


# Village of Gilberts

Village Hall  
87 Galligan Road, Gilberts, IL 60136  
Ph. 847-428-2861 Fax: 847-428-2955  
www.villageofgilberts.com

## Village Administrator Memorandum 60-11

**TO:** President Rick Zirk  
Board of Trustees

**FROM:** Ray Keller, Village Administrator 

**DATE:** October 7, 2011

**RE:** Committee of the Whole Board Meeting – October 11, 2011

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The following summary discusses the agenda items for the Committee of the Whole meeting scheduled for October 11, 2011:

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. ROLL CALL / ESTABLISH QUORUM

### 3. PRESENTATION

#### A. Community Unit School District 300 – Amendment #3 of SB 540

Representatives from District 300 will discuss their request for the Village's support of their effort to defeat Amendment #3 of SB 540. If approved, the amended SB 540 would extend the life of the "Sears EDA TIF" for an additional 15 years beyond its initial 23-year term, which is set to expire in 2012. The Sears EDA includes the corporate headquarters for Sears as well as the Sears Center/Prairie Stone complex.

While marketed as a jobs-retention tool for the Sears headquarters, the amendment does not include any criteria for retaining Sears jobs and would continue regardless of Sears' occupancy. Because the EDA TIF extension would be tied to the land not the businesses that occupy it, the extended EDA TIF would remain as an attractive incentive for potential purchasers of the Sears property should they leave. District 300 suspects that the incentive extension is actually a tool for generating revenues that will be used to relieve the Village of Hoffman Estates' capital debt and operational expenses for the Sears Center/Prairie Stone complex. The costs would be covered by the extended EDA TIF, which would capture incremental tax revenues from District 300 and other taxing bodies for the next 15 years.

A copy of a resolution recently approved by the Village of Algonquin is included in the packet for your reference. Should the Board desire to take a position on the issue, Staff will prepare a resolution for the Board's October 18 meeting.

Public Works Facility  
Finance & Building Departments  
73 Industrial Drive, Gilberts, IL 60136  
Ph. 847-428-4167 Fax: 847-551-3382

Police Department  
86 Railroad St., Gilberts, IL 60136  
847-428-2954 Fax 847-428-4232

#### **4. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

##### **A. Minutes from the October 4, 2011 Village Board Meeting**

Please review the enclosed minutes from the October 4 Village Board meeting. Unless directed otherwise, this item will be added to the Consent Agenda for the October 18 meeting.

##### **B. September 2011 Treasurer's Report**

Finance Director Marlene Blocker has prepared the Treasurer's report for September 2011, which is enclosed for your review. Please contact me or Finance Director Blocker prior to the meeting if you have any questions or need more detailed information. Unless otherwise directed, this item will be added to the Consent Agenda for the October 18 meeting.

##### **C. Village Initiatives**

At the meeting, Staff will report and request direction on whether to proceed on several potential Village initiatives. This is not an exhaustive list, but several of these issues may require referendum approval, which would require timely Board action in order to be added to the March 2012 ballot.

##### **1. Municipal Electric Aggregation**

"Municipal electric aggregation" is the process by which a municipality solicits proposals for the best electricity prices for its residents and businesses. Municipalities already work with energy brokers like NIMEC, who bundle participating municipal customers together for the purpose of securing the best electricity prices for treatment plants, streetlights, and other government facilities. If approved by referendum, the municipality may solicit proposals from energy companies in a similar manner, instead including its residences and any businesses that don't already contract with an alternative energy provider. Participating residents and businesses would then benefit from the reduced power costs at no additional cost to the Village or the customers.

Based on the available information, there does not appear to be any downside from pursuing electric aggregation. Regardless of the outcome of the process, ComEd continues to own and charge for the distribution system. ComEd also remains the default electricity provider should a problem arise or the proposals do not offer a better rate. Residents and businesses also have the option of opting out of the aggregation program, allowing them to use ComEd or find another power provider that better meets their needs.

Staff will be attending a workshop on municipal electric aggregation on October 20. The packet includes a summary memo and a handout from NIMEC, which addresses frequently asked questions about the process. Unless directed otherwise, Staff will begin preparing the resolution authorizing the referendum question and the supporting educational materials about the process.

##### **2. Home Rule Status**

Village Attorney Julie Tappendorf will provide an overview of municipal home rule powers at the meeting. Currently, the Village of Gilberts is not a home rule

community; the Village's authority is limited to those powers expressly granted by the State Constitution and Statutes. Conversely, home rule communities are granted broad authority to employ regulations, fees, procedures, etc. as deemed necessary, so long as they do not conflict with constitutional or statutory limitations. Communities that reach 25,000 population are automatically granted home rule status; smaller communities may secure home rule powers by referendum approval. Home rule authority grants municipal decision makers greater control over the operation of local government, particularly in tailoring procedures and practices to local needs and exercising greater financial flexibility. However, home rule authority also exempts municipalities from property tax cap limitations, which is often cited as residents' primary concern when considering whether or not to support a home rule initiative.

As the Village will not approach 25,000 population anytime soon, the Village would need referendum approval to secure home rule authority. If the Board is interested in this option, Staff will prepare the necessary resolution adding the "home rule referendum" to the March 2012 ballot.

### **3. Stormwater Management Utility**

Over the past two years, the Village has benefitted from an agreement with Phoenix & Associates, which has provided considerable stormwater management assistance in exchange for flood storage credits that it may sell as compensation. The Village will also enjoy substantial improvement to its stormwater system due to the drainage and culvert work included in the road program and the drainage repairs included in the Recovery Zone Bond project.

The Public Works Department currently takes on rudimentary maintenance tasks, such as cleaning out culverts after a storm and routine catch basin cleaning. However, Staff are concerned that the Village will need greater technical and labor assistance beyond our current staffing capability in order to maintain the system. The Village may need to allocate additional resources for consultant assistance, as is currently provided by Village Engineers from Baxter & Woodman and Phoenix and Associates.

State statutes allow for the creation of a stormwater management utility, which would be managed like the water/wastewater fund separate from the General Fund. The stormwater utility would be responsible for the planning, management, maintenance and repair of the stormwater system. The utility is funded by a fee based on the amount of runoff (i.e. impervious surface) of properties served by the utility, which is collected through property tax bills. The creation of a stormwater utility must be approved by referendum, typically preceded by the development of a stormwater management plan. If a utility or similar structure were created, homeowners associations may also be encouraged to work with the Village to share costs, services, etc. to better manage their facilities.

Staff request the Board's direction on whether this is an initiative that merits further research. Staff do not anticipate having sufficient information to support adding a referendum question to the March 2012 ballot, but Staff can continue to

research and report on this option in preparation for a possible November 2012 referendum.

#### **4. Park Levy or Park District**

Staff continue to research options for funding the Village's parks and recreation programs and facilities. The Village presently provides basic field maintenance and contracts with other entities to provide the programming. This arrangement has successfully provided services that were not previously available to Village residents at no additional cost. This approach also avoids duplication of services and competition with entities that are already available to the community.

At various times, the community has expressed interest in expanded program offerings and improved facilities. To date, these have been primarily accommodated by new development, which has since slowed considerably. The creation of a new park district and/or the imposition of a dedicated "parks and recreation" property tax levy would provide new resources, but would require referendum approval. Most of the Village is not served by a park district, except for parts of the Indian Trails and Dunhill Estates neighborhoods included within in the Dundee Park District. The Village may also impose facility user fees, but the fees would not likely provide sufficient revenue to cover anything beyond basic maintenance costs. Based on the feedback from last week's meeting, Staff will assemble a rudimentary budget for parks and recreation facilities/programming that might be supported by theoretical property tax levies and/or facility user fees.

Staff have also made an initial inquiry about some kind of non-resident reimbursement (i.e. similar to the NISRA program) or "buy-in" arrangement with Dundee Park District. Staff also inquired about the Park District's program offerings, which may be passed on to Village residents. The information can also be used as a basis for avoiding duplication of services already available in the area. Staff will inquire further about a potential arrangement with the park district.

#### **5. Electronic Board Packets**

Staff have begun to research the feasibility of transitioning to electronic board packets. Based on average packet sizes prepared for three meetings per month, Staff estimate that packet production costs the Village approximately \$4,030 annually. As tablet technologies become increasingly competitive, the Village may reduce its production costs and paper consumption by providing tablets by which Board members could receive and review the packets. As shown by the enclosed spreadsheet, the Village could theoretically recoup its investment in tablets for board members in a single year, assuming that the tablet would suffice for at least three to four years. Unless directed otherwise, Staff will continue to investigate the feasibility of including tablets for board packet distribution in next year's budget.

#### **D. Building Fees Update**

Staff continue to work on updates to the Village's building fee structure, which was originally based on the costs associated with relying on inspections provided by consultants. Over the years, the fee structure has been adjusted to address specific

issues and concerns, such as the addition of an escalator clause to allow fees to keep up with the building activity experienced earlier in this decade.

Staff have recently focused on “miscellaneous” permits, which provide plan reviews and inspections for upgrades and enhancements to existing buildings or properties. These permits are typically taken out by current residents for swimming pools, decks, fences, patios, shed, basement remodeling and numerous other projects. The Village issued 222 miscellaneous building permits in 2010 and 213 so far in 2011.

The existing fee structure is based on an “ala carte” approach that adds together all of the individual reviews and/or inspections needed for each type of project. As this approach has been a source of irritation for residents and the Board, Staff recommend transitioning to a flat fee for each type of miscellaneous permit. The fee associated with each permit is based on an estimated average amount of time involved in dealing with that type of project (e.g. pools typically require more inspections than a fence because it often includes a deck or patio, electrical, etc.). The summary by Chief Building Inspector John Swedberg is enclosed in the packet for the Board’s consideration.

The existing structure also includes an application deposit, which was instituted to cover re-inspections as well as entice applicants to secure final approval of their project. Upon completion of the project, the Village returns the application deposit, less any additional charges required for reinspections. Over the years, the fee has escalated to \$193.00, which may be burdensome for some residents and is beyond what is now needed to cover reinspections. Staff recommend reducing the deposit amount to \$58.00, which would be sufficient to cover two failed inspections.

#### **E. Road Resurfacing Project – Construction Update**

At the meeting, Staff will update the Board on the road resurfacing project. Ditch work continues next week, along with the completion of the binder (first asphalt layer) installation. Baxter & Woodman is preparing a door hanger with contact information for the concrete and asphalt subcontractors available for private driveway replacements. The hanger will be distributed next week.

#### **5. STAFF REPORTS**

Staff will provide any new updates at the meeting. Please contact me prior to the meeting if there are any specific topics to be discussed at the meeting.

#### **6. BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORTS**

#### **7. PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

#### **8. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Please contact me if you any questions about any executive session topics.

#### **9. ADJOURNMENT**

**VILLAGE OF GILBERTS  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING  
AGENDA**

87 GALLIGAN ROAD,  
GILBERTS, ILLINOIS 60136

October 11, 2011

**AGENDA**

**7:00 P.M.**

**ORDER OF BUSINESS**

**1. CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**2. ROLL CALL / ESTABLISH QUORUM**

**3. PRESENTATION**

A. Community Unit School District 300 – Amendment #3 of SB 540

**4. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

A. Minutes from the October 4, 2011 Village Board Meeting

B. September 2011 Treasurer's Report

C. Village Initiatives

D. Building Fees Update

**4. STAFF REPORTS**

**5. BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORTS**

**6. PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

**7. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

A portion of the meeting will be closed to the Public, effective immediately as Permitted by 5 ILCS 120/2( c ) (1) to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the Village, and as permitted by 5 ILCS 120/2 ( c ) (11) to discuss litigation against, affecting, or on behalf of the Village which has been filed and is pending in a court or administrative tribunal of which is imminent and as permitted by 5 ILCS 120/2( c ) (21) to review and approve closed session minutes and as permitted by 5 ILCS 120/2 ( c ) 2 Collective negotiating matters.

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

"The Village of Gilberts complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). For accessibility assistance, please contact the Village Clerk at the Village Hall, telephone number 847/428-2861."

**3A**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2011 - R - 09**

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING  
INVOLVMENT OF COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 300  
IN SEARS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AREA DISCUSSIONS**

WHEREAS, Illinois school districts are currently experiencing a tremendous decline in revenues during this great recession; and

WHEREAS, approximately 85 percent of the Village of Algonquin is served by Community Unit School District 300; and

WHEREAS, Community Unit School District 300 has significantly reduced expenditures which ultimately impact the quality of education their students receive; and

WHEREAS, the State of Illinois presently owes Community Unit School District 300 in excess of \$4,000,000; and

WHEREAS, the extension of the Sears Economic Development Area in Hoffman Estates, Illinois under the current terms will adversely affect the quality of education of Community Unit School District 300.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE VILLAGE OF ALGONQUIN AS FOLLOWS:

**SECTION 1:** The Village of Algonquin, Illinois strongly supports job retention and educational funding in the State of Illinois.

**SECTION 2:** The Village of Algonquin, Illinois requests that all taxing bodies be involved in a solution to benefit the students of Community Unit School District 300 and citizens of the Village of Algonquin.

**SECTION 3:** The Clerk is hereby directed to send copies of this Resolution to the legislative leaders of both chambers of the Illinois General Assembly and members representing this municipality.

DATED this 4TH day of OCTOBER, 2011.

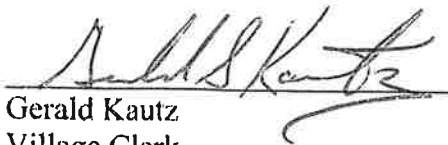
(SEAL)

APPROVED:

ATTEST:



John Schmitt  
Village President



Gerald Kautz  
Village Clerk



## **The Sears Economic Development Area (EDA) from the perspective of CUSD300**

1. **Has the Sears EDA been a good thing?** Yes, Sears and the EDA (Prairie Stone business/retail complex) have generally been positive for the area over the past 21 years.
  - a. Increased property values
  - b. Increased retail
  - c. Brought jobs
2. **District 300 is now in a very difficult financial position**
  - a. Our local revenues are held to 1.5%
  - b. There has been no new state funding in several years (in fact the level of funding has been cut), and yet the state mandates stay the same.
  - c. The state can't pay its bills. D300 is now short -\$4.8M in state payments for the 2010-2011 school year (three of four payments received), and we have received no funding for this year so far.
  - d. We project this year's D300 budget at -\$6.3M to -\$11.5M, depending on whether we get all state payments.
  - e. D300 borrowed -\$18.3M just to make payroll this spring
3. **D300 Budget Reductions**
  - a. We have cut \$14.2M in staff, services, programs, and wage freezes in past two years (and \$28 million in cuts in the past nine years). Administrators, teachers, secretaries, and custodians have all taken pay freezes or cuts.
  - b. We spend \$2,598 less per elementary child than Hoffman Estates elementary children get for their education. (The EDA is located in the far southeastern corner of our district boundaries, but it is only retail/business so no Hoffman Estates children attend our school district.)
  - c. We spend \$5,108 less per high school child than Hoffman Estates high school children get for their education.
  - d. We have some of the largest class sizes in the state. Our elementary classes have 37 students and high school Algebra classes have over 41 students.
  - e. We have no art in our elementary schools.
  - f. We have only half-time librarians.
4. **Funding from the EDA:** Here is a recap of EDA funding that we have estimated for the past 21 years; these estimates were presented to officials from Sears and Hoffman Estates several months ago, and they were not refuted/corrected by either party:
  - a. D300
    - i. Will have received over \$30M from the EDA by 2013
    - ii. Over \$213m in school property taxes went to the EDA instead of schools
  - b. Hoffman Estates

- i. The village not only gets the property taxes generated by the EDA, but it also receives additional funds to administer and service the EDA as well as additional profit. The village is more than "made whole" by the EDA. (SEE SPREADSHEET)
    - ii. The village will receive over \$61M from the EDA extra allotment
    - iii. Annually receives up to \$3M MORE than property taxes alone, which total \$13.5M MORE than taxes for the life of the project
    - iv. If the EDA is not extended for another 15 years, the village will have to cut its operational budget
  - c. Sears
    - i. Directly received over \$230m in development monies through the EDA
    - ii. All property not sold in the Prairie Stone complex is still SEARS, and when Sears sells it then Sears gets to keep the profits
- 5. **Sears court proceedings.** Sears is currently in circuit court requesting reduction of taxes to the EDA of over \$29M from 2004-08 (SEE ATTACHMENT). How will this affect the EDA??
- 6. **House Bill 3435** was introduced in Springfield in February 2011 by the Village of Hoffman Estates lobbyist in partnership with State Rep Fred Crespo, who was formerly a village official). It was held in the Rules Committee due to no notice to taxing bodies:
  - a. No one told D300 about it
  - b. There was no cooperation
  - c. No public notice
- 7. **Senate Bill 540** was introduced in Springfield on May 29, 2011, (two days before the end of the legislative session) by the Hoffman Estates lobbyist as Amendment 3 to the bill titled "Comptroller TIF Administrator".
  - a. House passed the bill through Revenues/Finance Committee on May 30
  - b. Bill approved by House on May 31; however, most Representatives in the House did not read the fine print and weren't aware of the Sears EDA amendment.
  - c. Bill went to the Senate Local Government Committee the evening of May 31; it was held there largely thanks to Senator Pam Altoff (from D300) being aware of our concerns over the EDA. A spokesperson for the Illinois Senate Republicans kindly notified D300 about the issue three hours before the end of the legislative session.
  - d. Senator Kotowski said he would hold the bill until the legislative veto session, which is coming up at the end of October and early November. However, Senate President John Cullerton is pushing for a vote in this fall's legislative session.
- 8. **Our attempts to discuss solutions**
  - a. We met with Sears executives on various occasions over the past several months
  - b. Met with Hoffman Estates officials on various occasions over the past several years
  - c. We met with Senator Dan Kotowski and spoke with him on the phone
  - d. We had a conference call with representatives of Senate President Cullerton
  - e. We have had meetings and/or conference calls with all state legislators representing the D300 area and other state leaders.

- f. We continue asking to be part of discussions/negotiations with Sears, Cullerton, and Hoffman Estates, but we are still being left out.

9. **D300 parental groups are ready to launch**

- a. D300 covers 15 villages
- b. Almost 21,000 students (SIXTH LARGEST DISTRICT IN THE STATE OF ILLINOIS)
- c. 40,000 parents/voters
- d. They have funds, website and a big network.

