

PROGRESS REPORT ON 2012-2013 GOALS **(as of January 28, 2013)**

1. **User Fees** – During the budget process the Finance Committee and the Village Board considered the two major user fee options available but not currently utilized by the Village (wheel tax and shifting the Public Fire Protection Charge) and an increase in the current Solid Waste Fee. After giving more serious consideration to a wheel tax than ever before, in the end the Board opted only to increase the Solid Waste Fee on residential properties from \$80 to \$100 per year.
2. **Future Liabilities** – During the budget process and in follow-up discussions the Village Board has considered ways to meet future liabilities which are currently unfunded. For the 2012-2014 period, the Board has decided to borrow \$200,000 from the State Trust Fund to establish a reserve to fund retirement-related liabilities and to then repay that short term loan using reserves in the Debt Service Fund. The Finance Committee and the Board will study alternatives for funding retirement liabilities beyond 2014.

The Village has pursued an aggressive plan of pre-emptive tree removal in hopes of minimizing future EAB response costs. Accelerating this effort was the approval by the Board late in the year to purchase a used bucket truck and used brush chipper, thus enabling Village staff to remove smaller trees more efficiently. A desire to replace at least some removed trees has been identified but no plan or funding source has been determined. Use of reserves in the Debt Service Fund remains a potential source of funding for EAB costs.

The 2013 budget contains only minimal funding for parks capital projects. It appears that the two segregated sources of funding for these projects (Park Impact Fees and fees paid by developers In Lieu of Parkland Dedication) are projected to remain at low levels for the next few years. A previous advance from the General Fund to the Parks Capital Fund has now been repaid, however, and this would be an option for funding smaller scale projects in the near term. Any larger scale capital project would almost certainly have to be funded by new borrowing. The refurbishment of the Lewis Park Shelter is the most pressing need coming up.

3. **Library Staffing** – The Library Board and the new Director have been evaluating staffing needs and qualifications, aided by a report prepared by a Library Future Trends Subcommittee that examined how the ways that libraries deliver services have and will continue to evolve rapidly. The potential for Library staffing reductions due to budget shortfalls was avoided in 2013, but funding for staff additions in the future to address technology needs appears problematic.
4. **Personnel Policies** – The Personnel Committee has continued to meet regularly to complete the updating of the previous Personnel Policy Manual. Recommendations on several issues that needed more timely attention (eligibility for fringe benefits, residency requirements) have been forwarded separately to the Village Board for consideration.

The Committee plans to complete the updating review at their March meeting and forward to the Village Board those recommended updates and changes to the Manual. It will then turn attention to the post-Act 10 changes although the timing of those changes could be affected by the outcome of current collective bargaining with AFSCME.

5. **Village Website** – The Communications and Technology Committee has appointed a working sub-group to evaluate software platform options and desired features for a redesigned Village website, including access to social media. Funding has been included for this purpose in the 2013 Cable/Website Fund budget, although the adequacy of that funding is not known at this time. It is the goal of the Committee to recommend a vendor for the new website in the next few months.
6. **Community Center/Senior Center** – The Ad Hoc Committee studying the need and feasibility for such a Center has been meeting monthly and recently completed a survey to gather input on public perceptions and support for such a potential project. The Ad Hoc Committee is preparing a report on their findings and recommendations to be given to the current and new Village Boards on April 8th. At that point, the Board will need to determine what if anything more should be done on the matter.
7. **Volunteer Committee** – The Village Board has established, tasked, and appointed an Ad Hoc Committee which has been meeting regularly for several months.