedans).

The Ford Crown Victoria sedan, which had been the standard police patrol vehicle, was discontinued in 2011. At the time this vehicle was being phased out staff researched alternative police vehicles before deciding on the Tahoe. These vehicles included the Ford Taurus, Ford Explorer and Chevy Caprice. The Village decided to purchase Tahoe's for the following key reasons:

Low Cost of Ownership and Operation - The Chevrolet Tahoe police two-wheel drive vehicle was found to have the lowest life-cycle cost - overall cost of ownership - in the law enforcement market by Vincentric, a privately held automotive data compilation and analysis firm based in Bingham Farms, Michigan. The company analyzed seven factors in its study, including: depreciation expense, fuel cost, finance costs, opportunity costs, maintenance costs, repair costs and insurance costs.

Sufficient Interior Space - The Tahoe provides enough interior space to accommodate officer equipment such as prisoner shields, a gun rack and all the other police equipment, such as mobile computers, radar and cameras.

Ability to convert to Compressed Natural Gas Fuel - Tahoes can easily be converted to a compressed natural gas (CNG) fueling system. This is the lowest cost vehicle fuel available and its use further reduces maintenance costs and increases the vehicle life cycle. The Village recently converted several Tahoes to CNG.

Why are we proposing to purchase both 4x4's and 4x2's? What is the current mix of 4x4's and 4x2's? Is there a specific number of 4x4's we are trying to get to? If so, why?

Staff is proposing to purchase a combination of 4x4's and 4x2's to achieve the objectives of owning a minimum of eleven 4x4's for Police Department use (1 per patrol officer per shift on typical staffing) and to conform to the vehicle selection process described above. After the 2011 blizzard, the Village decided to purchase four wheel drive vehicles to improve safety and service levels in adverse weather conditions. The current objective is to have a minimum of one four wheel drive vehicle per patrol officer per shift available for use. The Police Department currently uses 12 Tahoes (8 four wheel drives and 4 two wheel drives). The purchase of the four 4x4 Tahoes will achieve this objective (one of the four wheel drive Tahoes will be used by the Fire Department).

9. FIRST READING

C. Ordinance: Amend the Zoning Ordinance, Chapter 28, of the Downers Grove Municipal Code

It appears that the current zoning ordinance and proposed ordinance exempt buildings of four

square feet or less from lot area coverage. Please explain why.

The exemption of very small structures is a common one and aimed at recognizing the impracticality of keeping track of (i.e., enforce restrictions on) very small structures, typically decorative landscape structures. The code recognizes that these types of items have a negligible impact on the character or “bulk” of a developed site.

Please explain the proposed changes to the required parking ratios. What is proposed to be changed and why?

Reductions in the required parking ratios are proposed for Day Care, Restaurants, Banks, Funeral Homes, Large Grocery Stores and Office uses. The new ratios are based on independent studies reviewed and summarized by the Institute for Traffic Engineers in a manual entitled “Parking Generation.” It is considered the primary source for all parking ratio questions. Prior ratios were based on earlier editions of the manual (or other unknown sources) and resulted in the provision of excessive parking, along with the unused spaces, excess costs, and additional stormwater runoff. Local studies may be required when the unique characteristics of a use could generate significantly more or fewer parking spaces. In these cases, the results of those studies sometimes results in a change to the ratio for the individual proposal.

Online Comments

There are two online comments attached.



rRemarks Data for February 18, 2014 Village Council Meeting

Agenda Section	Agenda Item	Comment	Commenter
Comments of a General Nature	N/A	<p>It is almost 10 p.m. on Monday Feb 17. It has been snowing all day, and I have yet to see my street plowed or salted. If you drive a mile east into Darien, all side streets, are plowed and salted. When did Downers Grove stop salting the streets in our village?? Why can't our streets at least be plowed in a major snow storm.</p>	<p>Karen Randick 910 Jay Drive</p>
Comments of a General Nature	N/A	<p>With the ease of buying or making fake I.D.s, don't you think it's time for Downers Grove to get rid of the outdated I-9 system and go to the E-Verify program when hiring? Free background check online. No cost to Village.</p>	<p>Wayne Enerson 4805 Cross Street</p>