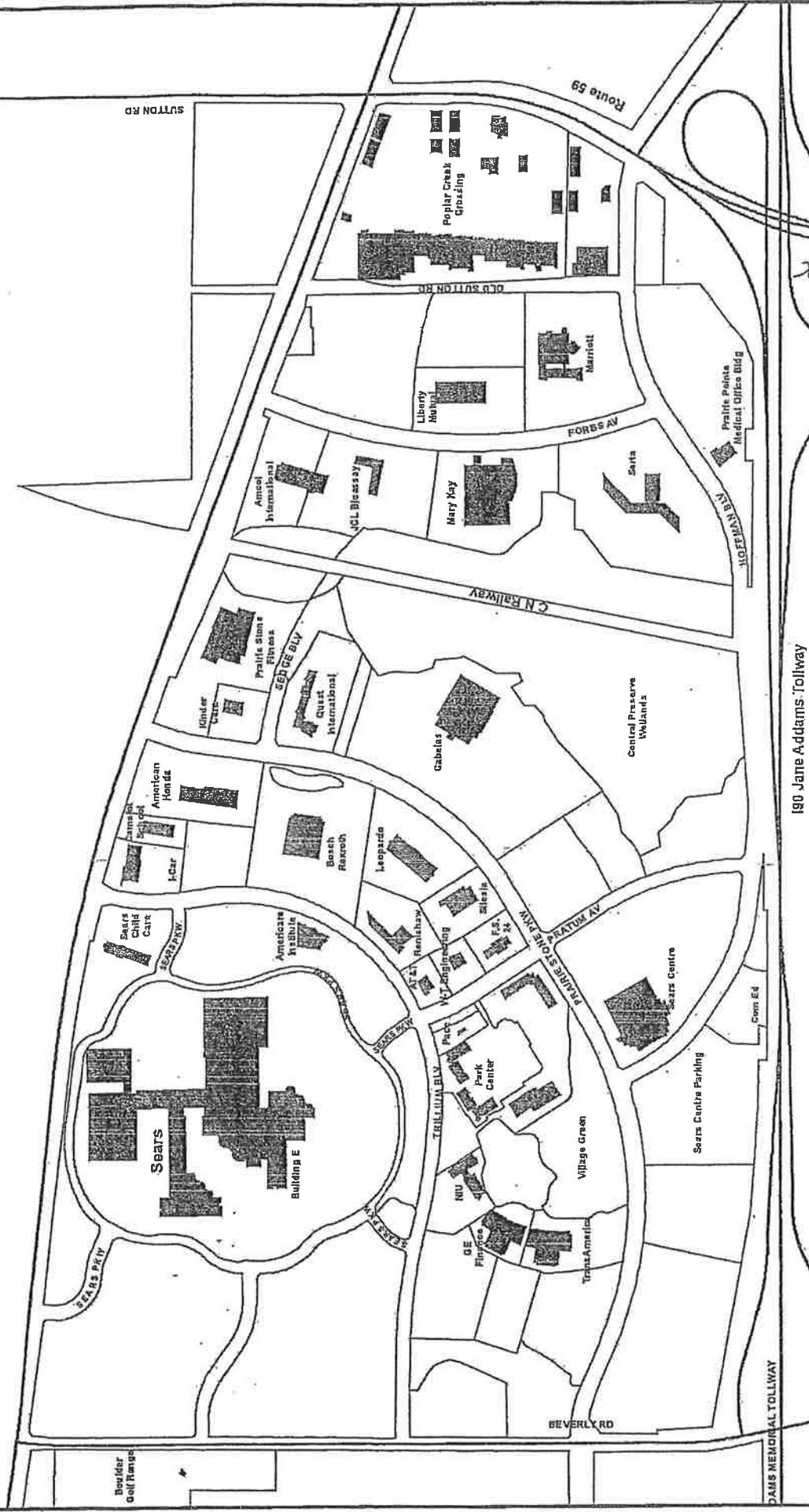
10. **What's next?** We want the Senate to PULL SB540 (or at least Amendment 3 about the EDA) from any possible vote during the legislative session! We want this proposal to be fairly reconsidered by both sides of the General Assembly over the next 1-2 years, so that a different plan can be developed that HELPS TO KEEP JOBS here while ALSO ensuring that the children of those job-holders can be educated! There is NO RUSH for legislative vote, as the EDA is not set to expire until 2013.

- a. We feel the original goals of the EDA have been met.
- b. There has been no audit of the EDA. The EDA has been privately controlled by the Village of Hoffman Estates. How can the state renew the EDA for another 15 years without being sure that the money has been spent properly?
- c. When the EDA was approved, everyone involved with it promised that it was a one-time deal.
- d. The Village of Hoffman Estates has been made MORE than whole over the past 20+ years!
- e. Sears and Hoffman Estates have a fiduciary obligation to the children of the persons who work for their company / in their village!

11. **Possible win-win solutions (alternative legislation)**. D300 supports Sears and supports the retention of jobs in Illinois. However, we believe strongly that alternative legislation can and should be developed that protects jobs while ALSO protecting schools.

- a. Reimburse D300 through state aid lost money to Sears/EDA
- b. Freeze current property value (D300 made whole) and extend the Sears EDA another 10-15 years
- c. Totally different legislative arrangement, similar to Motorola, Navistar, etc. (no EDA extension)
  - i. Remember the EDA follows the property, NOT Sears; so an EDA extension would not guarantee that SEARS will stay and actually makes it easier for Sears to sell the property
  - ii. Can the village really argue that the area of Routes 59/72 is still economically deprived?
  - iii. TIF language requires approval all affected taxing bodies prior to extension

# Prairie Stone Business Park Overview



Village of Hoffman Estates  
 U.S. Department - November 2010

**4A**

**Village of Gilberts  
87 Galligan Road  
Gilberts, IL 60136  
Village Board  
Meeting Minutes  
October 4, 2011**

**Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance**

President Zirk called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**Roll Call/Establish Quorum**

Village Clerk Meadows called the roll. Roll call: Members present: Trustees Corbett, Clark, Mierisch, Zambetti, Farrell, Hacker and President Zirk. Others present: Administrator Keller, Assistant to the Village Administrator Beith and Village Clerk Meadows. For members of the audience please see the attached list.

**Public Comment and Discussion**

President Zirk asked if anyone from the audience wished to address the Board. There was no comment from those in attendance.

**Consent Agenda**

- A. A motion to approve minutes from the September 20, 2011 Village Board Meeting**
- B. A motion to approve Bills and Salaries dated October 4, 2011 as follows: General Fund \$19,336.29, Water Fund \$20,577.33 and Payroll \$70,331.26.**

**A motion was made by Trustee Clark and seconded by Trustee Zambetti to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.** Roll call: Vote: 6-ayes: Trustees Clark, Mierisch, Zambetti, Farrell, Hacker and Corbett. 0-nays, 0-abstained. Motion carried.

**Items for Approval**

**A Motion to approve Resolution 41-2011, A Resolution authorizing the approval of the Fall 2011 Recreational Programming Agreement with the Dragons Soccer Club.**

Administrator Keller discussed the concerns raised by the Board at the last meeting. He noted that the concerns included the continued use and maintenance of the fields; the need for additional parking; the impacts on the adjacent neighborhood from the expanded scheduled activity, and possible duplication of programs already provided. In addition the Board had directed staff to define the term "youth". This is now reflected in the amended agreement.

President Zirk recommends that all future athletic agreements have language to ensure the organizations are conducting background checks on all coaches and adult volunteers and have a mechanism in place to ensure they are doing so.

The Board Members discussed the three options.

1. They could pass the Resolution approving the agreement.
2. Vote down the Resolution
3. Vote down the Resolution but still allow the Dragons to use the fields for the remainder of their fall season.

Trustee Corbett reported that he had visited the Town Center Soccer Fields last weekend and there were only two soccer games in progress. He did not notice any parking lot overflow issues.

The Board recommended in the future staff include on the park use calendar the names of the teams using the fields and the field numbers they have been assigned.

**A motion was made by Trustee Clark and seconded by Trustee Corbett to approve Resolution 41-2011, a Resolution authorizing the approval of the CY 2011 Recreational Programming Agreement with the Dragons Soccer Club.** Roll call: Vote: 5-nays: Trustees Mierisch, Zambetti, Farrell, Hacker, Corbett. 1-aye: Trustee Clark. 0-abstained. Motion failed.

The Board Members agreed to allow the Dragons to use Town Center Soccer Fields to finish out their fall season. The agreement will be discussed again at a later date.

### **Items for Discussion**

#### **Park Facilities Use Fees**

Administrator Keller stated at the last meeting the Board Members had asked staff for information about other communities' fee structures for the use of park facilities by organized groups. Staff conducted a survey of park fees, which was provided in the Board's packets. The survey also provides preliminary information about property taxes that are being levied by park districts and municipalities.

A lengthy discussion ensued with respect to the user fees and property taxes depicted on the spreadsheet. The Board directed staff to clarify the spreadsheet by noting the rate of property taxes currently being collected by all of the municipalities and the services being provided.

Administrator Keller reported that the implementation of the collection of a user fee of \$20.00 per participant with on average 960 participants would not generate enough revenue to finance any major improvements. The revenue would only assist in covering maintenance cost.

The Board Members discussed referendum options. Trustee Mierisch expressed concerns with placing a public question on the next election ballot due to the current economic environment. Trustee Zambetti disagreed. He stated that many residents have expressed interest in the development of some type of parks department or park district.

Trustee Clark commented on the fact that the Village would need a plan prior to placing a referendum on the ballot. Trustee Zambetti reminded the Board that the past Park Committee had developed a parks plan. Staff was directed to resurrect the Park Plan and include the plan in an upcoming Board packet.

A lengthy discussion ensued with respect to investigating possible intergovernmental agreements with some of the surrounding communities. President Zirk suggested one possible option might be to have a program similar to NISRA and reimburse the residents for their out of district cost.

President Zirk suggested the possibility of offering residents a variety of programs and purchase blocks of time from other facilities.

Staff will research all the suggestions discussed and provide the Board with various options.

#### **Staff Reports**

Administrator Keller reported that the road program is moving forward and the ditch work had begun. Trustee Clark recommends the Village inform the residents that are receiving turf that this time of the year the turf will remain dormant.

Trustee Mierisch inquired if a procedure had been put into place that informs the residents on when their driveway work will commence. Engineer Stefan responded yes. They do have a formal field procedure in place.



Trustee Mierisch asked if they have a procedure in place which informs residents interested in having their entire driveway reconstructed of available subcontractors. Engineer Stefan will follow-up on this matter.

#### **Trustee Reports**

Trustee Corbett discussed School District 300's opposition to the Sears EDA. Administrator Keller reported that he will be attending a meeting with the School District tomorrow to discuss this issue.

A representative from School District 300 commented on the districts concerns with the legislators pushing for a vote on SB540 by the end of the month. Which, if passed would extend the Sears EDA for an additional 15 years. They are asking for communities within District 300's boundaries to consider passing a Resolution opposing the passage of Senate Bill 540 Amendment 3.

#### **Adjournment**

There being no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Trustee Clark and seconded by Trustee Zambetti to adjourn from the public meeting at 8:15 p.m. Roll call: Vote: 6-ayes by unanimous voice vote. 0-nays, 0-abstained. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Meadows

**Village Board Meeting**

**87 Galligan Road**

**Gilberts, Illinois**

**Sign-in-Sheet**

**October 4, 2011**

**Name**

**Address**

**Telephone #**

George Kuge

901 Kail Road St

847 514 5475

Tom Wanda

485 Kildare St.

224-629-1351

**4B**

## Fund Summary

|   | BALANCE AS<br>OF 9-30-11 | Restricted /<br>Designated<br>Funds | Unrestricted /<br>Undesignated Funds |
|---|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>Unrestricted - General Fund</b>                  |                          |                                     | <b>502,792.27</b>                    |
| <b>Restricted - Total</b>                           |                          | <b>7,070,555.31</b>                 |                                      |
| <b>Restricted- Designated Reserves</b>              |                          | <b>155,248.46</b>                   |                                      |
| - 1 Months Expenses                                 | 155,248.46               |                                     |                                      |
| <b>Restricted - Road Improvement</b>                |                          | <b>470,289.54</b>                   |                                      |
| - FY-07 and Prior                                   | 707,838.00               |                                     |                                      |
| - FY-08 Transfer (School Road)                      | (120,000.00)             |                                     |                                      |
| - FY-08   | 76,235.76                |                                     |                                      |
| - FY-09   | 75,968.38                |                                     |                                      |
| - FY-09 Transfer (Additional Salt & Snow Removal)   | (78,469.37)              |                                     |                                      |
| - FY-09/FY10 Hennessy Bridge Work                   | (350,000.00)             |                                     |                                      |
| - FY-10   | 79,129.42                |                                     |                                      |
| - FY-11 (Road Study)                                | (10,000.00)              |                                     |                                      |
| - FY-11   | 77,944.57                |                                     |                                      |
| - FY-12   | 11,642.78                |                                     |                                      |
| <b>Restricted-GO Bond - Road Program</b>            |                          | <b>2,510,631.46</b>                 |                                      |
| - Balance - Illinois Funds                          | 2,510,631.46             |                                     |                                      |
| <b>Restricted - Road Improvement MFT</b>            |                          | <b>381,904.47</b>                   |                                      |
| - Balance - Illinois Funds                          | 298,016.79               |                                     |                                      |
| - Balance - Union Bank Money Market                 | 83,887.68                |                                     |                                      |
| <b>Restricted - Capital Improvement</b>             |                          | <b>115,845.76</b>                   |                                      |
| - FY-05   | 81,596.76                |                                     |                                      |
| - FY-06   | 45,000.00                |                                     |                                      |
| - FY-08 Transfer (Wing Mower)                       | (41,751.00)              |                                     |                                      |
| - FY-11 P/W Truck Sale                              | 31,000.00                |                                     |                                      |
| <b>Restricted - New Development Fees</b>            |                          | <b>843,717.63</b>                   |                                      |
| - FY-06 Municipal Impact Fee                        | 286,000.00               |                                     |                                      |
| - FY-07 Municipal Impact Fee                        | 382,250.00               |                                     |                                      |
| - FY-08 Municipal Impact Fee                        | 261,250.00               |                                     |                                      |
| - FY-08/FY-09 Transfer (Salt Bin)                   | (185,701.50)             |                                     |                                      |
| - FY-09 Municipal Impact Fee                        | 82,500.00                |                                     |                                      |
| - FY-07/08 Municipal Transistion Fee                | 8,000.00                 |                                     |                                      |
| - FY-07/08 Municipal Police/SafetyTransistion Fee   | 2,000.00                 |                                     |                                      |
| - FY-09 Transfers Out                               | (127,256.51)             |                                     |                                      |
| - FY-10 Reimburse PGAV TIF Study from TIF           | 18,788.40                |                                     |                                      |
| - FY-10 Town Center Park Parking Lot                | (201,112.76)             |                                     |                                      |
| - FY-10 Municipal Impact Fee                        | 104,500.00               |                                     |                                      |
| - FY-11 Municipal Impact Fee                        | 151,250.00               |                                     |                                      |
| - FY-11 Transfers (Road Study)                      | (13,000.00)              |                                     |                                      |
| - FY-12 Municipal Impact Fee                        | 74,250.00                |                                     |                                      |
| <b>Restricted - Tree Replacement/Beautification</b> |                          | <b>11,910.00</b>                    |                                      |
| - FY-09 Recycling Revenue                           | 2,500.00                 |                                     |                                      |
| - FY-10 Recycling Rvenue                            | 5,000.00                 |                                     |                                      |
| - FY-10 Tree Replacements                           | (590.00)                 |                                     |                                      |
| - FY-12 Recycling Revenue                           | 5,000.00                 |                                     |                                      |

|  |              |                     |                   |                     |
|--|--------------|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Restricted - Drug Forfeiture</b>                      |              | <b>10,615.36</b>    |                   |                     |
| - Balance  | 10,615.36    |                     |                   |                     |
| <b>Restricted - Enterprise Fund (Water / Wastewater)</b> |              | <b>804,350.26</b>   |                   |                     |
| - Balance  | 804,350.26   |                     |                   |                     |
| <b>Restricted - Pass Thru/Escrows</b>                    |              | <b>1,766,042.37</b> |                   |                     |
| - Balance  | 1,766,042.37 |                     |                   |                     |
| <b>Total</b>   |              | <b>7,070,555.31</b> | <b>502,792.27</b> | <b>7,573,347.58</b> |

|  |            |  |                   |  |
|--|------------|--|-------------------|--|
| <b>General Fund Revenue Receivable</b> |            |  | <b>125,018.15</b> |  |
| - State Income Tax Payments Delayed    | 125,018.15 |  |                   |  |

|   |  |  |                   |  |
|---|--|--|-------------------|--|
| <b>Total Unrestricted Funds including Receivables</b> |  |  | <b>627,810.42</b> |  |
|---|--|--|-------------------|--|

### Additional Information

|                                      |              |                     |  |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|---------------------|--|
| <b>Pass Thru - Balance of Escrow</b> |              | <b>1,766,042.37</b> |  |
| - Building Permit-Town Center        | 8,152.87     |                     |  |
| - Performance Bonds / Escrows        | 239,581.68   |                     |  |
| - TIF #1                             | 42,413.82    |                     |  |
| - Impact Fees - Library              | 40,250.00    |                     |  |
| - Impact Fees - School               | 1,412,404.00 |                     |  |
| - Impact Fees - Fire District        | 6,840.00     |                     |  |
| - Transistion Fees - Fire            | 2,000.00     |                     |  |
| - Transistion Fees - Library         | 400.00       |                     |  |
| - Transistion Fees - School          | 14,000.00    |                     |  |

|                                   |              |                     |  |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|---------------------|--|
| <b>Capital Projects</b>           |              | <b>1,615,845.76</b> |  |
| - Current Balance                 | 115,845.76   |                     |  |
| - Due from Conservancy Annexation | 1,500,000.00 |                     |  |

|                               |              |                     |  |
|-------------------------------|--------------|---------------------|--|
| <b>School Site Purchase</b>   |              | <b>1,803,975.30</b> |  |
| - Original Amount             | 1,500,000.00 |                     |  |
| - Interest due 9/06 thru 9/11 | 303,975.30   |                     |  |

|                                   |  |                     |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|---------------------|--|
| <b>Total Due VOG - Annexation</b> |  | <b>3,419,821.06</b> |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|---------------------|--|

|   |            |                   |  |
|---|------------|-------------------|--|
| <b>SSA #20 Loan from Water Department</b> |            | <b>574,724.39</b> |  |
| - FY-08 Advances                          | 341,194.63 |                   |  |
| - FY-09 Avances to date                   | 233,529.76 |                   |  |

|                                   |  |                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|-------------------|--|
| <b>Total Due Water/Sewer Fund</b> |  | <b>574,724.39</b> |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|-------------------|--|

**TREASURER'S STATEMENT AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2011**

|                           | MONTH               | YEAR TO DATE        |                     | YEAR TO DATE        |
|---------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Beginning Bank Balance:   |                     |                     | <u>7,066,516.31</u> | <u>4,690,972.63</u> |
| Credits:                  |                     |                     |                     |                     |
| General Fund:             | <u>662,387.43</u>   | <u>2,232,372.31</u> |                     |                     |
| GO Bond                   | <u>500,082.14</u>   | <u>2,521,715.19</u> |                     |                     |
| Water Fund:               | <u>302,707.87</u>   | <u>773,169.07</u>   |                     |                     |
| Motor Fuel Tax (MFT):     | <u>14,821.86</u>    | <u>95,608.12</u>    |                     |                     |
| Performance Bonds/Escrow: | <u>29,336.84</u>    | <u>165,738.00</u>   |                     |                     |
| TIF #1                    | <u>12,424.09</u>    | <u>38,776.45</u>    |                     |                     |
| Drug Forfeiture:          | <u>2,990.18</u>     | <u>4,288.15</u>     |                     |                     |
| Total Credits All Funds:  | <u>1,524,750.41</u> | <u>5,831,667.29</u> | <u>1,524,750.41</u> | <u>5,831,667.29</u> |
| Expenses:                 |                     |                     |                     |                     |
| General Fund:             | <u>319,298.78</u>   | <u>1,674,804.96</u> |                     |                     |
| GO Bond                   | <u>1,372.48</u>     | <u>11,083.73</u>    |                     |                     |
| Water Fund:               | <u>187,550.31</u>   | <u>620,935.72</u>   |                     |                     |
| Motor Fuel Tax (MFT):     | <u>500,000.00</u>   | <u>500,000.00</u>   |                     |                     |
| Performance Bond/Escrow:  | <u>8,771.32</u>     | <u>28,922.93</u>    |                     |                     |
| TIF #1                    | <u>926.25</u>       | <u>104,946.25</u>   |                     |                     |
| Drug Forfeiture:          | <u>-</u>            | <u>8,598.75</u>     |                     |                     |
| Total Debits All Funds:   | <u>1,017,919.14</u> | <u>2,949,292.34</u> | <u>1,017,919.14</u> | <u>2,949,292.34</u> |
| Ending Bank Balance:      |                     |                     |                     |                     |
| General Fund:             | <u>2,107,956.53</u> |                     |                     |                     |
| GO Bond                   | <u>2,510,631.46</u> |                     |                     |                     |
| Water Fund:               | <u>804,350.26</u>   |                     |                     |                     |
| Motor Fuel Tax (MFT):     | <u>381,904.47</u>   |                     |                     |                     |
| Performance Bond/Escrow:  | <u>1,715,475.68</u> |                     |                     |                     |
| TIF #1                    | <u>42,413.82</u>    |                     |                     |                     |
| Drug Forfeiture:          | <u>10,615.36</u>    |                     |                     |                     |
| Total Debits All Funds:   | <u>7,573,347.58</u> |                     | <u>7,573,347.58</u> | <u>7,573,347.58</u> |

