

VILLAGE OF DOWNERS GROVE
Report for the Village Council Meeting
12/21/2021

SUBJECT:	SUBMITTED BY:
FY22 Budget Implementation Actions	Judy Buttny Finance Director

SYNOPSIS

Consistent with the FY22 budget, the following budget implementation actions have been prepared:

- An ordinance to increase the Water Rates per the Water Rate Study
- An ordinance to increase the Stormwater Utility Rates per the Stormwater Study
- Motion to fund the Economic Development Corporation (EDC)
- Motion to fund the Downtown Management Corporation

In addition, at year end staff reviews financial policies and proposes changes when necessary. This year changes are being proposed to:

- Cash Management & Investment Policy
- OPEB Trust Investment Policy
- Purchasing Policy

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

The goals for 2021-2023 include *Steward of Financial, Environmental and Neighborhood Sustainability*.

FISCAL IMPACT

The water rates are proposed to increase revenues by 4.6% and are expected to generate \$16.1 million of revenue in the Water fund. The stormwater utility fee is proposed to increase from \$13.48 to \$14.65 per ERU and is expected to generate \$5.6 million of revenue in the Stormwater fund. There is no fiscal impact for the proposed policy changes.

RECOMMENDATION

UPDATE & RECOMMENDATION

This item was discussed at the December 14, 2021 Village Council meeting. Staff recommends approval on the December 21, 2021 Active Agenda.

BACKGROUND

Water Rates

Per the approved FY22 budget the water rates will be increased to align with the recommendations of the 2019 Water Rate Study. The 2019 Water Rate Study included a model projecting the total cost of owning, operating and maintaining the Village water system. The study recommends that water revenues should be increased in FY20 (effective July 1, 2020) and subsequent years by 4.6% per year. Per the COVID-19 Financial Response Plan, the implementation of the rate increase from the FY19 study was delayed by one year to commence effective 7/1/2021.

The following table shows the proposed water rates that will go into effect for bills received after July 1, 2022. The bi-monthly fixed charges by water meter size are consistent with the proposed rates contained in the Water Rate Study.

Bi-Monthly Fixed Charge by Water Meter Size	2021	2022 Proposed
5/8"	\$13.72	\$14.95
1"	\$20.59	\$22.44
1 1/2"	\$68.64	\$74.82
2"	\$109.81	\$119.69
3"	\$205.91	\$224.44
4"	\$343.18	\$374.07
6"	\$686.33	\$748.10
10"	\$1,647.19	\$1,795.44
Bi-Monthly Unit Fee	2021	2022 Proposed
Inside Village	\$6.33	\$6.57
Outside Village	\$7.26	\$7.53

The following table shows how the new water rates will impact typical users in 2022.

User Category	Typical Meter Size	Current Bi-Monthly Bill	Proposed 2022 Bi-monthly Bill
Typical Residential User	5/8"	\$108.67	\$113.50
Typical Commercial User	1.5"	\$701.64	\$731.82
Typical Industrial User	2"	\$1,375.81	\$1,433.69

Stormwater Rates

Per the approved FY22 budget, the stormwater rate will be increased to align with the recommendations of the 2012 Stormwater Study, and the 2016 Stormwater Utility Report. The plan called for a stormwater fee that would cover the cost of future capital projects, debt service related to those projects, as well as operational and maintenance costs. The utility model represents an equitable method to collect revenue from those properties that place a demand on the system. Revenue is generated by charging all property owners a monthly stormwater fee, based on the property's impact on the stormwater system. At that time, the Village created a plan for establishing stormwater fees that would increase revenues over a 15-year period, allowing the Village to move from the current level of service to the recommended level within that time frame. The plan calls for annual increases in the stormwater utility fee of approximately 8.7% per year, which would increase the annual

revenue available for stormwater management fees from its current level of \$5.2 million in 2021 to about \$10 million in 2029. This fee is expected to produce \$5.6 million in revenues in 2022.

The following table shows how the new stormwater rates will impact a single family resident, a typical commercial user, and a typical industrial user in 2022:

User Category	ERU	Current Annual Fee	Proposed Annual Fee
Single Family Residence (2,501-4000 s.f. of impervious area)	1	\$161.76	\$175.80
Typical Commercial User	20	\$3,235.20	\$3,516.00
Typical Industrial User	19	\$3,073.44	\$3,340.20

Motion to Fund EDC

The adopted budget includes \$430,000 in funding for the Downers Grove Economic Development Corporation. This amount is consistent with the budget that was prepared by the EDC. Going forward, this partner organization will be requesting funding from the Village to support their operations. In previous years the EDC was funded automatically based on formulas with the EDC receiving 50% of hotel tax revenue.

Motion to Fund Downtown Management

The proposed budget includes \$400,000 in funding for the Downtown Management Corporation. This amount is consistent with the budget that was prepared by Downtown Management. Going forward this partner organization will be requesting funding from the Village to support their operations. In previous Downtown Management received all of the property tax levy from Special Service Area #2 that was not directed to the Downtown Tax Increment Financing Fund.

