

Schuenke Snapshot

Published in the Summer 2017 Outlook Newsletter

Greetings to this very wet and sometimes warm Summer of 2017. This is an excellent time of year to experience the outside and also a time period the Village cycles through its workload on many different fronts. Not before, of course, we have experienced some change with the Village's leadership.

Carolyn Clow and Shaun O'Hearn were elected to the Village Board as new Village Trustees. They replaced Tom Mooney and Claire Utter in their respective positions. Those reelected included Stephanie Brassington as Village Trustee and Brad Czebotar as Village President. Staff changes have also been experienced during this time. Kelsy Boyd resigned her position as Finance Director in April. The Village created a new position of Deputy Treasurer/Accountant and promoted current Deputy Clerk Jennifer Harried to this role. Additionally, Cassandra Suettinger was reclassified to retain the position of Clerk/Treasurer. A recruitment is underway to fill the now vacant Deputy Clerk position. The Village thanks everyone for their service to the Community including those who volunteer, are elected, or are appointed.

This is also the time of year the Village Assessor completes their annual maintenance and sets the property values for the Village as of January 1, 2017. Following open book and Board of Review proceedings, the Values are established and used for taxation as part of the 2018 Budget process. Residential properties continue to be very strong in the Village as well as the Dane County region as a whole. These properties added new construction values of \$15 million and an overall increase from the previous year of 4.23%. Commercial values saw an overall percentage decrease of 2.19% but did add \$7.9 million in new construction. Overall the Village saw value growth of 2.99% or \$24.145 million that is new tax base to which we are growing into. This does not include the values of the manufacturing properties which are set by the State in the Fall. These numbers are subject to change as they are prior to adjournment of the Board of Review which has final approval of these values in June.

The middle part of every year begins the annual planning process to prepare and ultimately adopt a budget for the next year. It always feels like this task was just completed when its time to start working on it again, but good financial planning for the future begins early in the process to help ensure property spending the whole way through. The Village Board held its annual planning retreat on June 6th to set upcoming goals and objectives for the next year. Further, at their meeting on June 26th the Village Board will consider a planning memorandum for the 2018 Budget process that essentially begins the process.

Growth appears to be a constant theme these days with respect to various Village activities. The expansion of Village borders appears imminent with a notice of petition for annexation published in March that was prepared by town residents. The organizers have delivered the signed petition for review by the Village Clerk for certification and then will proceed to the Plan Commission for consideration of a recommendation to the Village Board on an ordinance for annexation as requested in the petition. The area to be annexed includes 361.4 acres of land that is generally south of Siggelkow Road between the

Interstate and Juniper Ridge Subdivision. The process is anticipated to begin in June and may carry over into July.

There are many many many projects underway in the Village as the implementation of capital improvements is in full swing. Dane County is working on completing the Lower Yahara River Trail slated for completion in August or September. The Village is nearly half way complete with the reconstruction of Holscher Road. The Grandview Marsh Conservancy Trail is nearly complete with all the boardwalk installed. More work is coming including County Highway MN with Main St. Streetscaping, new lighting at Brandt Park, improvements to McDaniel Park, planning of Discovery Garden Park, planning around Urso/Schuetz Park, and pier improvements at Jaeger Park to name a few. Exciting time for the Village to be able to move forward and implement so many good projects within the Community.

Be on the lookout for the first full draft of the Comprehensive Plan scheduled for completion in June. Public Comment regarding this document will be solicited shortly as a means to share collectively with everyone the wonderful progress we've made to put such a large document together. More information to come, follow the Village website and social media for more details.

Let us know how we can be of assistance! We are happy and proud to serve this community. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Matt Schuenke, Village Administrator