**TREASURER'S SIGNATURE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DATE: OCTOBER 4, 2011**

Village of Gilberts  
MONTH CLOSED: September, 2011

GENERAL FUND MONEY MARKET  
01-00-105

|                               |            |                        |              |
|-------------------------------|------------|------------------------|--------------|
| Beginning Book Balance:       | 177,152.21 | Previous YTD Credits:  | 1,569,984.88 |
|                               |            |                        | 85,199.56    |
| Deposits (Total):             | 478,382.20 | Current Credits:       | 577,187.87   |
|                               |            |                        |              |
| Interest Income:              |            | Current YTD Credits:   | 2,232,372.31 |
| (01-00-341) Money Market:     | 135.43     | Previous YTD Debits:   | 1,355,506.18 |
| (01-00-341) Checking:         | 4.36       |                        | 22,736.00    |
| (01-00-342) Performance Bond: | 19.96      | Current Debits:        | 296,562.78   |
|                               |            |                        |              |
| Miscellaneous Income:         | 202.00     | Current YTD Debits:    | 1,674,804.96 |
| Transfer From Illinois Funds  |            |                        |              |
| Transfer of Garbage Revenue   | 98,443.92  |                        |              |
| Voided Check                  |            |                        |              |
|                               |            |                        |              |
| Subtotal:                     | 754,340.08 | CD Balance:            | -            |
|                               |            | G/F MM Balance:        | 457,777.30   |
| Checks Written (Total):       | 296,462.78 | IL Funds Balance:      | 678,286.48   |
| Deposit Reduction             | 100.00     | Citizens Bank Balance: | 970,892.75   |
| Transfer to P/B (Agency)      |            | G/F CKG Balance:       | 1,000.00     |
|                               |            | Total balance:         | 2,107,956.53 |
|                               |            |                        |              |
| Ending Check Book Balance:    | 457,777.30 |                        |              |
| Deposits in Transit:          | 24.32      |                        |              |
| Outstanding Checks:           |            |                        |              |
| Balance per Bank Statement:   | 457,752.98 |                        |              |

Expenditures/Transfers:

| Date:     | For:             | Amount:    |
|-----------|------------------|------------|
| 9/7/2011  | Accounts Payable | 44,643.30  |
| 9/20/2011 | Accounts Payable | 90,441.28  |
| 9/1/2011  | Payroll          | 41,836.02  |
| 9/15/2011 | Payroll          | 40,992.93  |
| 9/29/2011 | Payroll          | 59,330.20  |
| 9/1/2011  | Health Insurance | 19,219.05  |
|           |                  |            |
|           | Total:           | 296,462.78 |

| Deposits:                       | Deposits:  | Direct Deposits       |            |
|---------------------------------|------------|-----------------------|------------|
| 20.00                           | 96.00      | Kane County           | 379,034.37 |
| 40.00                           | 263.00     | T-Mobile              | 1,725.00   |
| 77.00                           | 6,118.47   | St. of IL - DOJ       | 925.00     |
| 191.00                          | 2,286.00   | St. of IL - DOJ       | 87.50      |
| 709.00                          | 1,012.00   | Nicor                 | 3,068.55   |
| 711.00                          |            | Exelon                | 20,847.63  |
| 525.00                          |            |                       |            |
| 15.00                           |            |                       |            |
| 1,030.00                        |            |                       |            |
| 938.00                          |            |                       |            |
| 33,672.68                       |            |                       |            |
| 106.00                          |            |                       |            |
| 24,884.00                       |            |                       |            |
|                                 |            |                       |            |
| Total Deposits                  | 72,694.15  | Total Direct Deposits | 405,688.05 |
|                                 |            |                       |            |
| Total Deposits/Direct Deposits: | 478,382.20 |                       |            |







|                                 |            |                       |           |
|---------------------------------|------------|-----------------------|-----------|
| Beginning Book Balance:         | 616,357.28 | Previous YTD Credits: |           |
|                                 |            | Current Credits:      | 84,665.20 |
| Deposits (Total):               | 83,258.46  | Current YTD Credits:  |           |
|                                 |            | Previous YTD Debits:  |           |
| (01-00-347) IL First Funds:     | 24.39      | Current Debits:       | 22,736.00 |
| (01-00-347) IL First Funds P/B: | 9.87       | Current YTD Debits:   |           |
|                                 |            | CD Balance:           |           |
| Xfer Bond Acct-Reimburse:       | 1,372.48   | G/F MM Balance:       |           |
|                                 |            | G/F CKG Balance:      |           |
| Subtotal:                       | 701,022.48 | Total balance:        |           |
| Transfer to Union National      |            |                       |           |
| Impact Fees to Agency Fund      | 22,736.00  |                       |           |
|                                 |            |                       |           |
| Ending Check Book Balance:      | 678,286.48 |                       |           |
| Deposits in Transit:            |            |                       |           |
| Outstanding Checks:             |            |                       |           |
| Balance per Bank Statement:     | 678,286.48 |                       |           |

| Expenditures/Transfers: |      |         |
|-------------------------|------|---------|
| Date:                   | For: | Amount: |
|                         |      |         |
|                         |      |         |
|                         |      |         |
|                         |      |         |
|                         |      |         |
|                         |      |         |
|                         |      |         |
|                         |      |         |
| Total:                  |      |         |

| Deposits:                              | Direct Deposits: | Description: |
|--|------------------|--------------|
| 14,812.29                              |                  |              |
| 8,931.63                               |                  |              |
| 18,451.04                              |                  |              |
| 41,063.50                              |                  |              |
|  |                  |              |
|  |                  |              |
|  |                  |              |
|  |                  |              |
|  |                  |              |
|  |                  |              |
| <b>Total Deposits/Direct Deposits:</b> | 83,258.46        |              |

|                             |                     |                       |                     |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Beginning Book Balance:     | <u>2,011,921.80</u> | Previous YTD Credits: | <u>2,021,633.05</u> |
| Deposits (Total):           |                     | Current Credits:      | <u>500,082.14</u>   |
| Xfer from MFT               | <u>500,000.00</u>   | Current YTD Credits:  | <u>2,521,715.19</u> |
| (15-00-347) IL First Funds: | <u>82.14</u>        | Previous YTD Debits:  | <u>9,711.25</u>     |
|                             |                     | Current Debits:       | <u>1,372.48</u>     |
| Miscellaneous Income:       |                     | Current YTD Debits:   | <u>11,083.73</u>    |
| Subtotal:                   | <u>2,512,003.94</u> |                       |                     |
| Checks Written              | <u>1,372.48</u>     |                       |                     |
| Ending Check Book Balance:  | <u>2,510,631.46</u> |                       |                     |
| Deposits in Transit:        |                     |                       |                     |
| Outstanding Checks:         |                     |                       |                     |
| Balance per Bank Statement: | <u>2,510,631.46</u> |                       |                     |

Expenditures/Transfers:

| Date:            | For:                | Amount:         |
|------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| <u>9/15/2011</u> | <u>Ancel Glink</u>  | <u>780.00</u>   |
| <u>9/15/2011</u> | <u>VOG-Mailings</u> | <u>592.48</u>   |
|                  |                     |                 |
|                  |                     |                 |
|                  |                     |                 |
|                  |                     |                 |
|                  | Total:              | <u>1,372.48</u> |

| Deposits:                       | Direct Deposits: | Description: |
|---------------------------------|------------------|--------------|
|                                 |                  |              |
|                                 |                  |              |
|                                 |                  |              |
|                                 |                  |              |
|                                 |                  |              |
|                                 |                  |              |
|                                 |                  |              |
|                                 |                  |              |
| Total Deposits/Direct Deposits: | <u>-</u>         |              |

|                             |            |                       |   |
|-----------------------------|------------|-----------------------|---|
| Beginning Book Balance:     | 274,011.74 | Previous YTD Credits: |   |
| Deposits (Total):           |            | Current Credits:      | - |
|                             |            | Current YTD Credits:  |   |
| (01-00-347) IL First Funds: |            | Previous YTD Debits:  |   |
|                             |            | Current Debits:       |   |
| Miscellaneous Income:       |            | Current YTD Debits:   |   |
| Subtotal:                   | 274,011.74 |                       |   |
| Checks Written              |            |                       |   |
| Ending Check Book Balance:  | 274,011.74 |                       |   |
| Deposits in Transit:        |            |                       |   |
| Outstanding Checks:         |            |                       |   |
| Balance per Bank Statement: | 274,011.74 |                       |   |

Expenditures/Transfers:

| For:   | Amount: |
|--------|---------|
|        |         |
|        |         |
|        |         |
|        |         |
|        |         |
| Total: | -       |

| Deposits:                       | Direct Deposits: |
|---------------------------------|------------------|
|                                 |                  |
|                                 |                  |
|                                 |                  |
|                                 |                  |
|                                 |                  |
|                                 |                  |
|                                 |                  |
|                                 |                  |
| Total Deposits/Direct Deposits: | -                |

Description:

|                                    |                   |                              |                   |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Beginning Book Balance:</b>     | <u>86,715.35</u>  | <b>Previous YTD Credits:</b> | <u>470,461.20</u> |
|                                    |                   |                              | <u>2,773.65</u>   |
| <b>Deposits (Total):</b>           | <u>299,895.12</u> | <b>Current Credits:</b>      | <u>299,934.22</u> |
|                                    |                   | <b>Current YTD Credits:</b>  | <u>773,169.07</u> |
| <b>Interest Income:</b>            |                   | <b>Previous YTD Debits:</b>  | <u>433,385.41</u> |
| (20-00-341) Money Market:          | <u>34.43</u>      |                              |                   |
| (20-00-341) Checking:              | <u>4.67</u>       | <b>Current Debits:</b>       | <u>187,550.31</u> |
|                                    |                   | <b>Current YTD Debits:</b>   | <u>620,935.72</u> |
| <b>Miscellaneous Income:</b>       |                   |                              |                   |
| <b>Subtotal:</b>                   | <u>386,649.57</u> | <b>Barrington Bank:</b>      | <u>557,880.99</u> |
|                                    |                   | <b>H2O MM Balance:</b>       | <u>199,099.26</u> |
| <b>Checks Written (Total):</b>     | <u>89,040.96</u>  | <b>H2O Illinois Funds</b>    | <u>46,370.01</u>  |
| <b>Returned Checks</b>             | <u>65.43</u>      | <b>H2O CKG Balance:</b>      | <u>1,000.00</u>   |
| <b>Transfer for Garbage</b>        | <u>98,443.92</u>  | <b>Total balance:</b>        | <u>804,350.26</u> |
| <b>Ending Check Book Balance:</b>  | <u>199,099.26</u> |                              |                   |
| <b>Deposits in Transit:</b>        | <u>4.67</u>       |                              |                   |
| <b>Outstanding Checks:</b>         | <u>98,443.92</u>  |                              |                   |
| <b>Balance per Bank Statement:</b> | <u>297,538.51</u> |                              |                   |

**Expenditures/Transfers:**

| <b>Date:</b>     | <b>For:</b>      | <b>Amount:</b>   |
|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| <u>9/7/2011</u>  | Accounts Payable | <u>41,596.20</u> |
| <u>9/20/2011</u> | Accounts Payable | <u>11,507.07</u> |
| <u>9/15/2011</u> | Payroll-Water    | <u>10,509.61</u> |
| <u>9/1/2011</u>  | Payroll-Water    | <u>10,475.35</u> |
| <u>9/29/2011</u> | Payroll-Water    | <u>11,001.06</u> |
| <u>9/1/2011</u>  | Health Insurance | <u>3,951.67</u>  |

**Total:** 89,040.96

**Direct Deposits**

|                        |                   |                  |
|------------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| <b>Deposits:</b>       |                   |                  |
| <u>20.00</u>           | <u>19,415.71</u>  |                  |
| <u>144.00</u>          | <u>20,142.74</u>  |                  |
| <u>165.00</u>          | <u>13,983.68</u>  |                  |
| <u>534.40</u>          | <u>11,799.95</u>  |                  |
| <u>1,796.62</u>        | <u>80,313.09</u>  |                  |
| <u>13,980.72</u>       | <u>49,947.17</u>  |                  |
| <u>11,109.17</u>       | <u>479.75</u>     |                  |
| <u>10,616.22</u>       | <u>6,067.84</u>   |                  |
| <u>6,600.04</u>        |                   |                  |
| <u>10,109.35</u>       |                   |                  |
| <u>30,287.52</u>       |                   |                  |
|                        | <u>287,512.97</u> | <u>12,382.15</u> |
| <b>Total Deposits:</b> | <u>299,895.12</u> |                  |

|                             |           |                       |  |
|-----------------------------|-----------|-----------------------|--|
| Beginning Book Balance:     | 1,000.00  | Previous YTD Credits: |  |
| Deposits (Total):           | 53,103.27 | Current Credits:      |  |
| Voided Checks:              |           | Current YTD Credits:  |  |
| Check#    Vendor Name:      |           | Previous YTD Debits:  |  |
|                             |           | Current Debits:       |  |
| Total Voided Checks:        |           | Current YTD Debits:   |  |
| Subtotal:                   | 54,103.27 |                       |  |
| Checks Written (Total):     | 53,103.27 |                       |  |
| Voided Checks (Total):      |           |                       |  |
| Ending Check Book Balance:  | 1,000.00  |                       |  |
| Deposits in Transit:        |           |                       |  |
| Outstanding Checks:         | 45,294.08 |                       |  |
| Balance per Bank Statement: | 46,294.08 |                       |  |

Expenditures/Transfers:

|           |                  |           |
|-----------|------------------|-----------|
| Date:     | For:             |           |
| 9/7/2011  | Accounts Payable | 41,596.20 |
| 9/20/2011 | Accounts Payable | 11,507.07 |
|           |                  |           |
|           |                  |           |
|           | Total:           | 53,103.27 |

Outstanding Checks:

| Check #: | Amount:   | Check #: | Amount:   |
|----------|-----------|----------|-----------|
| 202350   | 4.18      |          |           |
| 202365   | 1.19      |          |           |
| 202389   | 543.62    |          |           |
| 202654   | 44,122.39 |          |           |
| 203258   | 622.70    |          |           |
|          |           |          |           |
|          |           | Total:   | 45,294.08 |



557,828.54

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52.45

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52.45

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557,880.99

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557,880.99

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557,880.99

**Amount:**

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| Age Group | Percentage |
|-----------|------------|
| 18-24     | 22%        |
| 25-34     | 28%        |
| 35-44     | 18%        |
| 45-54     | 15%        |
| 55-64     | 12%        |
| 65-74     | 8%         |
| 75-84     | 5%         |
| 85+       | 2%         |

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|-----------------------------|-----------|-----------------------|-------|
| Beginning Book Balance:     | 83,850.56 | Previous YTD Credits: |       |
| Deposits (Total):           |           | Current Credits:      | 37.12 |
| Interest Income:            |           | Current YTD Credits:  |       |
| (30-00-341) Money Market:   | 37.12     | Previous YTD Debits:  |       |
|                             |           | Current Debits:       |       |
| Miscellaneous Income:       |           | Current YTD Debits:   |       |
| Subtotal:                   | 83,887.68 |                       |       |
| Checks Written (Total):     |           |                       |       |
| Returned Checks (Total):    |           |                       |       |
| Ending Check Book Balance:  | 83,887.68 |                       |       |
| Deposits in Transit:        |           |                       |       |
| Outstanding Checks:         |           |                       |       |
| Balance per Bank Statement: | 83,887.68 |                       |       |

| Expenditures/Transfers: |      |         |
|-------------------------|------|---------|
| Date:                   | For: | Amount: |
|                         |      |         |
|                         |      |         |
|                         |      |         |
|                         |      |         |
|                         |      |         |
|                         |      |         |
|                         |      |         |
|                         |      |         |
| Total:                  |      |         |

**Deposits:**

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**Total Deposits:**

|                             |            |                       |            |
|-----------------------------|------------|-----------------------|------------|
| Beginning Book Balance:     | 783,232.05 | Previous YTD Credits: | 80,786.26  |
|                             |            |                       | 37.12      |
| Deposits (Total):           | 14,760.38  | Current Credits:      | 14,784.74  |
|                             |            | Current YTD Credits:  | 95,608.12  |
| Interest Income:            |            | Previous YTD Debits:  | -          |
| (30-00-347) Money Market:   | 24.36      | Current Debits:       | 500,000.00 |
|                             |            | Current YTD Debits:   | 500,000.00 |
| Miscellaneous Income:       |            | MFT MM Balance        | 83,887.68  |
|                             |            | IL Funds Balance:     | 298,016.79 |
| Subtotal:                   | 798,016.79 | Total balance:        | 381,904.47 |
| Transfer to Bond Account    | 500,000.00 |                       |            |
| Returned Checks (Total):    |            |                       |            |
|                             |            |                       |            |
| Ending Check Book Balance:  | 298,016.79 |                       |            |
| Deposits in Transit:        |            |                       |            |
| Outstanding Checks:         |            |                       |            |
| Balance per Bank Statement: | 298,016.79 |                       |            |

**Expenditures/Transfers:**

| Date:         | For: | Amount: |
|---------------|------|---------|
|               |      |         |
|               |      |         |
|               |      |         |
|               |      |         |
|               |      |         |
|               |      |         |
|               |      |         |
|               |      |         |
|               |      |         |
| <b>Total:</b> |      |         |

**Deposits:**This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines, typical of notebook paper. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are approximately 10 visible lines. The paper has a slight shadow on its right side, suggesting it's resting on a surface.