Investment Policy

The Illinois Sustainable Investing Act recommends that public agencies should develop, publish and implement sustainable investment policies to govern the management of public funds. As such, staff is proposing a change to the Village Investment Policy to include the following language in Section 5.2. This same language is proposed for the OPEB Trust, Section 5.2.2:

Sustainability and Governance Considerations

In evaluating investment decisions, material, relevant, and decision-useful sustainability factors will be considered by the Village, within the bounds of financial and fiduciary prudence. Such factors may include, but are not limited to: (i) corporate governance and leadership factors; (ii) environmental factors; (iii) social capital factors; (iv) human capital factors; and (v) business and innovation factors, as provided for under the Illinois Sustainability Investing Act (30 ILCS 238).

Purchasing Policy

Staff is proposing a change to the Village's Purchasing Policy. The proposal is to increase the dollar limit for obtaining a Bid or RFP from \$7,000 to \$15,000. Instead, the Village will require three written quotes for these purchases, as is done for purchases from \$4,000 to \$6,999. Many vendors won't respond to the Village's Bid and RFP documents at these dollar levels since they find the paperwork to be cumbersome. In addition to this change, some of the terminology in the policy is being updated, for example changing Financial Services Director to Finance Director.

ATTACHMENTS

Water Rate Ordinance
Stormwater Rate Ordinance
Motion to Fund EDC
Motion to Fund Downtown Management
Cash Management & Investment Policy
OPEB Trust Investment Policy
Purchasing Policy



Village of Downers Grove

Official Village Policy Approved by Village Council

Description:	Other Post-Employment Benefits ("OPEB") Trust Investment Policy	
Res. or Ord. #:	2019-2021-	Effective Date: 10/01/19 12/21/21
Category:	Financial Services	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	New Council Policy
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Amends Previous Policy Dated: 10/1/19
	Description of Previous Policy (if different from above): 	

1.0 INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE

1.1 Introduction

The Village of Downers Grove has established the Village of Downers Grove Other Post-Employment Benefits Trust (the "Trust"). This Trust is intended to provide funding of non-pension other post-employment benefits ("OPEB") for those employees who meet the age and service requirements outlined in the plan document.

1.2 Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to achieve the following:

1. Document investment objectives, investment guidelines and performance expectations for Trust assets.
2. Establish an appropriate investment strategy for managing all Trust assets, including an investment time horizon, risk tolerance ranges and asset allocation to provide sufficient diversification and overall return over the long-term time horizon of the Trust.
3. Establish investment guidelines to control overall risk and liquidity.
4. Establish periodic performance reporting requirements to monitor investment results and confirm that the investment policy is being followed.
5. Comply with fiduciary, prudence, due diligence and legal requirements for Trust assets.

2.0 INVESTMENT OBJECTIVES

The investment objectives of the Trust are as follows:

1. To achieve long-term growth of Trust assets by maximizing long-term rate of return on investments and minimizing risk of loss to fulfill the Village's current and long-term OPEB obligations.

2. To invest assets of the Trust in a manner consistent with the following fiduciary standards: (a) all transactions undertaken must be for the sole interest of Trust beneficiaries, and (b) assets are to be diversified in order to minimize the impact of large losses from individual investments.
3. To provide for funding and anticipated withdrawals on a continuing basis for payment of benefits and reasonable expenses of operation of the Trust.
3. To enhance the value of Trust assets in real terms over the long-term through asset appreciation and income generation, while maintaining a reasonable investment risk profile.
4. To minimize principal fluctuations over the Time Horizon (as defined below) subject to performance expectations over the long-term.
5. To achieve a long-term level of return commensurate with contemporary economic conditions and equal to or exceeding the performance objective set forth below.

3.0 INVESTMENT AUTHORITY

The Village Manager, or his/her designee has the authority to implement this Policy. The Village Manager has the authority to:

1. Select a custodian to maintain possession of physical securities and records of street name securities owned by the Trust, collect dividend and interest payments, redeem maturing securities, and effect receipt and delivery following purchases and sales. The custodian may also perform regular accounting of all assets owned, purchased, or sold, as well as movement of assets into and out of the Trust.
2. Appoint a trustee, such as a bank trust department to assume fiduciary responsibility for the administration of Trust assets.
3. Engage specialists such as attorneys, auditors, actuaries and retirement plan consultants to assist in performing the responsibilities and obligations to administer Trust assets prudently.

4.0 INVESTMENT GUIDELINES

4.1 Definitions:

4.1.1 "Growth Assets" - a collection of investments and/or asset classes whose primary risk and return characteristics are focused on capital appreciation. Investments within the Growth Assets category can include income and risk mitigating characteristics, so long as the predominant investment risk and return characteristic is capital appreciation. Examples of such investments or asset classes are: domestic and international equities or equity funds.

4.1.2 "Income Assets" - a collection of investments and/or asset classes whose primary risk and return characteristics are focused on income generation. Investments within the Income Assets category can include capital appreciation and risk mitigating characteristics, so long as the primary investment risk and return characteristic is income generation. Examples of such investments or asset classes are: fixed income securities and fixed income security funds.

