

Schuenke Snapshot

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Thank you for the warm reception I have received into the Village as the new Administrator/Treasurer. A couple months in and I am happy to report that I feel very much at home in this new role. While the Community is somewhat new to me, the responsibilities are not and I look forward to our future together in McFarland. With each newsletter I would like to write a short summary regarding big issues within the Community to help spread more information about Village business. There will be no way for me to communicate everything that may or may not be happening in the Village or capture an issue entirely within this article. If you have further questions, please don't hesitate to reach out via email at matt.schuenke@mcarland.wi.us or (608) 838-3153 if you wanted to talk.

One of the main things to happen in the Fall is the preparation of the annual budget for the coming year. A draft 2017 Budget was prepared by Village Staff and submitted to the Village Board for review and consideration on September 26th. The Village Board along with various Committees will use all of October and most of November in order to complete the review of this document in order for it to be approved at the end of the process. The budget is the key document to making this organization work as it helps us to provide the essential services needed to enhance the quality of life we enjoy as well as plan for our future needs in the Community. There are many competing factors at play in any budget that can make for difficult decisions as we prioritize our needs versus wants to put forth a responsible spending plan.

One of the benefits seen in the 2017 draft is the financial impact created by growth here in the Village. Overall the increase from the previous year is almost \$30 million and without the TID this is still around \$25 million. This growth allows for the tax LEVY to be spread out amongst more property value helping to keep the tax RATE almost flat or possibly negative. The draft budget was transmitted with a 0% increase in the tax rate from the previous year and when the Village Board votes to adopt the budget at the end of the process, it is likely not to stray too far from this level. I encourage you to review the budget online at www.mcfarland.wi.us and contact me at any point regarding questions you might have. All of the Village Board's meetings are open to the public with the schedule posted on the website's calendar. A public hearing is scheduled for 7:00 pm on November 28th regarding the 2017 Budget but the public is welcome at any point in the process to provide input as may be appropriate.

On November 8th, we will elect a new President of this Country and it has been a rather complex process to do so from an Election Administration standpoint. I would just like to take a moment and thank our Village Clerk, Election Inspectors, Poll Workers, and other Municipal Staff for their hard work on all elections, but most especially the one upcoming. Their dedication to the process helps residents fulfill their right to vote and participate in this democracy. Thank you everyone for the work that you do and to our residents for their participation in the system.

Enjoy the Fall colors, Summer went way too fast.

Sincerely,

Matt Schuenke, Village Administrator/Treasurer