**Total Deposits:** \_\_\_\_\_

|                             |            |                       |              |
|-----------------------------|------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| Beginning Book Balance:     | 241,752.16 | Previous YTD Credits: | 136,401.16   |
|                             |            |                       | 22,736.00    |
| Deposits (Total):           | 6,123.49   | Current Credits:      | 6,600.84     |
|                             |            |                       |              |
| Interest Income:            |            | Current YTD Credits:  | 165,738.00   |
| (31-00-341) Money Market:   |            |                       |              |
|                             |            | Previous YTD Debits:  | 20,151.61    |
| Voided Checks               | 285.00     | Current Debits:       | 8,771.32     |
| Transfer from G/F           |            |                       |              |
| Miscellaneous Income:       | 192.35     | Current YTD Debits:   | 28,922.93    |
|                             |            |                       |              |
| Subtotal:                   | 248,353.00 |                       |              |
|                             |            | P/Bond Balance        | 239,581.68   |
| Checks Written (Total):     | 8,569.32   | IL Funds Balance:     | 276,293.70   |
| Transfer to General Fund    | 202.00     | CD'S Balance          | 1,199,600.30 |
| Transfer to Water Fund      |            | Total balance:        | 1,715,475.68 |
|                             |            |                       |              |
| Ending Check Book Balance:  | 239,581.68 |                       |              |
| Deposits in Transit:        |            |                       |              |
| Outstanding Checks:         | 3,590.80   |                       |              |
| Balance per Bank Statement: | 243,172.48 |                       |              |

Expenditures/Transfers:

| Date:     | For:             | Amount:  |
|-----------|------------------|----------|
| 9/7/2011  | Accounts Payable | 4,734.97 |
| 9/20/2011 | Accounts Payable | 2,645.35 |
| 9/30/2011 | Returned Bonds   | 1,189.00 |
|           |                  |          |
|           | Total:           | 8,569.32 |

Outstanding Checks

|           |          |                          |          |
|-----------|----------|--------------------------|----------|
| Deposits: |          | 301188                   | 5.00     |
| 386.00    | 193.00   | 301209                   | 135.00   |
| 579.00    | 193.00   | 301704                   | 150.00   |
| 193.00    | 386.00   | 302505                   | 175.00   |
| 193.00    | 579.00   | 302544                   | 135.00   |
| 943.00    | 193.00   | 302569                   | 106.00   |
| 1,156.00  | 579.00   | 302755                   | 117.00   |
| 357.49    |          | 303032                   | 697.80   |
| 193.00    |          | 303041                   | 495.00   |
|           |          | 303049                   | 193.00   |
|           |          | 303051                   | 193.00   |
|           |          | 303052                   | 193.00   |
|           |          | 303053                   | 184.00   |
|           |          | 303054                   | 193.00   |
|           |          | 303055                   | 49.00    |
|           |          | 303056                   | 193.00   |
|           |          | 303057                   | 193.00   |
|           |          | 303058                   | 184.00   |
|           | 6,123.49 | Total Outstanding Checks | 3,590.80 |



**Village of Gilberts  
Performance Bond/Agency Fund  
Certificates of Deposit  
September 30, 2011**

| Bank                | CD#          | Amount       | Term     | Maturity Date | Interest Rate |
|---------------------|--------------|--------------|----------|---------------|---------------|
| Union National Bank | 4152-922     | 391,315.36   | 6 months | 10/9/2011     | 1.08 APY      |
| Union National Bank | 4152930      | 258,179.58   | 6 months | 10/15/2011    | 1.08 APY      |
| Union National Bank | 4152948      | 374,349.47   | 6 months | 10/23/2011    | 1.08 APY      |
| Union National Bank | 4152989      | 175,755.89   | 6 month  | 11/22/2011    | 1.06 APY      |
|                     |              | 1,199,600.30 |          |               |               |
| Union National CD's | 1,199,600.30 |              |          |               |               |

|                             |                  |                       |                   |
|-----------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Beginning Book Balance:     | <u>30,915.98</u> | Previous YTD Credits: | <u>26,352.36</u>  |
| Deposits (Total):           | <u>12,409.45</u> | Current Credits:      | <u>12,424.09</u>  |
| Interest Income:            |                  | Current YTD Credits:  | <u>38,776.45</u>  |
| (34-00-341) Money Market:   | <u>14.64</u>     | Previous YTD Debits:  | <u>104,020.00</u> |
|                             |                  | Current Debits:       | <u>926.25</u>     |
| Miscellaneous Income:       |                  | Current YTD Debits:   | <u>104,946.25</u> |
| Subtotal:                   | <u>43,340.07</u> |                       |                   |
| Checks Written (Total):     | <u>926.25</u>    |                       |                   |
| Returned Checks (Total):    |                  |                       |                   |
| Ending Check Book Balance:  | <u>42,413.82</u> |                       |                   |
| Deposits in Transit:        |                  |                       |                   |
| Outstanding Checks:         |                  |                       |                   |
| Balance per Bank Statement: | <u>42,413.82</u> |                       |                   |

**Expenditures/Transfers:**

| Date:            | For:                    | Amount:       |
|------------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| <u>9/20/2011</u> | <u>Accounts Payable</u> | <u>926.25</u> |
| <u></u>          | <u></u>                 | <u></u>       |
| <u></u>          | <u></u>                 | <u></u>       |
| <u></u>          | <u></u>                 | <u></u>       |
| <u></u>          | <u></u>                 | <u></u>       |
| <u></u>          | <u></u>                 | <u></u>       |
| <u></u>          | <u></u>                 | <u></u>       |
| <u></u>          | <u></u>                 | <u></u>       |
| <u></u>          | <u></u>                 | <u></u>       |
|                  | <b>Total:</b>           | <u>926.25</u> |

**Deposits:**

|                  |
|------------------|
| <u>12,409.25</u> |
| <u></u>          |
| <u></u>          |
| <u></u>          |
| <u></u>          |
| <u></u>          |
| <u></u>          |

**Total Deposits:** 12,409.25

|                             |                  |                       |                 |
|-----------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Beginning Book Balance:     | <u>7,625.18</u>  | Previous YTD Credits: | <u>1,297.97</u> |
| Deposits (Total):           | <u>2,985.00</u>  | Current Credits:      | <u>2,990.18</u> |
| Interest Income:            | <u>5.18</u>      | Current YTD Credits:  | <u>4,288.15</u> |
| (40-00-341) Money Market:   | <u></u>          | Previous YTD Debits:  | <u>8,598.75</u> |
|                             | <u></u>          | Current Debits:       | <u>-</u>        |
| Miscellaneous Income:       | <u></u>          | Current YTD Debits:   | <u>8,598.75</u> |
| Subtotal:                   | <u>10,615.36</u> |                       |                 |
| Checks Written (Total):     | <u></u>          |                       |                 |
| Returned Checks (Total):    | <u></u>          |                       |                 |
| Ending Check Book Balance:  | <u>10,615.36</u> |                       |                 |
| Deposits in Transit:        | <u></u>          |                       |                 |
| Outstanding Checks:         | <u></u>          |                       |                 |
| Balance per Bank Statement: | <u>10,615.36</u> |                       |                 |

|                         |         |                  |          |
|-------------------------|---------|------------------|----------|
| Expenditures/Transfers: | Date:   | For:             | Amount:  |
|                         | <u></u> | Accounts Payable | <u></u>  |
|                         | <u></u> | <u></u>          | <u></u>  |
|                         | <u></u> | <u></u>          | <u></u>  |
|                         | <u></u> | <u></u>          | <u></u>  |
|                         |         | Total:           | <u>-</u> |

|                                 |         |
|---------------------------------|---------|
| Deposits:                       |         |
| <u></u>                         |         |
| <u></u>                         |         |
| <u></u>                         |         |
| <u></u>                         |         |
| <u></u>                         |         |
| <u></u>                         |         |
| <u></u>                         |         |
| <u></u>                         |         |
| Total Deposits/Direct Deposits: | <u></u> |

21,107.78



# ROAD IMPROVEMENT FUND BALANCE SHEET

| Date       | Deposit       | Received From           | Balance       |
|------------|---------------|-------------------------|---------------|
|            | \$ 2,940.00   | Circuit Court           | \$ 2,940.00   |
| 11/8/2001  | \$ 24,220.94  | Infrastructure Acct     | \$ 27,160.94  |
| 2/28/2002  | \$ 180.00     | Overweight Permits      | \$ 27,340.94  |
| 3/31/2002  | \$ 380.00     | Overweight Permits      | \$ 27,720.94  |
| 5/31/2002  | \$ 540.00     | Overweight Permits      | \$ 28,260.94  |
| 5/31/2002  | \$ 1,500.00   | Antenna Rental/Verizon  | \$ 29,760.94  |
| 6/30/2002  | \$ 1,500.00   | Antenna Rental/Verizon  | \$ 31,260.94  |
| 6/30/2002  | \$ 350.00     | Antenna Rental/Worldcom | \$ 31,610.94  |
| 6/30/2002  | \$ 450.00     | Overweight Permits      | \$ 32,060.94  |
| 7/30/2002  | \$ 100.00     | Antenna Rental/DataCom  | \$ 32,160.94  |
| 7/30/2002  | \$ 1,500.00   | Antenna Rental/Verizon  | \$ 33,660.94  |
| 7/30/2002  | \$ 350.00     | Antenna Rental/Worldcom | \$ 34,010.94  |
| 7/30/2002  | \$ 680.00     | Overweight Permits      | \$ 34,690.94  |
| 8/31/2002  | \$ 650.00     | Overweight Permits      | \$ 35,340.94  |
| 8/31/2002  | \$ 5,050.00   | Circuit Court           | \$ 40,390.94  |
| 8/31/2002  | \$ 102.60     | Antenna Rental/DataCom  | \$ 40,493.54  |
| 8/31/2002  | \$ 1,500.00   | Antenna Rental/Verizon  | \$ 41,993.54  |
| 8/31/2002  | \$ 350.00     | Antenna Rental/Worldcom | \$ 42,343.54  |
| 9/30/2002  | \$ 102.60     | Antenna Rental/DataCom  | \$ 42,446.14  |
| 9/30/2002  | \$ 1,500.00   | Antenna Rental/Verizon  | \$ 43,946.14  |
| 9/30/2002  | \$ 350.00     | Antenna Rental/Worldcom | \$ 44,296.14  |
| 9/30/2002  | \$ 360.00     | Overweight Permits      | \$ 44,656.14  |
| 9/30/2002  | \$ 14,329.13  | Circuit Court           | \$ 58,985.27  |
| 10/11/2002 | \$ 102.60     | Antenna Rental/DataCom  | \$ 59,087.87  |
| 10/11/2002 | \$ 350.00     | Antenna Rental/Worldcom | \$ 59,437.87  |
| 10/31/2002 | \$ 1,500.00   | Antenna Rental/Verizon  | \$ 60,937.87  |
| 10/30/2002 | \$ 470.00     | Overweight Permits      | \$ 61,407.87  |
| 11/8/2002  | \$ 102.60     | Antenna Rental/DataCom  | \$ 61,510.47  |
| 11/25/2002 | \$ 1,500.00   | Antenna Rental/Verizon  | \$ 63,010.47  |
| 11/22/2002 | \$ 120,000.00 | Resolution #02-13R      | \$ 183,010.47 |
| 11/30/2002 | \$ 50.00      | Overweight Permits      | \$ 183,060.47 |
| 12/31/2002 | \$ 400.00     | Overweight Permits      | \$ 183,460.47 |
| 12/31/2002 | \$ 102.60     | Antenna Rental/DataCom  | \$ 183,563.07 |
| 12/31/2002 | \$ 1,500.00   | Antenna Rental/Verizon  | \$ 185,063.07 |
| 1/9/2003   | \$ 102.60     | Antenna Rental/DataCom  | \$ 185,165.67 |
| 1/31/2003  | \$ 490.00     | Overweight Permits      | \$ 185,655.67 |
| 2/28/2003  | \$ 106.50     | Antenna Rental/DataCom  | \$ 185,762.17 |
| 2/28/2003  | \$ 1,500.00   | Antenna Rental/Verizon  | \$ 187,262.17 |
| 2/28/2003  | \$ 1,500.00   | Antenna Rental/Verizon  | \$ 188,762.17 |
| 2/28/2003  | \$ 210.00     | Overweight Permits      | \$ 188,972.17 |
| 3/31/2003  | \$ 210.00     | Overweight Permits      | \$ 189,182.17 |
| 3/4/2003   | \$ 1,785.00   | Antenna Rental/Worldcom | \$ 190,967.17 |
| 3/10/2003  | \$ 107.80     | Antenna Rental/DataCom  | \$ 191,074.97 |
| 3/25/2003  | \$ 1,500.00   | Antenna Rental/Verizon  | \$ 192,574.97 |
| 4/1/2003   | \$ 385.00     | Antenna Rental/Worldcom | \$ 192,959.97 |
| 4/9/2003   | \$ 109.10     | Antenna Rental/DataCom  | \$ 193,069.07 |

# ROAD IMPROVEMENT FUND BALANCE SHEET

| Date       | Deposit      | Received From            | Balance       |
|------------|--------------|--------------------------|---------------|
| 4/29/2003  | \$ 1,500.00  | Antenna Rental/Worldcom  | \$ 194,569.07 |
| 4/30/2003  | \$ 450.00    | Overweight Permits       | \$ 195,019.07 |
| 5/31/2003  | \$ 500.00    | Overweight Permits       | \$ 195,519.07 |
| 5/31/2003  | \$ 111.70    | Antenna Rental/DataCom   | \$ 195,630.77 |
| 5/31/2003  | \$ 1,500.00  | Antenna Rental/Verizon   | \$ 197,130.77 |
| 5/31/2003  | \$ 385.00    | Antenna Rental/Worldcom  | \$ 197,515.77 |
| 5/31/2003  | \$ 14,685.00 | Vehicle Stickers         | \$ 212,200.77 |
| 6/30/2003  | \$ 50.00     | Overweight Permits       | \$ 212,250.77 |
| 6/30/2003  | \$ 385.00    | Antenna Rental/Worldcom  | \$ 212,635.77 |
| 6/30/2003  | \$ 113.00    | Antenna Rental/DataCom   | \$ 212,748.77 |
| 6/30/2003  | \$ 1,500.00  | Antenna Rental/Verizon   | \$ 214,248.77 |
| 6/30/2003  | \$ 7,575.50  | Vehicle Stickers         | \$ 221,824.27 |
| 7/2/2003   | \$ 385.00    | Antenna Rental/Worldcom  | \$ 222,209.27 |
| 7/9/2003   | \$ 113.00    | Antenna Rental/DataCom   | \$ 222,322.27 |
| 7/24/2003  | \$ 1,500.00  | Antenna Rental/Verizon   | \$ 223,822.27 |
| 7/31/2003  | \$ 1,365.00  | Vehicle Stickers         | \$ 225,187.27 |
| 7/31/2003  | \$ 260.00    | Overweight Permits       | \$ 225,447.27 |
| 8/1/2003   | \$ 385.00    | Antenna Rental/Worldcom  | \$ 225,832.27 |
| 8/31/2003  | \$ 113.00    | Antenna Rental/DataCom   | \$ 225,945.27 |
| 8/31/2003  | \$ 1,500.00  | Antenna Rental/Verizon   | \$ 227,445.27 |
| 8/31/2003  | \$ 813.00    | Vehicle Stickers         | \$ 228,258.27 |
| 8/31/2003  | \$ 50.00     | Overweight Permits       | \$ 228,308.27 |
| 9/2/2003   | \$ 385.00    | Antenna Rental/Worldcom  | \$ 228,693.27 |
| 9/5/2003   | \$ 119.36    | Antenna Rental/DataCom   | \$ 228,812.63 |
| 9/22/2003  | \$ 1,500.00  | Antenna Rental/Verizon   | \$ 230,312.63 |
| 9/30/2003  | \$ 385.00    | Antenna Rental/Worldcom  | \$ 230,697.63 |
| 9/30/2003  | \$ 3,210.00  | Vehicle Stickers         | \$ 233,907.63 |
| 10/31/2003 | \$ 585.00    | Vehicle Stickers         | \$ 234,492.63 |
| 10/13/2003 | \$ 119.36    | Antenna Rental/DataCom   | \$ 234,611.99 |
| 10/24/2003 | \$ 1,500.00  | Antenna Rental/Verizon   | \$ 236,111.99 |
| 10/31/2003 | \$ 150.00    | Antenna Rental/Blue Wave | \$ 236,261.99 |
| 11/30/2003 | \$ 461.00    | Vehicle Stickers         | \$ 236,722.99 |
| 11/3/2003  | \$ 385.00    | Antenna Rental/Worldcom  | \$ 237,107.99 |
| 11/10/2003 | \$ 119.36    | Antenna Rental/DataCom   | \$ 237,227.35 |
| 11/20/03   | \$ 1,500.00  | Antenna Rental/Verizon   | \$ 238,727.35 |
| 11/25/2003 | \$ 385.00    | Antenna Rental/Worldcom  | \$ 239,112.35 |
| 12/31/2003 | \$ 592.00    | Vehicle Stickers         | \$ 239,704.35 |
| 12/17/2003 | \$ 450.00    | Overweight Permits       | \$ 240,154.35 |
| 12/5/2003  | \$ 119.36    | Antenna Rental/DataCom   | \$ 240,273.71 |
| 12/10/2003 | \$ 150.00    | Antenna Rental/Blue Wave | \$ 240,423.71 |
| 12/22/2003 | \$ 1,500.00  | Antenna Rental/Verizon   | \$ 241,923.71 |
| 1/2/2004   | \$ 385.00    | Antenna Rental/Worldcom  | \$ 242,308.71 |
| 1/7/2004   | \$ 150.00    | Antenna Rental/Blue Wave | \$ 242,458.71 |
| 1/7/2004   | \$ 119.36    | Antenna Rental/DataCom   | \$ 242,578.07 |
| 1/20/2004  | \$ 1,500.00  | Antenna Rental/Verizon   | \$ 244,078.07 |
| 1/20/2004  | \$ 430.00    | Overweight Permits       | \$ 244,508.07 |

## ROAD IMPROVEMENT FUND BALANCE SHEET

| Date       | Deposit       | Received From             | Balance       |
|------------|---------------|---------------------------|---------------|
| 1/31/2004  | \$ 178.00     | Vehicle Stickers          | \$ 244,686.07 |
| 2/5/2004   | \$ 119.36     | Antenna Rental/DataCom    | \$ 244,805.43 |
| 2/5/2004   | \$ 385.00     | Antenna Rental/Worldcom   | \$ 245,190.43 |
| 2/5/2004   | \$ 150.00     | Antenna Rental/Blue Wave  | \$ 245,340.43 |
| 2/25/2004  | \$ 1,500.00   | Antenna Rental/Verizon    | \$ 246,840.43 |
| 2/29/2004  | \$ 297.75     | Vehicle Stickers          | \$ 247,138.18 |
| 3/1/2004   | \$ 385.00     | Antenna Rental/Worldcom   | \$ 247,523.18 |
| 3/3/2004   | \$ 119.36     | Antenna Rental/DataCom    | \$ 247,642.54 |
| 3/9/2004   | \$ 150.00     | Antenna Rental/Blue Wave  | \$ 247,792.54 |
| 3/19/2004  | \$ 1,500.00   | Antenna Rental/Verizon    | \$ 249,292.54 |
| 3/26/2004  | \$ 385.00     | Antenna Rental/Worldcom   | \$ 249,677.54 |
| 3/30/2004  | \$ 500.00     | Antenna Rental/T-Mobile   | \$ 250,177.54 |
| 3/31/2004  | \$ 215.50     | Vehicle Stickers          | \$ 250,393.04 |
| 3/31/2004  | \$ 550.00     | Overweight Permits        | \$ 250,943.04 |
| 4/3/2004   | \$ 159.70     | Antenna Rental-Blue Wave  | \$ 251,102.74 |
| 4/4/2004   | \$ 123.36     | Antenna Rental/DataCom    | \$ 251,226.10 |
| 4/19/2004  | \$ 1,500.00   | Antenna Rental/Verizon    | \$ 252,726.10 |
| 4/30/2004  | \$ 28.00      | Vehicle Stickers          | \$ 252,754.10 |
| 4/30/2004  | \$ 450.00     | Overweight Permits        | \$ 253,204.10 |
| 5/31/2004  | \$ 20,063.50  | Vehicle Stickers          | \$ 273,267.60 |
| 6/30/2004  | \$ 80.00      | Overweight Permits        | \$ 273,347.60 |
| 6/30/2004  | \$ 13,599.00  | Vehicle Stickers          | \$ 286,946.60 |
| 7/31/2004  | \$ 200.00     | Overweight Permits        | \$ 287,146.60 |
| 7/31/2004  | \$ 2,273.00   | Vehicle Stickers          | \$ 289,419.60 |
| 8/31/2004  | \$ 1,151.00   | Vehicle Stickers          | \$ 290,570.60 |
| 9/30/2004  | \$ 1,056.00   | Vehicle Stickers          | \$ 291,626.60 |
| 9/30/2004  | \$ 12,302.57  | June Road & Bridge        | \$ 303,929.17 |
| 9/30/2004  | \$ 510.15     | July Road & Bridge        | \$ 304,439.32 |
| 9/30/2004  | \$ 439.12     | August Road & Bridge      | \$ 304,878.44 |
| 9/30/2004  | \$ 11,261.13  | September Road & Bridge   | \$ 316,139.57 |
| 10/31/2004 | \$ 412.00     | Vehicle Stickers          | \$ 316,551.57 |
| 10/31/2004 | \$ 437.56     | October Road & Bridge     | \$ 316,989.13 |
| 11/30/2004 | \$ 199.00     | Vehicle Stickers          | \$ 317,188.13 |
| 12/31/2004 | \$ 164.00     | Vehicle Stickers          | \$ 317,352.13 |
| 12/31/2004 | \$ 664.27     | December Road & Bridge    | \$ 318,016.40 |
| 12/31/2004 | \$ 430.00     | Overweight Permits        | \$ 318,446.40 |
| 1/31/2005  | \$ 155.25     | Vehicle Stickers          | \$ 318,601.65 |
| 2/28/2005  | \$ 135.50     | Vehicle Stickers          | \$ 318,737.15 |
| 3/31/2005  | \$ 50.00      | Vehicle Stickers          | \$ 318,787.15 |
| 3/31/2005  | \$ 400.00     | Overweight Permits        | \$ 319,187.15 |
| 4/30/2005  | \$ 130.00     | Overweight Permits        | \$ 319,317.15 |
| 4/30/2005  | \$ 206,034.00 | Fy-05 Surplus             | \$ 525,351.15 |
| 5/31/2005  | \$ 100.00     | Overweight Permits        | \$ 525,451.15 |
| 5/31/2005  | \$ 34,806.50  | Vehicle Stickers          | \$ 560,257.65 |
| 5/31/2005  | \$ 1,257.88   | May Road & Bridge         | \$ 561,515.53 |
| 5/31/2005  | \$ 45,000.00  | Enterprise Fund Repayment | \$ 606,515.53 |