4.2 Time Horizon

The Trust's investment objectives are based on a long-term investment horizon ("Time Horizon") of five (5) years or longer, such that the risks and duration of investment losses are carefully weighed against the long-term potential for appreciation of assets.

4.3 Liquidity and Diversification

In general, the Trust may hold some cash, cash equivalent, and/or money market funds for near-term Trust benefits and expenses (the "Trust Distributions"). Remaining assets will be invested in longer-term investments and shall be diversified with the intent to minimize the risk of long-term investment losses. Consequently, the total portfolio will be constructed and maintained to provide diversification with regard to the concentration of holdings in individual issues, issuers, countries, governments or industries.

4.4 Asset Allocation

4.4.1 In order to meet the Trust's investment objectives, assets will be invested in accordance with the targets for each asset class as follows to achieve an average total annual rate of return that is equal to or greater than the Trust's target rate of return over the long-term, as described below.

Asset Classes	Asset Weightings	
	<i>Range</i>	<i>Target</i>
Growth Assets		
Domestic Equity	19% - 59%	39%
International Equity	1% - 41%	21%
Total Equity		60%
Income Assets		
Fixed Income	20% - 60%	40%
Cash Equivalents	0% - 20%	0%

4.4.2 The asset allocation range established by this policy represents a long-term perspective. As such, rapid unanticipated market shifts or changes in economic conditions may cause the asset mix to fall outside policy ranges. When allocations breach the specified ranges, the portfolio assets will be rebalanced within the specified ranges.

4.5 Performance Expectations

Over the established Time Horizon, the performance expectations for the Trust will be to achieve an average total annual rate of return that is equal to or greater than the Trust's actuarial discount rate. Additionally, it is expected that the annual rate of return on Trust assets will be commensurate with the then prevailing investment environment. Measurement of this return expectation will be judged by reviewing returns in the context of industry standard benchmarks, peer universe comparisons for individual Trust investments and blended benchmark comparisons for the Trust in its entirety.

5.0 SUITABLE AND AUTHORIZED INVESTMENTS

5.1 Investment Types:

5.1.1 Equities

No more than the greater of 5% or weighting in the relevant index (Russell 3000 Index for U.S. issues and MSCI ACWI ex-U.S. for non-U.S. issues) of the total equity portfolio valued at market may be invested in the common equity of any one corporation; ownership of the shares of one company shall not exceed 5% of those outstanding; and not more than 40% of equity valued at market may be held in any one sector, as defined by the Global Industry Classification Standard (GICS).

5.1.1.1 Domestic Equities. Other than the above constraints, there are no quantitative guidelines as to issues, industry or individual security diversification. However, prudent diversification standards should be developed and maintained.

5.1.1.2 International Equities. The overall non-U.S. equity allocation should include a diverse global mix that is comprised of the equity of companies from multiple countries, regions and sectors.

5.1.2 Fixed Income

Fixed income securities of any one issuer shall not exceed 5% of the total bond portfolio at time of purchase. The 5% limitation does not apply to issues of the U.S. Treasury or other Federal Agencies. The overall rating of the fixed income assets shall be investment grade, based on the rating of one Nationally Recognized Statistical Rating Organization ("NRSRO").

5.2.2 Environmental, Social Sustainability and Governance Considerations

In evaluating investment decisions, Material, relevant, and decision-useful sustainability factors- will be considered by the Trust, within the bounds of financial and fiduciary prudence, in evaluating investment decisions. Such factors may include, but are not limited to: (i) corporate governance and leadership factors; (ii) environmental factors; (iii) social capital factors; (iv) human capital factors; and (v) business and innovation factors, as provided for under the Illinois Sustainability Investing Act (30 ILCS 238).

5.1.3 Cash Equivalents

Cash equivalents shall be held in funds complying with Rule 2(a)-7 of the Investment Company Act of 1940.

5.2.1 Prohibited Investments

Except for purchases within authorized investments, securities having the following characteristics are not authorized and shall not be purchased: letter stock and other unregistered securities, direct commodities or commodity contracts, or private placements. Further, derivatives, options, or futures for the sole purpose of direct portfolio leveraging are prohibited. Direct ownership of real estate, natural resource properties such as oil, gas or timber and the purchase of collectibles are also prohibited.

5.3 Safekeeping

All assets of the Trust shall be held by a custodian approved by the Village Manager for safekeeping of Trust assets. The custodian shall produce statements on a monthly basis, listing the name and value of all assets held, and the dates and nature of all transactions in accordance with the terms in the Trust Agreement. Investments of the Trust not held as liquidity or investment reserves shall, at all times, be invested in interest-bearing accounts. Investments and portfolio securities may not be loaned.

6.0 CONTROL PROCEDURES

6.1 Review of Investment Objectives and Performance

The Village Manager shall review annually and report to the Village Council the appropriateness of this policy for achieving the Trust's stated objectives. The Village Manager shall report on a quarterly basis to the Village Council to review the investment performance of the Trust. This investment report should provide a comparison of investment results to appropriate peer universe benchmarks, as well as market indices in both equity and fixed income markets.