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## Memorandum

To: Village Board of Trustees

From: Matthew G. Schuenke, Village Administrator

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(608) 838-3153

Cc: Department Heads  
Residents of McFarland

Date: February 27, 2020

**Re: Bi-Monthly Village Administrator Staff Report**

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### Recent Meetings Held

- February 12<sup>th</sup> – Public Safety Committee
- February 17<sup>th</sup> – Plan Commission
- February 18<sup>th</sup> – Public Utilities Committee
- February 20<sup>th</sup> – Parks, Recreation, and Natural Resources Committee
- February 24<sup>th</sup> – Village Board

### Current Events

The following is a list of issues, projects, or activities that have transpired recently:

- Annexation – A roughly 14 acre parcel of land has been petitioned for annexation from the Town of Dunn into the Village of McFarland. This property is located at 3424 County Highway MN and is owned by Skaalen Retirement Services Inc. It is adjacent to two other parcels that they own previously annexed in 2017. The Plan Commission has reviewed this request and made its recommendation to the Village Board. The Village Board will consider this request along with the findings from the State at their meeting on March 9<sup>th</sup>.
- Sanitary Sewer Rates – The Public Utilities Committee has been studying increases to our rates for the sanitary sewer system including conveyance and treatment. They made a recommendation to the Village Board that effectively increases the fixed and variable rates by 22% while also creating a new reserve

fund that will be able to save funds from year to year limiting the need for future borrowings. The average residential customer uses about 3,500 gallons of water each month. Under the new rate structure an individual with a 5/8" or 3/4" meter (most common) would expect to see a charge of around \$30.50 per month which is an increase of approximately \$5.48 per month from the previous charges. This change for the sanitary sewer rates while water rates are going through a conventional rate case that has to be approved by the PSC.

- Strategic Planning – The full and complete draft of the Strategic Plan including all attachments is available for review. We have also included the draft Capital Improvement Plan for 2020-2024 that corresponds with this document. Please go to [www.mcfarland.wi.us/mcfarlandstrategicplan](http://www.mcfarland.wi.us/mcfarlandstrategicplan) to view the document and provide comment as desired. A final workshop will be held on Tuesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 pm to allow for further public comments on what has been prepared. This has been scheduled for Tuesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 pm. All are welcome to attend and if they are not able to attend may comment through the website.
- Lawsuit – The City of Madison filed a lawsuit against the Village of McFarland in 2019 regarding an annexation that the Village had approved in 2018. The City took exception to this annexation as they felt the land annexed into the Village was prohibited from doing so due to an agreement they had with the Town. The Village was not party to this agreement between the City and Town nor was there anything else legally preventing the Village from annexing the property. A decision in the matter was rendered by the Circuit Court on February 21<sup>st</sup> finding in favor of the Village as well as Defendants by dismissing the lawsuit as presented. The City now has to consider whether or not to appeal this decision otherwise it remains final. [Click on this link to view an article](#) about this case.

### **Upcoming Schedule**

Please note the following schedule of upcoming meetings:

- March 2<sup>nd</sup> at 5:15 pm – Library Board
  - March 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30 pm – Personnel Committee
  - March 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 pm – Final Strategic Planning Workshop
  - March 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm – Volunteer Committee
  - March 9<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm – Committee of the Whole
  - March 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm – Village Board
  - March 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm – Joint Public Utilities and Works Committee
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