# ROAD IMPROVEMENT FUND BALANCE SHEET

| Date       | Deposit      | Received From              | Balance       |
|------------|--------------|----------------------------|---------------|
| 6/30/2005  | \$ 3,258.20  | June Road & Bridge         | \$ 609,773.73 |
| 6/30/2005  | \$ 580.00    | Overweight Permits         | \$ 610,353.73 |
| 6/30/2005  | \$ 3,927.00  | Vehicle Stickers           | \$ 614,280.73 |
| 7/31/2005  | \$ 589.00    | July Vehicle Stickers      | \$ 614,869.73 |
| 7/31/2005  | \$ 658.51    | July Road & Bridge         | \$ 615,528.24 |
| 8/31/2005  | \$ 790.00    | August Vehicle Stickers    | \$ 616,318.24 |
| 8/31/2005  | \$ 130.30    | August Road & Bridge       | \$ 616,448.54 |
| 9/30/2005  | \$ 350.50    | September Vehicle Stickers | \$ 616,799.04 |
| 9/30/2005  | \$ 160.00    | September O/W Permits      | \$ 616,959.04 |
| 9/30/2005  | \$ 4,407.27  | September Road & Bridge    | \$ 621,366.31 |
| 10/31/2005 | \$ 610.00    | October Overweight         | \$ 621,976.31 |
| 10/31/2005 | \$ 275.00    | October Vehicle Stickers   | \$ 622,251.31 |
| 10/31/2005 | \$ 225.88    | October Road & Bridge      | \$ 622,477.19 |
| 11/30/2005 | \$ 121.26    | November Road & Bridge     | \$ 622,598.45 |
| 11/30/2005 | \$ 536.00    | November Vehicle Stickers  | \$ 623,134.45 |
| 11/30/2005 | \$ 660.00    | November Overweight        | \$ 623,794.45 |
| 12/31/2005 | \$ 440.00    | December Overweight        | \$ 624,234.45 |
| 12/31/2005 | \$ 136.50    | December Vehicle Stickers  | \$ 624,370.95 |
| 1/31/2006  | \$ 77.50     | January Vehicle Stickers   | \$ 624,448.45 |
| 1/31/2006  | \$ 400.00    | January Overweight         | \$ 624,848.45 |
| 2/28/2006  | \$ 91.00     | February Vehicle Stickers  | \$ 624,939.45 |
| 2/28/2006  | \$ 510.00    | February Overweight        | \$ 625,449.45 |
| 3/31/2006  | \$ 63.50     | March Vehicle Stickers     | \$ 625,512.95 |
| 3/31/2006  | \$ 80.00     | March Overweight           | \$ 625,592.95 |
| 4/30/2006  | \$ 380.00    | April Overweight           | \$ 625,972.95 |
| 4/30/2006  | \$ 20.00     | April Vehicle Stickers     | \$ 625,992.95 |
| 5/31/2006  | \$ 752.52    | May Road & Bridge          | \$ 626,745.47 |
| 5/31/2006  | \$ 42,662.00 | May Vehicle Stickers       | \$ 669,407.47 |
| 5/31/2006  | \$ 50.00     | May Overweight             | \$ 669,457.47 |
| 6/30/2006  | \$ 2,330.34  | June Road & Bridge         | \$ 671,787.81 |
| 6/30/2006  | \$ 50.00     | June Overweight            | \$ 671,837.81 |
| 6/30/2006  | \$ 15,677.50 | June Vehicle Stickers      | \$ 687,515.31 |
| 7/31/2006  | \$ 900.00    | July Late Fees             | \$ 688,415.31 |
| 7/31/2006  | \$ 1,147.50  | July Vehicle Stickers      | \$ 689,562.81 |
| 7/31/2006  | \$ 200.00    | July Overweight            | \$ 689,762.81 |
| 7/31/2006  | \$ 536.92    | July Road & Bridge         | \$ 690,299.73 |
| 8/31/2006  | \$ 101.61    | August Road & Bridge       | \$ 690,401.34 |
| 8/31/2006  | \$ 1,732.00  | August Vehicle Stickers    | \$ 692,133.34 |
| 8/31/2006  | \$ 1,295.00  | August Late Fees           | \$ 693,428.34 |
| 9/30/2006  | \$ 3,160.98  | September Road & Bridge    | \$ 696,589.32 |
| 9/30/2006  | \$ 2,154.00  | September Vehicle Stickers | \$ 698,743.32 |
| 9/30/2006  | \$ 2,236.00  | September Late Fees        | \$ 700,979.32 |
| 10/31/2006 | \$ 447.00    | September Vehicle Stickers | \$ 701,426.32 |
| 10/31/2006 | \$ 290.00    | September Overweight       | \$ 701,716.32 |
| 10/31/2006 | \$ 106.23    | October Road & Bridge      | \$ 701,822.55 |
| 11/30/2006 | \$ 112.68    | November Road & Bridge     | \$ 701,935.23 |

# ROAD IMPROVEMENT FUND BALANCE SHEET

| Date       | Deposit         | Received From              | Balance       |
|------------|-----------------|----------------------------|---------------|
| 11/30/2006 | \$ 301.00       | November Vehicle Stickers  | \$ 702,236.23 |
| 11/30/2006 | \$ 150.00       | November Late Fees         | \$ 702,386.23 |
| 12/31/2006 | \$ 163.50       | December Vehicle Stickers  | \$ 702,549.73 |
| 12/31/2006 | \$ 100.00       | December Overweight        | \$ 702,649.73 |
| 1/31/2007  | \$ 213.50       | January Vehicle Stickers   | \$ 702,863.23 |
| 1/31/2007  | \$ 1,120.00     | January Overweight         | \$ 703,983.23 |
| 2/28/2007  | \$ 30.50        | February Vehicle Stickers  | \$ 704,013.73 |
| 2/28/2007  | \$ 80.00        | February Overweight        | \$ 704,093.73 |
| 3/31/2007  | \$ 560.00       | March Overweight           | \$ 704,653.73 |
| 3/31/2007  | \$ 53.50        | March Vehicle Stickers     | \$ 704,707.23 |
| 4/30/2007  | \$ 730.00       | April Overweight           | \$ 705,437.23 |
| 4/30/2007  | \$ 2,400.77     | FY-07 Kane Co. Overweight  | \$ 707,838.00 |
| 5/31/2007  | \$ 407.34       | May Road & Bridge          | \$ 708,245.34 |
| 5/31/2007  | \$ 38,562.00    | May Vehicle Stickers       | \$ 746,807.34 |
| 5/31/2007  | \$ 50.00        | May Overweight             | \$ 746,857.34 |
| 6/30/2007  | \$ 1,654.21     | June Road & Bridge         | \$ 748,511.55 |
| 6/30/2007  | \$ 22,401.00    | June Vehicle Stickers      | \$ 770,912.55 |
| 7/31/2007  | \$ 44.79        | July Road & Bridge         | \$ 770,957.34 |
| 7/31/2007  | \$ 4,915.50     | July Vehicle Stickers      | \$ 775,872.84 |
| 8/31/2007  | \$ 678.00       | August Vehicle Stickers    | \$ 776,550.84 |
| 8/31/2007  | \$ 368.12       | August Road & Bridge       | \$ 776,918.96 |
| 9/30/2007  | \$ 1,472.84     | September Road & Bridge    | \$ 778,391.80 |
| 9/30/2007  | \$ 460.00       | September Vehicle Stickers | \$ 778,851.80 |
| 10/31/2007 | \$ 294.00       | October Vehicle Stickers   | \$ 779,145.80 |
| 10/31/2007 | \$ 240.00       | October Overweight         | \$ 779,385.80 |
| 10/31/2007 | \$ 106.06       | October Road & Bridge      | \$ 779,491.86 |
| 11/30/2007 | \$ 50.00        | November Overweight        | \$ 779,541.86 |
| 11/30/2007 | \$ 536.00       | November Vehicle Stickers  | \$ 780,077.86 |
| 11/30/2007 | \$ 107.22       | November Road & Bridge     | \$ 780,185.08 |
| 12/31/2007 | \$ 112.00       | December Vehicle Stickers  | \$ 780,297.08 |
| 1/31/2008  | \$ 204.00       | January Vehicle Stickers   | \$ 780,501.08 |
| 1/31/2008  | \$ 196.47       | Dundee Township Receipt    | \$ 780,697.55 |
| 2/29/2008  | \$ 83.00        | February Vehicle Stickers  | \$ 780,780.55 |
| 3/31/2008  | \$ 40.50        | March Vehicle Stickers     | \$ 780,821.05 |
| 3/31/2008  | \$ 50.00        | March Overweight           | \$ 780,871.05 |
| 4/30/2008  | \$ 3,202.71     | FY-08 Kane Co. Overweight  | \$ 784,073.76 |
| 4/30/2008  | \$ (120,000.00) | School Road                | \$ 664,073.76 |
| 5/31/2008  | \$ 80.00        | May Overweight             | \$ 664,153.76 |
| 5/31/2008  | \$ 42,219.00    | May Vehicle Stickers       | \$ 706,372.76 |
| 5/31/2008  | \$ 151.31       | May Road & Bridge          | \$ 706,524.07 |
| 6/30/2008  | \$ 1,683.51     | June Road & Bridge         | \$ 708,207.58 |
| 6/30/2008  | \$ 18,996.00    | June Vehicle Stickers      | \$ 727,203.58 |
| 6/30/2008  | \$ 330.00       | June Overweight            | \$ 727,533.58 |
| 7/31/2008  | \$ 5,899.00     | July Vehicle Stickers      | \$ 733,432.58 |
| 7/31/2008  | \$ 50.00        | July Overweight            | \$ 733,482.58 |
| 7/31/2008  | \$ 82.08        | July Road & Bridge         | \$ 733,564.66 |

# ROAD IMPROVEMENT FUND BALANCE SHEET

| Date       | Deposit         | Received From                        | Balance       |
|------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------|---------------|
| 8/31/2008  | \$ 111.68       | August Road & Bridge                 | \$ 733,676.34 |
| 8/31/2008  | \$ 726.00       | August Vehicle Stickers              | \$ 734,402.34 |
| 8/31/2008  | \$ 130.00       | August Overweight                    | \$ 734,532.34 |
| 9/30/2008  | \$ 1,361.81     | September Road & Bridge              | \$ 735,894.15 |
| 9/30/2008  | \$ 1,208.00     | September Vehicle Stickers           | \$ 737,102.15 |
| 10/31/2008 | \$ 332.78       | October Road & Bridge                | \$ 737,434.93 |
| 10/31/2008 | \$ 718.00       | October Vehicle Stickers             | \$ 738,152.93 |
| 10/31/2008 | \$ 310.00       | October Overweight                   | \$ 738,462.93 |
| 11/30/2008 | \$ 238.00       | November Vehicle Stickers            | \$ 738,700.93 |
| 11/30/2008 | \$ 80.71        | November Road & Bridge               | \$ 738,781.64 |
| 11/30/2008 | \$ 80.00        | November Overweight                  | \$ 738,861.64 |
| 12/31/2008 | \$ 400.00       | December Overweight                  | \$ 739,261.64 |
| 12/31/2008 | \$ 156.00       | December Vehicle Stickers            | \$ 739,417.64 |
| 1/31/2009  | \$ 300.00       | January Overweight                   | \$ 739,717.64 |
| 1/31/2009  | \$ 107.00       | January Vehicle Stickers             | \$ 739,824.64 |
| 2/28/2009  | \$ 114.00       | February Vehicle Stickers            | \$ 739,938.64 |
| 2/28/2009  | \$ 50.00        | February Overweight                  | \$ 739,988.64 |
| 3/31/2009  | \$ 53.50        | March Vehicle Stickers               | \$ 740,042.14 |
| 4/30/2009  | \$ (78,469.37)  | FY-09 Additional Salt & Snow Removal | \$ 661,572.77 |
| 5/1/2009   | \$ (350,000.00) | Hennessy Bridge Work                 | \$ 311,572.77 |
| 5/31/2009  | \$ 360.00       | May Overweight                       | \$ 311,932.77 |
| 5/31/2009  | \$ 169.40       | May Road & Bridge                    | \$ 312,102.17 |
| 5/31/2009  | \$ 34,485.50    | May Vehicle Stickers                 | \$ 346,587.67 |
| 6/30/2009  | \$ 230.18       | June Road & Bridge                   | \$ 346,817.85 |
| 6/30/2009  | \$ 1,371.93     | June Road & Bridge                   | \$ 348,189.78 |
| 6/30/2009  | \$ 29,733.00    | June Vehicle Stickers                | \$ 377,922.78 |
| 6/30/2009  | \$ 50.00        | June Overweight                      | \$ 377,972.78 |
| 7/31/2009  | \$ 126.84       | July Road & Bridge                   | \$ 378,099.62 |
| 7/31/2009  | \$ 6,906.50     | July Vehicle Stickers                | \$ 385,006.12 |
| 8/31/2009  | \$ 185.10       | August Road & Bridge                 | \$ 385,191.22 |
| 8/31/2009  | \$ 130.00       | August Overweight                    | \$ 385,321.22 |
| 8/31/2009  | \$ 804.00       | August Vehicle Stickers              | \$ 386,125.22 |
| 9/30/2009  | \$ 1,458.65     | Septembr Road & Bridge               | \$ 387,583.87 |
| 9/30/2009  | \$ 430.00       | September Overweight                 | \$ 388,013.87 |
| 9/30/2009  | \$ 366.00       | September Vehicle Stickers           | \$ 388,379.87 |
| 10/31/2009 | \$ 112.68       | October Road & Bridge                | \$ 388,492.55 |
| 10/31/2009 | \$ 330.00       | October Overweight                   | \$ 388,822.55 |
| 10/31/2009 | \$ 410.00       | October Vehicle Stickers             | \$ 389,232.55 |
| 11/30/2009 | \$ 140.24       | November Road & Bridge               | \$ 389,372.79 |
| 11/30/2009 | \$ 150.00       | November Overweight                  | \$ 389,522.79 |
| 11/30/2009 | \$ 286.00       | November Vehicle Stickers            | \$ 389,808.79 |
| 12/31/2009 | \$ 169.00       | December Vehicle Stickers            | \$ 389,977.79 |
| 12/31/2009 | \$ 300.00       | December Overweight                  | \$ 390,277.79 |
| 1/31/2009  | \$ 124.00       | January Vehicle Stickers             | \$ 390,401.79 |
| 2/28/2010  | \$ 99.90        | Dundee Township Receipt              | \$ 390,501.69 |
| 2/28/2010  | \$ 50.00        | February Overweight                  | \$ 390,551.69 |

# ROAD IMPROVEMENT FUND BALANCE SHEET

| Date       | Deposit        | Received From              | Balance       |
|------------|----------------|----------------------------|---------------|
| 2/28/2010  | \$ 77.00       | February Vehicle Stickers  | \$ 390,628.69 |
| 3/31/2010  | \$ 23.50       | March Vehicle Stickers     | \$ 390,652.19 |
| 4/30/2010  | \$ 50.00       | April Overweight           | \$ 390,702.19 |
| 5/31/2010  | \$ 250.00      | May Overweight             | \$ 390,952.19 |
| 5/31/2010  | \$ 32,610.00   | May Vehicle Stickers       | \$ 423,562.19 |
| 5/31/2010  | \$ 338.49      | May Road & Bridge          | \$ 423,900.68 |
| 6/30/2010  | \$ 32,243.00   | June Vehicle Stickers      | \$ 456,143.68 |
| 6/30/2010  | \$ 1,372.76    | June Road & Bridge         | \$ 457,516.44 |
| 7/31/2010  | \$ 214.36      | July Road & Bridge         | \$ 457,730.80 |
| 7/31/2010  | \$ 5,565.50    | July Vehicle Stickers      | \$ 463,296.30 |
| 8/31/2010  | \$ 462.50      | August Vehicle Stickers    | \$ 463,758.80 |
| 8/31/2010  | \$ 224.75      | August Road & Bridge       | \$ 463,983.55 |
| 8/31/2010  | \$ 410.00      | August Overweight          | \$ 464,393.55 |
| 9/30/2010  | \$ 308.00      | September Vehicle Stickers | \$ 464,701.55 |
| 9/30/2010  | \$ 380.00      | September Overweight       | \$ 465,081.55 |
| 9/30/2010  | \$ 1,182.60    | September Road & Bridge    | \$ 466,264.15 |
| 10/31/2010 | \$ 588.58      | October Road & Bridge      | \$ 466,852.73 |
| 10/31/2010 | \$ 260.00      | October Overweight         | \$ 467,112.73 |
| 10/31/2010 | \$ 348.00      | October Vehicle Stickers   | \$ 467,460.73 |
| 11/30/2010 | \$ 140.61      | November Road & Bridge     | \$ 467,601.34 |
| 11/30/2010 | \$ 130.00      | November Overweight        | \$ 467,731.34 |
| 11/30/2010 | \$ 71.50       | November Vehicle Stickers  | \$ 467,802.84 |
| 12/15/2010 | \$ 1.42        | December Road & Bridge     | \$ 467,804.26 |
| 12/31/2010 | \$ 97.00       | December Vehicle Stickers  | \$ 467,901.26 |
| 12/31/2010 | \$ 300.00      | December Overweight        | \$ 468,201.26 |
| 1/31/2010  | \$ 50.00       | January Overweight         | \$ 468,251.26 |
| 1/31/2010  | \$ 73.50       | January Vehicle Stickers   | \$ 468,324.76 |
| 2/28/2011  | \$ 32.00       | February Vehicle Stickers  | \$ 468,356.76 |
| 3/31/2011  | \$ 210.00      | March Overweight           | \$ 468,566.76 |
| 4/30/2011  | \$ (10,000.00) | Road Study Program         | \$ 458,566.76 |
| 4/30/2011  | \$ 80.00       | April Overweight           | \$ 458,646.76 |
| 5/31/2011  | \$ 1,888.78    | May Road & Bridge          | \$ 460,535.54 |
| 6/30/2011  | \$ 4,011.63    | June Road & Bridge         | \$ 464,547.17 |
| 6/30/2011  | \$ 100.00      | June Overweight            | \$ 464,647.17 |
| 7/31/2011  | \$ 50.00       | July Overweight            | \$ 464,697.17 |
| 7/31/2001  | \$ 162.39      | July Road & Bridge         | \$ 464,859.56 |
| 8/31/2011  | \$ 265.74      | August Road & Bridge       | \$ 465,125.30 |
| 8/31/2011  | \$ 350.00      | August Overweight          | \$ 465,475.30 |
| 9/30/2011  | \$ 50.00       | September Overweight       | \$ 465,525.30 |
| 9/30/2011  | \$ 4,764.24    | September Road & Bridge    | \$ 470,289.54 |

**4C**




# **Municipal Electric Aggregation**

# Village of Gilberts

Village Hall  
87 Galligan Road, Gilberts, IL 60136  
Ph. 847-428-2861 Fax: 847-428-0317  
www.villageofgilberts.com

**TO:** Ray Keller, Administrator

**FROM:** William Beith, Assistant to the Village Administrator 

**DATE:** August 11, 2011

**RE:** Municipal Electric Aggregation

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I attended the Illinois Association of Municipal Management Assistants luncheon on August 10, 2011 to hear David A. Hoover, Executive Director of Northern Illinois Municipal Electric Collaborative (NIMEC) present on the topic of municipal electric aggregation.

Municipal electric aggregation is a process in which a municipality, on behalf of its residents, negotiates for a best price per kilowatt hour from independent electricity vendors. This process is similar to a bid process, with each company submitting their best price. Many companies frequently include an annual "grant" to the municipality, based upon population, to support municipality chosen civic projects.

NIMEC currently works with 100 communities. Hoover stated that 80% of the commercial electric load in Illinois is not purchased from Com Ed, but less than 2% of the residential load is purchased from non-Com Ed sources. NIMEC assists the municipality through the bidding process and states typical rates are, on average, 20% lower than Com Ed. NIMEC's fee for service is paid by the electricity vendor.

The process to establish municipal electric aggregation is referendum based. Hoover described a typical timeline:

- Municipal Ordinance to place a Referendum question on the March 2012 ballot by November 2011
- Municipal elections March 2012
- Bids in June 2012
- Power begin flowing late summer 2012

What this means to citizens:

- Com Ed bills for electric service
- Com Ed maintains the lines
- Any citizen can opt out of the municipal service
- Citizens get flat rate pricing per KWH
- Citizens see no change, only a lower bill
- The electric vendor pays a billing process fee to Com Ed

What this means to the municipality:

- Lower per KWH cost for electric intensive municipal endeavors (water treatment)
- Initial investment of some staff time for citizen education
- Once implemented little staff time necessary
- Utility tax is calculated per KWH used, not on the price of the KWH
- Civic grants/contributions are offered by bidders
- Initial pushback from residents
- Legal expense related to the referendum
- Once established ongoing staff time almost nil
- NIMEC is exploring collective municipal group bidding for lower rates
- Small adjacent municipalities can band together forming a larger bidding entity

If a bidding company fails, the Provider of Last resort (POLR) mechanism kicks in and Com Ed reassumes responsibility for electric service.

Based upon this data, I recommend timely initiation of a referendum process to implement municipal electric aggregation in the Village of Gilberts.

# MUNICIPAL AGGREGATION FAQ

**Q: What are the benefits of aggregation?**

**A:** The most important benefit is the opportunity for Village residents and small business operators to save money.

**Q: Am all residents obligated to participate?**

**A:** No. Any account holder may opt out of the program after the bidder is chosen, and pay the rate ComEd charges to accounts not participating in the aggregation program.

**Q: What does *opt out* mean?**

**A:** All residential and small commercial electricity users will be included in the customer base unless they affirmatively choose not to participate. The opportunity to opt out will be available to customers after the bids are received and the electric rate and identity of the supplier are made known to customers.

**Q: What is Com Ed's role in this program?**

**A:** ComEd distributes electricity, but does not generate it. ComEd is only responsible for infrastructure, like power lines that bring electricity into homes and businesses, responding to outages and billing. ComEd will continue to bill customers for power generation and individual electric usage regardless of the supplier of that electricity. ComEd is indifferent to the aggregation program, as it does not impact them financially.

**Q: If my power goes out – will I need to call the company providing the power?**

**A:** No. ComEd is responsible for ensuring that electricity flows through its network to all homes and businesses in the Village. Aggregation would not change how ComEd responds to outages.

**Q: If I participate, will I get two bills – one from ComEd for delivering the power and another from a company that provides it?**

**A:** No. ComEd will remain responsible for billing for all power, regardless of the supplier. The only change would be the name of the power provider on the bill's power generation item line.

**Q: Will our franchise accounts at ComEd be affected?**

**A:** There will be no change to your franchise accounts; they will continue to be free service.

**Q: Will our village's municipal utility tax be affected?**

**A:** No. The utility tax is charged against usage, not dollar charges.

**NIMEC**

NORTHERN ILLINOIS MUNICIPAL ELECTRIC COLLABORATIVE  
BANDING TOGETHER TO DRIVE DOWN PRICING

# Home Rule

- *A national study produced no evidence that home rule governments have higher per capita tax revenues or government spending*
- *Home rule has little effect on daily government performance*
- *Home rule cities and villages have and use a wider range of strategies to employ in cutting budget deficits*
- *Communities with home rule authority have better bond ratings*
- *Addison, Illinois demonstrates how home rule empowers actions that can protect and enhance the quality of community life*

## **issue:** *Do Home Rule Governments Work Better? A New and Different Perspective*

by Curtis Wood

**Editor's Note:** *Policy Profiles* has discussed Illinois home rule on a number of previous occasions, always focusing solely on the system of home rule used in Illinois. In this new study, Professor Curtis Wood takes a different approach. His study of home rule does not focus on any particular state, but rather gathers insights into how the use of home rule throughout the nation affects the way that cities and villages operate. With data gathered during the depths of the current national economic recession, the study also offers a first look at local government responses to that downturn.

The rapidly approaching 40th anniversary of Illinois' implementation of its own home rule system makes this study particularly timely and appropriate.

The most contentious issue – the issue that has most frequently confronted voters in Illinois cities and villages in the last half century – has been the desirability of local government home rule. Indeed, the degree to which state government should decentralize power to local government has been a source of major controversy in the United States since the end of the Revolutionary War.<sup>1</sup> Debates over the desirability of such decentralization of governing power to individual Illinois municipal governments have been on-going for nearly a century.

This *Policy Profile* contributes to this debate with information gathered in a national study of the consequences of local government home rule.

### **What is home rule?**

Simply stated, home rule is a legal system for defining the powers which local government may exercise. Local governments have no inherent powers; their ability to take any action at all is dependent on a grant of power from the state in which they are located. Traditionally, local governments may exercise only the powers explicitly given them by state statute. Home rule gives an individual local government – a county, city, or village – the authority to determine for itself what powers it may exercise, subject, of course, to specified constitutional and statutory limitations.

Home rule, thus, is a system under which individual local governments are given a broad scope of authority to determine what powers they need, and what revenue sources they can tap, to provide the services demanded by their residents. The scope of the powers they may exercise, and the limitations to which they are subject, varies widely from state to state.

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# policyprofiles

## What are the arguments in favor of home rule?

Home rule is designed to give local voters, and the local officials they elect, more authority and control over the operation of their local government. It does this by freeing local governments from total dependence on the state legislature for the powers and authority needed to finance and provide public services to local communities. In short, home rule transfers power from state legislatures to city, village, and county governing boards, and to the voters who elect officials to those governing boards. The basic arguments favoring such a transfer of power are summarized in Table 1.

## What are the arguments against home rule?

Local opponents of home rule base most of their opposition to home rule powers on the fear that locally elected officials will abuse those powers, and especially the power to levy taxes. Other concerns sometimes voiced by students of government, but rarely mentioned during local campaigns for the adoption or removal of home rule powers, are listed in Table 2.

The belief that municipal officials cannot be trusted to serve the public interest has its roots in the era of municipal corruption which spanned the last decades of the nineteenth century and the early decades of the twentieth century, chronicled by Lincoln Stephens in his classic *The Shame of the Cities*.<sup>2</sup> Nonetheless, home rule was one of the tools – along with paper ballots, privacy while voting in elections, at-large election of board and council members, professional chief administrative officers (city and county managers), competitive bidding on government contracts, and civil service – that were advanced by those who led the national movement for the reform of local governments.

### tableone Arguments Made in Favor of Home Rule

Local government officials and reformers who support home rule argue that local government officials are better able to:

1. Assess local needs and develop solutions to local problems than are officials elected from all over the state.
2. Find the best solutions to local problems because they have more familiarity with such problems and with local residents' preferences for how to solve them.
3. Promote and protect the interests of local residents.
4. Experiment with alternative solutions to local problems.
5. Promote civic education by encouraging local citizens to study issues before decisions are made.
6. Allocate scarce local resources to the highest priority needs of each community.
7. In addition, locally elected officials can be more easily held democratically accountable by local voters for the way in which they manage local affairs.

### tabletwo Arguments Made Against Home Rule Powers

Persons who favor retaining state legislative authority over the powers and functions of all local governments argue that, with home rule powers, local officials will:

1. Act in an arbitrary and capricious manner by favoring political friends when making policy and budgetary decisions.
2. Make it more difficult for state government to address regional problems.
3. Be deprived of the economies of scale made possible by centralized control and by the superior expertise and technical resources available to state government.

Other concerns include suggestions that home rule will:

4. Lead to a lack of uniformity with regard to services, structures, and actions taken by local governments, causing inequities between and within communities.
5. Result in some local governments with fewer resources being unable to solve their own problems because of such income inequalities.
6. Make it more difficult for state government to address regional problems.

Despite the fact that the progressive reform movement eradicated most municipal corruption, particularly in governments employing professional city and county managers, popular support still persists for constraining municipal government powers, especially through limited interpretation of grants of power and the use of state imposed restrictions on local tax and borrowing powers.<sup>3</sup>

### Have Illinois' home rule governments misused property taxing powers?

Four separate studies undertaken independently by Illinois researchers have

addressed this issue. Robert Albritton<sup>4</sup> and James Banovetz<sup>5</sup> examined the popular notion that elected local officials cannot be trusted with broad powers of taxation by studying the use of tax powers by Illinois local officials in Illinois home rule. The Banovetz-Albritton study comparing home rule and non-home rule municipalities was undertaken 10 years after home rule was made available by the 1970 Illinois Constitution; and the second Banovetz study was made 30 years after home rule came to Illinois. The evidence from both studies refutes the hypothesis that, given sufficient discretion, local government



officials will impose unwarranted property tax increases on their residents.

The Banovetz and Albritton study found that, when controlling for population size and geographic location, there was no significant difference in the average property tax levy for home rule and non-home rule municipalities in Illinois.

Banovetz provides evidence that 1) few home rule communities use their home rule powers to levy higher property taxes or levy sales tax to the statutory limit for home rule cities; 2) the legislature and the courts have felt little need to restrict or constrain the use of home rule taxing powers because, with one exception, they have not found significant patterns of misuse; 3) Illinois voters have chosen to retain home rule in 25 out of 29 elections (86 percent) by an average margin of 3-2; and 4) there have only been two acknowledged examples of proposed or actual unwarranted use of home rule tax powers during Illinois's 30 year home rule experience, and, in both cases, the use of home rule in those communities was taken away by the affected communities' voters.<sup>6</sup>

The third Illinois longitudinal statistical study, conducted by Richard F. Dye and Therese J. McGuire,<sup>7</sup> supports the Banovetz and Albritton finding there is no difference between home rule and non-home cities regarding the use of property tax powers in Illinois. James Banovetz contends that the null results of the Dye and McGuire study show that Illinois municipal officials in home rule communities, with unlimited property taxing powers, do not abuse their authority; they do not levy more property taxes than non-home rule municipalities.<sup>8</sup>

While the Banovetz/Albritton and Dye/McGuire studies treated the fiscal variables as the response (dependent) variables

**tablethree Performance Variables Used to Measure the Use of Local Government Powers**

- Bond rating
- Total FY 2009 revenues/capita
- FY2009 expenditure per capita
- General Fund Deficit (if one)
- Number of performance measures used
- Service quality from the perspective of citizens
- Use of performance measures
- FY2010 property tax levy/capita
- Change in General Fund revenue/capita
- FY2009 FTE employees/1,000 population
- Number of deficit reducing strategies used
- Performance effects of cutbacks
- Quality of state-local relations

and home rule status as the explanatory (independent) variable, Judy A. Temple's empirical model treated home rule status as the response variable.<sup>9</sup> Temple found empirical support for an inverse statistical relationship between property tax growth and the likelihood of retaining state controls ( $P=.02$ ), controlling for population. She explains that the rapid increases in property tax burdens per capita likely led residents in municipalities less than 25,000 in population to vote to adopt home rule status as a means of broadening the local tax base and potentially obtaining property tax relief. Temple also found that residents in home rule and non-home rule communities were as likely to retain non-home rule as choose home rule regardless of the amount of property taxes levied per capita.

There have been no studies published since home rule became effective in Illinois which would question or dispute these findings about the use of home rule powers to levy property taxes.

**How have home rule communities used their expanded powers on other matters?**

To answer this question, using the broadest possible focus for the study, a national survey was distributed in the summer of 2010 to determine whether there have been differences in performance between communities that operate using broad grants of discretionary powers from their respective state governments and communities that operate within more traditional, limited grants of such powers.

A total of 269 municipalities from 43 states completed the survey. Appendix A describes the study used to measure the range of powers being used by each of the surveyed municipalities.

**What did the survey find about the use of home rule powers?**

On a national basis, the study found that the daily management of governmental affairs is little affected by the scope of government powers. Undertaken during the governmental fiscal crisis brought on by the "Great Recession" of 2008-10, the national study found that, to use Illinois terms, *the presence or absence of home rule had little effect on the government performance variables of most interest and concern to citizens, but communities with home rule powers were able to use a broader range of strategies to reduce governmental deficits.*

The study correlated the breadth of municipal discretion (home rule) with 13 variables which measure municipal government performance. These variables are listed in **Table 3**. Many of these variables describe performance measures of high interest to citizens, such as taxes and expenditures per capita.

**How were home rule cities different from non-home rule cities in this national study?**

Home rule cities performed better than non-home rule cities in three significant categories. Home rule cities:



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- Had better bond ratings
- Used more deficit reduction strategies
- Established better relations with state officials, leading to greater use of state expertise and resources to solve their problems.

The first significant finding of the study is that public officials in municipalities with broader powers (e.g., home rule powers) were able to use more innovative strategies to reduce local government deficits. They were also able to diversify the kinds of taxes used to raise revenues and keep borrowing costs down by more flexible use of their bonding authority. This corresponds with Illinois' experience in which home rule communities have more diversified tax bases and make more extensive use of lower cost borrowing options.

## In what ways were home rule and non-home rule cities shown to be the same in the study?

Table 4 lists the 10 variables studied in which municipal performance was unaffected by the breadth of the powers granted to the municipality (in other words, where the presence of home rule powers had no effect on municipal performance).

As shown in Table 4, in the national study of 269 cities, the presence or absence of home rule powers *did not have any significant measurable effect on:*

- Total revenues collected by home rule and non-home rule communities
- Property taxes levied by the home rule and non-home rule communities
- Government expenditures
- Citizens' views of the quality of services

## What does the study show about home rule's effect on taxation and borrowing?

The findings of the national study correspond with what has happened in

### tablefour Performance Variables Unaffected by the Presence of Home Rule

- Total FY 2009 revenues/capita
- FY 2009 expenditures/capita
- FTE Employees/1,000 people
- Number of performance measures used
- Citizen perception of service quality
- Use of performance variables
- Effects of cutbacks on service performance
- General Fund deficit (if one existed)
- Changes in General Fund revenue/capita
- FY 2009 property tax levy/capita

Illinois. Cities and villages with home rule powers have broader tax powers: they have fewer restrictions on their property tax powers; they have broader powers to levy other taxes (except income taxes which in Illinois they may not levy) and broader power to incur debt. This leads to three consequences:

First, communities with broad taxing powers levy more different kinds of taxes, but neither their property tax levies nor their total tax revenues, measured on a per person basis, are higher. Home rule communities are using their broader taxing powers, not to raise more money, but to keep property taxes from going up even faster.

Second, the study showed that cities and villages with broader powers have higher bond ratings, a key indicator of sound and conservative financial management that reflects positively on communities' fiscal, economic, and managerial performance. The positive link between more powers and better bond ratings is even stronger for municipalities over 2,500 in population.

This suggests that with more flexible and broader financial authority, cities and villages use that power to:

- Expand the sources of revenue available to them;
- Use the absence of a legal debt limit to

make better use of general obligation bonds to finance working capital; and

- Manage tax and expenditure levels more wisely.

Third, the study results also suggest that municipalities with more power are more likely to have lower deficits; lower borrowing costs; and enjoy more financial, technical, managerial, and political assistance from state officials to combat local or regional challenges.

## How does home rule help municipalities control deficits and reduce the size of government?

The study found that municipal officials who desire more deficit-reducing options can use their enlarged powers toward that end:

1. To reduce their property tax levy, municipal officials can take advantage of the increased options they already have to expand and diversify their community's tax base.
2. Expenditures can be reduced by using their government's authority to reduce the number or scope of their service responsibilities or to devise alternative service delivery methods.
3. Municipal officials who want to increase the probability of avoiding a deficit and diversify or increase their General Fund revenues can focus their attention on improving the quality of

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their relationships with state officials. They can also work more closely with state officials, and work more closely with other municipalities through professional associations such as the International City and County Management Association, Government Finance Officers' Association, National League of Cities, the National Association of Budget Officers, the League of Municipalities, and other professional associations. With more flexible powers, they can more easily utilize the tools proven more successful in other communities.

## Did the study find any relationship between home rule and municipal performance?

The 22 municipalities reporting the greatest use of broad powers were each asked, in a follow-up question, to describe and evaluate one activity or project they had undertaken that would **not** have been possible without their broad (i.e. home rule) grant of powers. Ten responded to the question. Their responses provided evidence that their home rule powers had enabled them to undertake projects which *enhanced their communities' quality of life, economic prosperity, fiscal health, and performance in ways that would not have been possible without the broad kinds of powers made available by home rule or some other similar broad grant of power by the state.*

The experience of the Village of Addison, Illinois (est. 2008 population of 39,917) is a case in point. Addison had the fifteenth highest total municipal discretion score in this study. Thirty years ago, the village used its home rule powers to develop a rental licensing and inspection program designed specifically to protect and enhance the quality of life in the community. At that time, Addison had over 4,300 rental units

in the community – about one-third of all residential units in the community were occupied by tenants. Most apartment buildings were under individual ownership – many such owners were part-time, non-professional, and non-residents of the community. There was neither uniform maintenance or leasing standards nor homeowners' associations to help ensure adequate property maintenance. Lacking any clear statutory authority to address the issue, the Village used its home rule powers in an effort to establish a minimum level of property maintenance standards and a healthy living environment in the rental units.

Initially, the Village inspected every unit once a year and assessed licensing fees to cover municipal costs. Over the years the Village has been challenged in court by landlords and tenants, for violating their individual rights, but the Village has always prevailed. In the late 1990's, the Village revised the program significantly to provide incentives for landlords to invest in and maintain their buildings. The Village established a scoring system for inspections and categorized buildings as "Very Good", "Good", and "Unacceptable." Rentals classified as "Very Good" have their inspections and fees waived the following year; "Good" rentals have one inspection per year and an additional exterior-only inspection; and "Unacceptable" properties have a second inspection the same year and two additional exterior-only inspections. Fees are charged for all "re-inspections."

The message to landlords has been to invest in their buildings rather than pay fees. Evidence suggests that the incentive program has been very successful: the percentage of "Very Good" rental units has increased from about 20 percent of all rental units to about 30 percent, and the percentage of "Unacceptable" rental units

has decreased from about 20 percent to 10-12 percent.

Last year, the Village added a Crime-Free Multi-Family Training Program (Program) that trains landlords on tenant selection and other management issues. So far, about 90 percent of the landlords have completed the program training. The Village has also recently resurrected the Landlord and Tenant Commission with the purpose of strengthening communication between landlords, tenants, and the Village.

According to John Berley, the Director of Community Development in Addison, "Addison's rental neighborhoods have improved immensely over the years as a result of the rental licensing and inspection program. The program has also made it possible to maintain the increasing number of single family rentals in the community due to foreclosures. Without home rule, the Village could not have done any of this."<sup>10</sup>

Addison's experience with the use of this program to maintain the quality of the community's rental housing supply has been copied by a number of other home rule governments in Illinois. This particular use of home rule power has also generated opposition to Illinois' system of home rule by some state wide realtors' associations.

## Conclusion

This study, based on a national survey of municipalities comparing municipalities with broad powers to those with more restricted powers, found no evidence that officials in municipalities with broad grants of power from the state, such as home rule, misuse those powers. Municipalities with more tax and borrowing powers did not levy higher taxes per capita and they enjoyed better credit ratings. Thus, there is no reason to believe that increasing local government powers would cause or lead public officials

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to become less trustworthy, responsible, responsive, fair, or effective in using their governmental powers or fulfilling their governmental responsibilities.

Proponents of municipal discretion—home rule—can thus make the case that the results of this study offer evidence that home rule government is no more likely to lead to financial mismanagement, but is more likely to foster programs that protect and enhance the quality of community life.

Finally, this study offers the first real evidence that home rule communities, with their more flexible powers, are better able to use more deficit-reducing strategies to reduce the budget deficit and control the growth of government.

## Appendix A: Survey Methodology

Because municipalities vary in their fiscal, cultural, economic, historic, political, and social characteristics, it is also likely that they might vary in the way their government officials use the powers of their office. An index was developed that makes it possible to measure municipal discretion across municipalities. The municipal discretion index includes 22 indicators across five categories. A municipality can earn up to 25 points for each indicator. The scores for the indicators in each category are averaged. The scores for the five categories are added to come up with a total discretion score for each municipality. A maximum municipal discretion score of 125 is possible for each municipality. The higher the municipal discretion score, the more municipal discretion (home rule) that is permitted by the state and used by the municipality.

**Table A-1 on the next page**, describes the five categories and 22 indicators comprising the municipal discretion index.

## Research methods

The study, conducted in summer 2010, examined whether there has been a difference in performance between empowered and less empowered municipalities. With the assistance of the International City/County Management Association, an on-line survey of city managers in municipalities over 2,500 in population was conducted. Out of the 3,014 city managers contacted by ICMA, 269 municipalities from 43 U.S. states completed the online survey, for a response rate of 9 percent. Because the response rate of the survey was only about 9 percent, the author analyzed whether the 269 respondent municipalities were representative of 18,213 U.S. municipalities over 2,500 in population. The analysis demonstrates that the sample is significantly over represented in all population classifications above 5,000 persons and significantly underrepresented in the 2,500-4,999 population. Therefore, the results of the study cannot be generalized beyond the study sample. The relationship between municipal discretion and 13 performance variables was tested, controlling for 2008 estimated population, percent of population growth from 2000 through 2008, population density, form of government, region, poverty level, per capita income, percent that have a college degree or higher, race, and political culture. Table 3 in the text (page 3) shows the 13 performance variables used in this study.

The author also invited the city managers (administrators) in the 22 municipalities with the highest total municipal discretion scores to describe and explain one project, program, or initiative that would not have been possible but for the home rule authority granted by state officials, the support and will of the elected officials, citizens, and staff expertise. City managers

were also asked to evaluate the impact of the project/program/initiative on the municipal organization and community.

## Endnotes

<sup>1</sup>Zimmerman Joseph F. 1995 (Second Edition). *State-Local Relations: A Partnership Approach*. (New York: Praeger).

<sup>2</sup>Banovetz, James. 2002 "Illinois Home Rule: A Case Study in Fiscal Responsibility." *The Journal of Regional Analysis and Policy*, Volume 32: 1, 79-98.

<sup>3</sup>*Ibid.*

<sup>4</sup>Banovetz, James and Thomas W. Kelly. 1987, "Home Rule in Illinois: Image and Reality," *Illinois Issues*, Springfield, IL: Sangamon State University.

<sup>5</sup>Banovetz, James. 2002 "Illinois Home Rule: A Case Study in Fiscal Responsibility." *The Journal of Regional Analysis and Policy*, Volume 32: 1, 79-98.

<sup>6</sup>*Ibid.*

<sup>7</sup>Dye, Richard F. and Therese J. McGuire. 1997, "The Effect of Property Tax Limitation Measures on Local Government Fiscal Behavior." *Journal of Public Economics*, Vol 66, 469-487.

<sup>8</sup>Banovetz, James. 2002 "Illinois Home Rule: A Case Study in Fiscal Responsibility." *The Journal of Regional Analysis and Policy*, Volume 32: 1, 79-98.

<sup>9</sup>Temple, Judy A. 1996, "Community Composition and Voter Support for Tax Limitations: Evidence from Home-Rule Elections." *Southern Economic Journal*, Vol 62, No. 4 (April), 1002-1016.

<sup>10</sup>E-mail from John Berley, October 26, 2010.



**table A-1 Municipal Discretion Index Categories, Indicators, and Points**

- 1. Legal Definition**
  - a. Scope of legal home rule authority. City Charter (25); State Constitution (20); State law/charter (15); State law (10); None
- 2. Structural**
  - a. Number of state mandates. None (25); Few (15); Many (0)
  - b. Authority to exempt itself from a state statute? Yes (25); No (0)
  - c. Has the municipality exempted itself from a state statute? Yes (25); No (0)
  - d. How often has the state enacted special legislation that constrains municipal discretion? Never (25); Occasionally (15); Frequently (0)
  - e. How often has the state enacted special legislation that expands municipal discretion? Frequently (25); Occasionally (15); Never (0)
  - f. Difficulty of annexation. Only city ordinance (25); city ordinance and public hearing (20); Property owners affected by annexation must petition the city or a village-wide vote is required (15); Annexation must be approved by the county, a special commission, state legislators, administrative judge, or a state agency (10); Annexation is permitted by law but is not possible due to no unincorporated territory surrounding the city (5); and annexation not permitted by state law (0)
- 3. Functional**
  - a. The number of programs/initiatives used by the municipality (13 programs/initiatives were identified in the survey). One point for each program. Thirteen or more programs earn the maximum 25 points.
  - b. Number of functional responsibilities permitted and used by municipalities. 26 functions/services were identified in the survey plus an option to list other functions performed by the municipality. One point for each function, not to exceed 25 points
  - c. Number of approaches to intergovernmental cooperation used by a municipality. 22 methods were identified in the survey plus an option to specify other approaches used. One point for each intergovernmental approach used. 20 or more intergovernmental approaches is equivalent to 25 points.
  - d. Types of economic development initiatives used by the municipality. 15 types of economic development initiatives were identified in the survey. One point earned for each initiative through 10 initiatives. Two additional points given for each additional initiative from 11-16 initiatives. 17 or more economic development initiatives earns (25 points)
- 4. Fiscal**
  - a. Is your municipality subject to a state mandated property tax lid? No (25) and Yes (0)
  - b. Is your municipality subject to a state mandated expenditure lid? No (25) and Yes (0)
  - c. Does the municipality have authority to issue bonds for working capital? Yes (25) and No (0)
  - d. Does the state government require the municipality to approve a balanced budget? No (25) and Yes (0)
  - e. What is the municipality's general obligation debt limit according to state law? No debt limit (25); Over 100% of AV (22); 30%-100% of AV (19); 20-29.99% of AV (14); 10-19.99% of AV (9); 1-9.99% of AV (4); 0% of AV (0)
  - f. What percent of the statutory general obligation debt limit is the municipality's current outstanding debt? 100% (25); 80-99.99% (20); 60-79.99% (15); 40-59.99% (10); 20-39.99% (5); 10-19.99% (3); 1-9.99% (2); and 0% (0).
  - g. The number of revenue sources used by the municipality. 32 revenue sources were identified in the survey. Respondents could also identify other revenue sources used by the municipality. 25 or more revenue sources (25); one point for each revenue source used through 24 revenue sources.
- 5. Municipal Officials' Influence with State Officials (4 indicators that can earn a maximum average of 25 points)**
  - a. Rate the level of success that municipal officials have with state legislators regarding preservation/enhancement of municipal discretion? High (25); Moderate (15); Low (5); None (0).
  - b. Rate the level of success that municipal officials have with the Governor regarding preservation/enhancement of municipal discretion? High (25); Moderate (15); Low (5); None (0)
  - c. Rate the level of success that municipal officials have with state bureaucrats regarding preservation/enhancement of municipal discretion? High (25); Moderate (15); Low (5); None (0)
  - d. Rate how influential professional organizations are with state officials regarding preserving/enhancing municipal discretion. High (25); Moderate (15); Low (5); Not influential at all (0)

## About the Author

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## **Issue:** *Illinois Home Rule: A Thirty Year Assessment*

**The home rule provisions in Illinois' 1970 constitution represent a unique innovation in the way states bestow power and authority on their city and county governments. Through its home rule system, Illinois gives the broadest and most liberal authority to cities and counties of any state in the nation. With Illinois now completing thirty years of home rule experience, the time is appropriate to undertake a comprehensive assessment of Illinois' experience with home rule. Such is the task of the following paragraphs.**

### **Who uses home rule?**

At the time of the November 2000 elections, Illinois had 147 cities and villages and one county (Cook) with home rule powers. Of the home rule cities, 77 had gained home rule by virtue of their size (all cities over 25,000 are granted home rule automatically unless it is rescinded in a city referendum) and 70 had gained home rule by referendum (the constitution gives cities under 25,000 this option). A list of current home rule users is provided in Table 1 on the next page.

Ironically, although a minority of municipalities and counties have home rule, over seven million Illinois residents live in a home rule community — and most have done so for more than a quarter of a century. Thus it is safe to conclude that Illinois voters have had widespread experience with home rule.

### **How do voters feel about home rule?**

Because having a referendum on home rule is relatively easy, there have been 191 such referenda — an average of more than 6 per year — in Illinois home rule's thirty year history. As might be expected, the aggregate of those referenda present a mixed voter reaction to home rule. Voters supported home rule in 97 of those referenda and rejected it in 94 others.

As Table 2 (on page 3) shows, however, there are three different kinds of home rule referenda and each reflects a different picture of voter attitudes toward home rule.

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## tableONE Home Rule Units in Illinois as of November 2000

Cities and villages adopting home rule by referendum have the date of the referendum indicated. Those with no date gained home rule automatically because of population size.

### I. Counties

Cook

### II. Cities and Villages

|                          |                        |                      |                        |
|--------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| Addison                  | Des Plaines            | Mascoutah, 1979      | Rock Island            |
| Alton                    | Dolton                 | Maywood              | Rolling Meadows, 1985  |
| Alsip, 1990              | Downers Grove          | McCook, 1971         | Rosemont, 1972         |
| Arlington Heights        | East Hazel Crest, 1989 | Mettawa, 1990        | St. Charles            |
| Aurora                   | East St. Louis         | Moline               | Sauget, 1976           |
| Barrington Hills, 1990   | Elgin                  | Monroe, 1996         | Schaumburg             |
| Bartlett                 | Elk Grove Village      | Monmouth, 1999       | Schiller Park, 1994    |
| Bedford Park, 1971       | Elmhurst               | Morton Grove         | Sesser, 1989           |
| Belleville               | Elmwood Park           | Mound City, 1973     | Skokie                 |
| Bellwood, 1994           | Elwood, 1997           | Mount Prospect       | South Barrington, 1975 |
| Berkeley, 1994           | Evanston               | Mt. Vernon, 1986     | South Holland          |
| Berwyn                   | Evergreen Park, 1982   | Muddy, 1981          | Springfield            |
| Bloomington              | Fairview Heights, 1993 | Mundelein            | Standard, 1975         |
| Bolingbrook              | Flora, 1975            | Murphysboro, 1994    | Stickney, 1974         |
| Bryant, 1974             | Freeport               | Naperville           | Stone Park, 1972       |
| Buffalo Grove, 1980      | Galesburg              | Naples, 1982         | Streamwood             |
| Burbank                  | Glendale Heights       | Niles                | Sycamore, 1996         |
| Burnham, 1980            | Glen Ellyn             | Normal               | Thornton, 1980         |
| Cahokia, 1997            | Glenview               | Norridge, 1973       | Tinley Park            |
| Calumet City             | Glenwood, 1986         | Northbrook           | University Park, 1975  |
| Calumet Park, 1976       | Golf, 1976             | North Chicago        | Urbana                 |
| Carbondale               | Granite City           | Northlake, 1994      | Valmeyer, 1994         |
| Carol Stream             | Gurnee                 | Oak Forest           | Washington, 1998       |
| Carpentersville, 1993    | Hanover Park           | Oak Lawn             | Watseka                |
| Champaign                | Harvey                 | Oak Park             | Waukegan               |
| Channahon, 1982          | Harwood Heights, 1995  | Old Mill Creek, 1993 | West Dundee, 1990      |
| Chicago                  | Highland Park          | Orland Park          | Wheaton                |
| Chicago Heights          | Hillside, 1995         | Palatine             | Wheeling, 1977         |
| Chicago Ridge, 1994      | Hodgkins, 1996         | Park City, 1973      | Wilmette               |
| Cicero                   | Hoffman Estates        | Park Forest          | Woodridge, 1975        |
| Country Club Hills, 1993 | Inverness, 2000        | Park Ridge           |                        |
| Countryside, 1972        | Joliet                 | Pekin                |                        |
| Crystal Lake             | Kankakee               | Peoria               |                        |
| Danville                 | Lake Barrington, 1991  | Peoria Heights, 1986 |                        |
| Darien                   | Lansing                | Peru, 1981           |                        |
| Decatur                  | Lincolnshire, 1975     | Quincy               |                        |
| Deerfield, 1975          | Lincolnwood, 1997      | Rantoul, 1982        |                        |
| DeKalb                   | Manhattan, 1996        | Robbins, 1998        |                        |
|                          | Marion, 1994           | Rockdale, 1982       |                        |

tabletwo Home Rule Referenda Record

| Years     | Total<br>Number<br>of<br>Referenda | Total Referenda<br>For + or Against -<br>Home Rule |    |     | Municipal<br>Adoption<br>Referenda |    | Municipal<br>Retention<br>Referenda |   | County<br>Adoption<br>Referenda |    |
|-----------|------------------------------------|--|----|-----|------------------------------------|----|-------------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|----|
|           |                                    | +  | -  | % + | +                                  | -  | +                                   | - | +                               | -  |
| 1971-75   | 36                                 | 20   | 16 | 56  | 19                                 | 7  | 1                                   | 0 | 0                               | 9  |
| 1976-80   | 42                                 | 21   | 21 | 50  | 8                                  | 17 | 13                                  | 2 | 0                               | 2  |
| 1981-85   | 23                                 | 16   | 7  | 70  | 9                                  | 5  | 7                                   | 2 |                                 |    |
| 1986-90   | 27                                 | 11   | 16 | 41  | 9                                  | 16 | 2                                   | 0 |                                 |    |
| 1991-95   | 36                                 | 17   | 19 | 46  | 15                                 | 19 | 2                                   | 0 |                                 |    |
| 1996-2000 | 27                                 | 12   | 15 | 44  | 12                                 | 15 |                                     |   |                                 |    |
| Totals    | 191                                | 97   | 94 | 51  | 72                                 | 79 | 25                                  | 4 | 0                               | 11 |

*Note: Table summarizes all home rule referenda held prior to November 2000. November 2000 data not available when this report was prepared.*

### Do county voters support home rule?

No. Nine counties held a total of eleven referenda between 1972-76 to adopt home rule. All failed by substantial margins. In the aggregate, county voters rejected home rule by a margin of 3-1. No county has attempted such a referendum since 1976.

But the picture is more complex. The framers of Illinois' 1970 constitution wanted to strengthen county govern-

ment by encouraging the use of elected county executive officers — an office previously used only in Cook County. The framers used home rule as an inducement to the voters to adopt such a change. Instead, by combining two separate issues in one referendum, the framers effectively blocked the adoption of either an elected county executive or home rule.

But the legislature later gave voters another option: a county executive plan without home rule. Voters in several counties (e.g. Kane, Will,

Madison) adopted this plan. Many other counties have passed ordinances creating the office of county administrator to strengthen the executive function in county government.

The fact that these structural changes have taken place but county home rule has still not been adopted by referendum further emphasizes county voters' rejection of home rule for counties other than Cook. Voters in Cook County have never attempted to rescind county home rule.



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## Are city and village voters more supportive of home rule?

Yes. In home rule adoption referenda, home rule support and opposition have been much more evenly divided. There have been 151 municipal adoption referenda; voters in 74 referenda voted to adopt home rule; voters in the remaining 79 referenda voted not to adopt home rule.

But some communities have had more than one referendum. Alsip, Bloomingdale, Lincolnshire, Sesser, and Stickney voters first voted to reject home rule and later voted to adopt it. Lincolnwood voters twice voted to reject home rule and then adopted it in the third referendum. Long Grove voters have rejected home rule in three different referenda. Lisle voters first adopted home rule and two years later voted it out. Correcting for these multiple referenda, the final figures emerge: 141 communities have had one or more referenda on whether to use home rule. Of these, 72 adopted home rule and 70 continue to use it. (Besides Lisle, National City also once had home rule, but the community ceased to exist when the last of its 45 residents moved away).

## table<sup>three</sup> Home Rule Retention Referenda

| Year | Community     | Outcome | Year | Community      | Outcome |
|------|---------------|---------|------|----------------|---------|
| 1972 | Danville      | Retain  | 1981 | Dolton         | Retain  |
| 1976 | Aurora        | Retain  |      | Calumet City   | Retain  |
|      | Park Ridge    | Retain  |      | Lombard        | Abolish |
| 1977 | Elgin         | Retain  |      | Maywood        | Retain  |
|      | Lisle         | Abolish |      | South Holland  | Retain  |
| 1978 | Rockford      | Retain  | 1982 | Evergreen Park | Retain  |
|      | Rock Island   | Retain  |      | Rantoul        | Retain  |
| 1979 | Decatur       | Retain  | 1983 | Rockford       | Abolish |
|      | Glenview      | Retain  | 1985 | Berwyn         | Retain  |
| 1980 | Elmwood Park  | Retain  | 1987 | Pekin          | Retain  |
|      | Highland Park | Retain  | 1990 | Decatur        | Retain  |
|      | Lincolnshire  | Retain  | 1992 | Berwyn         | Retain  |
|      | Morton Grove  | Retain  |      | Park Forest    | Retain  |
|      | Peoria        | Retain  |      |                |         |
|      | Villa Park    | Abolish |      |                |         |
|      | Wilmette      | Retain  |      |                |         |

Referenda Retaining Home Rule: 25

Referenda Abolishing Home Rule: 4

Total Retention Referenda: 29

## Do voters in communities with home rule support the home rule system?

Home rule's greatest voter support, by far, has come in referenda held to decide whether or not a community's existing home rule system should be retained. There have been a total of 29

such referenda; voters have opted to retain home rule in 25 or 86 per cent (see Table 3 above). In the aggregate, voters living in home rule communities have opted, by a margin of 3-2, to retain their community's home rule powers.

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Of the four communities which had and then abandoned home rule, the voters in two — Lisle and Rockford — reacted negatively to actual or proposed home rule use. In two others — Lombard and Villa Park — voters rejected home rule in the mistaken assumption that it would lower their taxes (mistaken because their home rule powers had not been used to levy any taxes).

The experience of these four communities demonstrated that voters can, when motivated to do so, abolish an operating home rule system.

## **So, how do voters feel about home rule?**

In the 152 Illinois local governments that have tried home rule in the last thirty years, 147, or 97 per cent, still have it. Voters in only 26 of these communities, or 17 per cent, have even challenged the system with a retention election. In short, *where home rule has been tried in Illinois, voters have been supportive of it.*

## **What issues have concerned voters?**

Supporters of home rule have pointed to the value of local authority and flexibility to address local problems, lessened dependence upon the state legislature, and more freedom from

legislative mandates. They stress the greater flexibility home rule gives local governments to deal with issues of community development, to prevent community blight, and to shift local tax burdens to non-residents, primarily through sales and use taxes.

Opponents of home rule focus upon the threat of unwanted and excessive taxation under home rule governments. Sometimes, too, opponents argue that home rule gives local governments the power to suppress individual rights.

## **What does the record show on these issues?**

There is a diverse body of evidence that indicates that home rule communities have used their more flexible powers in innovative ways to address local problems. The most commonly cited uses of home rule powers have involved economic development, control of community development, reduced borrowing costs, and local tax burdens shifted to non-residents.

Opponents argue that home rule brings much heavier tax burdens for local residents. Their claims rely on anecdotal, not empirical evidence. Surprisingly, they do not cite their most compelling case — the City of Rockford — where voters abolished home rule after the city council enacted a series of property tax increases.

In contending that home rule powers are used to suppress individual rights, opponents of home rule cite the

Morton Grove home rule ordinance prohibiting hand gun ownership. However, the Illinois Supreme Court ruled in 1984 that the ordinance did not violate any constitutional rights under either the Illinois or U.S. constitutions. (*Kalodimos v Morton Grove*, 1984).

Anticipating the potential for abusive use of home rule powers, the framers of the 1970 Illinois constitution established constitutional safeguards to prevent such abuses. There are three kinds of such safeguards: electoral recision discussed above, legislative preemption, and judicial review. The latter two are discussed in the following paragraphs.

## **What is legislative preemption and how has it worked?**

Recognizing that there would be overlaps between state and local governments in the exercise of power, the Illinois constitution gave the Illinois General Assembly the authority to *preempt* or take away home rule powers by a 3/5ths vote of both houses or to provide for the exclusive state exercise of a power by a simple majority vote of both houses. These provisions give the legislature broad leeway to reduce home rule powers. But, while the Assembly has used its preemption powers to deal with specific issues, it has not seriously eroded the home rule authority set forth in the constitution.

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In some respects, the legislature has been supportive of home rule power. It has, for example, stipulated by law that no legislative enactment shall be construed as restricting home rule power unless that enactment has “specific language limiting or denying” the home rule power.

Except for a series of bills restricting home rule authority to license or regulate specific occupations, the General Assembly did little in home rule’s first 15 years to limit home rule powers, but such limitations have become more common in the last 15 years.

Legislative limitations can be grouped into several categories. In one category are laws like the Open Meetings Act and statutes containing state-wide rules governing public labor relations. These apply state-wide principles of good government to home rule units. A second category has clarified the state’s exclusive role in regulating certain businesses and activities. For instance, to reduce drunk driving accidents, the legislature took away home rule powers to set minimum ages for the purchase of alcoholic beverages, but it also eliminated particular drinking age problems which had faced communities with college campuses.

Third, the legislature has established exclusive state authority over certain personnel policies in local government. Again, the legislature has protected the obvious benefits that stem from uniform state-wide practices, such as state-wide municipal employee retirement programs, in this field.

## **Has the legislature preempted any home rule tax powers?**

The final category is legislative action taken to limit home rule tax powers. The legislature imposed a referendum requirement on the use of a real estate transfer tax, effectively limiting further use of the tax. It also eliminated home rule authority to impose local sales taxes. In the latter instance, however, it authorized home rule units to raise the rate of the local portion of the state sales tax levy. Thus, while limiting home rule power and flexibility, the legislature protected home rule access to additional revenues from the use of the sales tax (called the retail occupation tax in Illinois law).

Perhaps most important is what the legislature has *not* done. It *has not* authorized local use of an income tax; it *has not* imposed a limit on real estate taxes levied with home rule powers; and it *has not* imposed limits on borrowing and indebtedness by home rule units. Furthermore, the legislature *has* exempted home rule units from complying with tax caps recently imposed on the annual rate of increase in local property taxes.

In the last ten years, the legislature also initiated the practice of “partial exemptions” — imposing obligations or denying powers to some but not all home rule units. To date, partial exemption laws have treated Chicago differently than other home rule units. This practice weakens home rule by splitting the block of legislators who represent the interests of home rule governments in the legislature. The result has been preemptions of home rule powers that local governments have been unable to prevent.

## **How has judicial review affected home rule powers?**

Specific uses of home rule powers have often been challenged in the courts which, in turn, have frequently but not always upheld a liberal interpretation of home rule powers. For example, besides the Morton Grove handgun ordinance, the courts have upheld: the sale of general obligation bonds without a referendum (*Kanellos v County of Cook*, 1972); a home rule ordinance that authorizes actions contrary to state statutes (*Rozner v Korshak*, 1973), and a home rule ordinance that legislates concurrently with the state on environmental matters (*Chicago v Pollution Control Board*, 1974).

But the courts have also been willing to constrain home rule uses it views as excessive. It refused, for example, to enforce a Des Plaines noise pollution ordinance against a railroad, holding that noise pollution was a matter requiring regional or state-wide rather than local regulation (*Des Plaines v Chicago & Northwestern Ry.*, 1976). It struck down ordinances altering the statutory appointment powers of municipal officials, (*Pechous v Slawko*, 1976), and an ordinance imposing a local fee on filing cases in civil court (*Amersand v Finley*, 1975).

The courts have treated the use of home rule taxing powers in a similar manner. They have: upheld home rule wheel taxes (*Gilligan v Korzen*, 1974), upheld Chicago's employers' expense tax (*Paper Supply v Chicago*, 1974), and approved a home rule admissions tax (*Cicero v Fox Valley Trotting Club*, 1976; *Kerasotes Rialto Theatre v Peoria*, 1979), but they struck down home rule utility tax levies which exceeded statutory rate limits (*Waukegan Community Unit School District v Waukegan*, 1983).

The courts thus have demonstrated that they will constrain home rule actions they deem to be beyond the scope of constitutional and statutory restrictions.

As the body of case law regarding home rule has grown, the courts have tended to reaffirm the precedents set in the early years. For instance, the courts reaffirmed, in 1998, that, despite ordinances to the contrary, home rule municipalities have a duty to bargain collectively with employee unions (*Public Labor Council v Cicero*, 1998); and they reaffirmed the principle that implied preemption is not sufficient to deny home rule communities the power to regulate matters of local affairs (*Bolingbrook v Citizens Utility Co*, 1994; *Barrington Police Pension Fund v Barrington Ethics Board*, 1997). The Supreme Court has also upheld partial preemption (*Nevitt v Langfelder*, 1993).

### **So what does all of this mean for Illinois' home rule system?**

All of this means that the home rule system adopted in Illinois as part of the state's 1970 constitution has demonstrated after thirty years, that it is a workable system for empowering local governments. Illinois home rule has served, and continues to serve over seven million people in 148 local governments. It gives residents in non-home rule counties, cities, and villages additional options when searching for new ways to solve community problems.

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## **Stormwater Utilities**



# Stormwater Utilities in Illinois?

By Mark Hoskins, P.E., CFM  
Manhard Consulting Ltd.

Does your community need increased funding for stormwater issues? What is this nationwide craze called a Stormwater Utility (SWU)? How long does it take to set up a SWU? Below are some answers, but also consider attending a day-long IAFSM seminar to be held on November 28, 2006 in Lisle to answer more of your questions. Four Illinois public works directors and others are coming to talk about their Illinois stormwater utilities.

## **Funding for Stormwater Management**

Many Public Works Departments are not keeping up with the infrastructure demands of their communities, especially for stormwater expenses. The effects of community growth and aging infrastructure aggravate conditions causing more flooding and polluting rivers and lakes. Many communities are not spending monies for routine maintenance or for improving their stormwater facilities. Recently the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) rated the infrastructure of America a "D" and in Illinois the grade is just as low. ASCE's low grade strongly implies that more funding is needed to maintain and rebuild existing roadways and drainage facilities.

Historically, the "bad penny" has been spent from a community's budget for stormwater improvements. Flood protection and dam safety improvements are always postponed, and in dry years "out-of-sight, out-of-mind" creating false sense of security. Every 20 years it seems major cities experience severe flooding. Better planning and maintenance can reduce this cycle of disasters. In their summer 2006 publication, the Chicago Wilderness Group gave environmental report card grades for: Wetlands=D+, streams=C-, fish=D+, lakes=C and reptiles and amphibians=C-. Clearly we have a systemic failure of stormwater management across Illinois.

Getting additional stormwater funding is tough. Illinois property taxes and income taxes are already "draining" us all. It is important that any governmental funding increase is fair and that each resident sees a tangible benefit. Long ago, colonists revolted over unfair taxes without representation. Today, most people are willing to protect lakes and streams from becoming degraded or harmfully toxic. A recent survey in Milwaukee determined that most residents would be willing to pay \$50-\$75 per year for lake and stream restoration projects.

Residents in communities that have SWU programs typically pay \$30-\$40 per year for stormwater related improvements that span from individual projects to various floodplain management issues. This fee equates to about 10-cents a day...or "Buddy can you spare a daily dime?".

More buildings and pavement increase runoff volumes, in turn causing more widespread structural flooding. A recent restudy of the Des Plaines River has shown an increase in the flood elevation by three feet through 52 communities along 66 miles west of Chicago. The three feet can be attributed to 40 years of additional pavement, the loss of wetlands and the straightening of the river's natural bends. Compare the Des Plaines and other Chicagoland waterways to the 1950s and you will see significant meandering (bending) of the rivers and much larger areas of natural wetlands. Today, new development runoff more efficiently gets to the low-lying residential properties that never before flooded. Near O'Hare airport, floods in 1986 and 1987 awoke the Illinois Department of Natural Resources to require storage mitigation for new construction. Several counties now require mitigated floodplain storage across Illinois for new construction. There are still many urban areas in Illinois in need of more floodplain storage.

Typically residents expect the government to protect them from floods. However residents do not understand how runoff is affected by their own actions. Stormwater interactions are complex. For example in the mid 1980s in Florida a property owner built a 100 foot long berm along a creek. A thunderstorm made the creek flow quickly under-cutting a big tree and it fell into the creek. The tree totally blocked the creek enough to flood and block automobile passage along the heavily traveled Interstate Road I-4 for nearly 12 hours. A seemingly slight change with the construction of this berm caused a catastrophic event that stream maintenance and a permit program may have prevented. Stormwater utilities provide that permitting and maintenance expertise.

Fixing flooding problems is expensive. A community has many funding options including: bonds, property taxes and Impact fees; however, these approaches tend to be reactionary to a particular flood or for only small site-specific fix. A long-term watershed approach is needed. Farm communities have drainage districts, which in many ways are similar to SWU programs. In about 600 major communities across the United States stormwater utilities are employing experts to plan and maintain their stormwater waterway systems. A recent survey of adjacent states to Illinois tabulates about 110 SWU programs. Presently Illinois has about eight active SWU programs. The number of Illinois SWUs should double within the next few years.

### **What is a Stormwater Utility?**

A stormwater utility is a funding approach based on a public utility-like process that is designed to protect a community from water related disasters. Paying for stormwater expenses must be divided in a fair manner. Many stormwater utility fees are generally set by the amount of imperviousness on each resident's property. The amount of imperviousness (pavement, roof-top, sidewalks) on each property increases runoff volume and peak storm flows in the rivers, and lakes - as compared to natural pervious areas (before man built there). The SWU approach says that everyone is a part of the runoff problem...as each rainfall drop-by-drop collects "downstream". If you discharge into the public drainage system you should support its maintenance and design. Each resident should pay their equal share proportional to the amount of runoff they "burden" the system. The large mall on the hill should pay more than a single-family property owner for stormwater system costs. If no runoff occurs on a site, no fee should be charged. Stormwater fees should not be charged by the value of the property



From a recent national survey preliminary results taken by the University of West Kentucky, single family resident fees are averaging about \$3.85 per month for 2800 SF of pavement called an ERU (Equivalent Residential Unit). Commercial properties pay by the ERU ratio of their amount of imperviousness. Given twice the pavement of an ERU, then the property owner pays twice the fee. Nowadays, powerful GIS systems can accurately estimate each property owner's impervious area. Remote sensing images with infrared aerial photographs (can differentiate imperviousness by heat) using GIS can overlay the property lines to these infrared images to define impervious areas for each property. If you are considering re-flying your community ask for an infrared image to be added to the other contracted mapping images. It's fairly inexpensive to include to the overall cost.

In Illinois, there is a strong legal distinction between a tax and a utility fee. This was formed from a 2005 lawsuit in the City of Rock Island initiated by 12 churches against the City's new SWU program. The City, making a legal distinction between a fee and a tax, won this lawsuit. In Illinois, a fee is not a tax and now a fee is legally defined in Illinois as 1) fairly assessed, 2) used for regulatory issues and 3) is voluntary. A community masterplan defines the needs of the community's stormwater utility. Maintenance, regulatory and limited capital expenses are outlined. A confusing aspect of a fee definition is that the fee is voluntary. In a legal sense there is no consideration for how expensive it is to remove rainfall runoff. Residents can be exempt from paying their monthly stormwater utility if they (for instance) vacuum up all the runoff from their property.

A Credit Manual is drafted (for the SWU) to allow residents fee monthly reductions. This manual is a document that outlines practical steps that will allow the resident to lessen their monthly fee. These reductions can be for building a rain garden or a detention pond to hold runoff from their property not allowing it to enter public areas. Schools can get credit by teaching classes on rainfall stewardship. Churches can look into ways to reduce their parking lot runoff to reduce their monthly fees. These steps make your SWU voluntary and the Credit Manual must be carefully drafted.

### **Two Active Illinois Stormwater Utilities**

Recent interviews with the public works directors of Rock Island and Bloomington show some of the challenges and rewards of their respective SWU programs.

#### **City of Rock Island**

The City of Rock Island was not keeping up with their stormwater demands and other nearby cities had successfully started SWUs especially in Iowa. Bob Hawes the director of Public Works in Rock Island spent two years educating his City Council the benefits of these utilities. After that, Bob spent three months giving presentations to groups such as the Kiwanis Club and other affected groups. A Citizen's Advisory group was set up to discuss all funding options and to define the stormwater needs of the City. A nationwide firm AMEC advised Bob on the SWU setup process. In his presentations to the residents, Bob compared all the sum of water, sewer and stormwater resident's monthly utility costs of adjacent cities (Moline, East Moline, Bettendorf and Davenport) to show that even if a SWU were started in Rock Island, the overall costs to each resident was less than the adjacent city's monthly costs. The City's 40,000 residents are charged \$3.51 per month per ERU with a total revenue realized at \$1.3 million per year.

An unusual aspect of their Credit Manual included a section for residents to build a rain-garden on their property for water quality benefits. The City would pay each resident \$4 per square foot to install, yet the resident has to maintain the rain-garden for five years.

In 2004 shortly after starting the SWU, 12 churches objected to the fee and brought a lawsuit against the City alleging that the City was taxing the churches. This precedent setting challenge was struck down as the legal distinction was made between a utility fee and a tax in Illinois. More details on the case are available at <http://www.iml.org/dbs/imllegal/dyncat.cfm?catid=940>. From this case law, the City has been given legal authority to keep the stormwater fees in place. This SWU funding is used to maintain levees, add an extra staff member and fund several significant stormwater projects.

### **City of Bloomington**

Kurt Haas has been tasked with managing the City of Bloomington Storm Water Program, including the Storm Water Utility and Erosion/Sediment Control Programs. The main purpose behind the creation of the Storm Water Utility was to help the City fund the mandates set forth in Phase 2 of the Clean Water Act. Kurt believes that the Illinois EPA is moving into an inspection and policing role so he feels that being erosion proactive is in the best interest of the City.

The Utility has been used to help homeowners with basement flooded with sewage due to surcharged sewers, separate one combined sewer and eliminate its associated overflow, and to fund public education and outreach projects. The Utility does not assess storm water fees against farmland. The fee is based upon a minimum of 2% impervious area within a given parcel, then is assessed at \$1.45 per 1,000 square feet of impervious area.

The former Public Works Director left a list of resident drainage complaints from which Kurt entered into a GIS to discover that the complaints were scattered evenly throughout the City and not just in one area. He began to meet with these property owners and now is in the process of responding to their concerns. This action spoke well towards listening to the needs of residents and has generated support for the new Stormwater Utility.

To be fair to everyone, all Bloomington property owners are equally charged by the SWU, including the City itself. All city-owned impervious areas such as roadways and buildings are charged and the City has to pay into the Utility fund. The City actually collects more than they spend each year to provide for an emergency fund. This emergency fund has already been used on a significant emergency dam repair last year.

It is emphasized that the managers of the Bloomington Utility take all resident comments seriously. Since Haas carefully listens to his residents and thus is better able to serve their stormwater needs.

## **Starting a New Stormwater Utility**

### **Overview**

It takes a year or more to successfully define and educate key players in the SWU process. A SWU is based on setting a fair price for planning and maintaining very complex issues relating to the environment and perceived growth. This is not a 10 minute task. Below are three main categories of approaches needed to set up a stormwater utility: define, educate and enlist.

### **Define Community Needs**

Consider drafting a Stormwater Masterplan as an internal guidance document. This has generally about five categories of discussion including:

- 1) Operations and Maintenance with street sweeping, detention pond mowing, creek debris removal and erosion BMP installations,
- 2) Modeling Stormwater Quantity to define flooding areas with hydrologic and hydraulic models calibrated and constructed,

- 3) Modeling Stormwater Quality as various waterway parameters of phosphorus, nitrogen, fecal coliform, sediment, petroleum contamination,
- 4) Inventory of the Stormwater Facilities as the number of inlets, channel miles, street miles,
- 5) Public Outreach Approaches such as web pages, media clips and flyers.

### **Educate Residents**

Gather about a dozen major stakeholders in the community to discuss various different funding options available for stormwater related issues. In a brainstorming type of monthly meetings choose from many different needs of the community. Find out and define available federal and state loans, matching funding and grants. If you Google "Feasibility Study Stormwater" you will soon find downloadable reports from other communities. Levels of service can be refined and discussed at these meetings.

After drafting an internal stakeholder report, discuss the results with interested residents by way of several monthly public meetings. Collect comments and open a dialog with the remaining residents so they become part of the process. Some initial meetings are very spirited, and not all comments are to be considered. Some initial resident frustrations are answered after they better understanding the overall program.

Simple themes help to clarify the SWU mission. Some memorable mission themes include: "Everyone's in the Watershed", "Clean Water is just Good Business", "Out Water, Our Future, Ours to Protect", "Think Clean Water", "My Watershed - My Choice", "Silt Happens" or "A River Runs Through Us". These all are actual themes used across the country to increase SWU program awareness. Keep your chosen theme front-and-center for residents to consider. Sounds expensive, but successful SWU communities typically spend about \$1 per person per year in advertising their SWU programs.

### **Enlist Public Support**

It is essential to remain in the public's eye after the SWU is running and this can be done several ways. Consider starting an annual Public Works Day, complete with hot dogs and refreshments. On this day teach kids how necessary maintenance procedures are needed to keep conveyance paths clear. There are many public notice media advertisements such as the rubber ducky media clip. Many media clips are on the web. After web searching you can contact agencies and they may allow for your community to copy and "voice-over" sections to change the message for your needs.

Try improving your community stormwater web page to inform about major stormwater issues. Informing residents of what simple things they can do to help the environment. Web-search for the Center for Watershed Protection for their USSR watershed pollutant characterization program manuals. There are hundreds of web page examples to consider.

The usual web segments include FAQs of the SWU, credit manual download, upcoming workshops from local environmental groups on a variety of clean-up issues. Groups such as The Conservation Foundation or Chicago Wilderness have very knowledgeable staff very capable of helping the outreach portion of your SWU. The Chicago Wilderness group has listings of many Illinois watershed (river-based) citizen action organizations, some of which can provide useful ecological training to residents.

### **Conclusions and Links**

A Public Works director or Village Trustee must NOT stand up in front of his council or board members and before the media and make a "personal declaration" that a stormwater fee will be assessed. Take a year or more to use the media and the web to build a consensus for the need to better fund stormwater expenses. Consider enlisting wilderness groups to educate your residents and political allies for the needs of better stormwater management. Let them realize the benefits of such an approach. Add a few web pages to define the needs of your community and mail out flyers along with the normal monthly billing information defining the needs for more funding.

Here are some links and heavy reading; this is not for the faint of heart. Dig in and concentrate on the tasks at hand. The benefits of this effort will set a long-term process that will allow your residents to better understand their environment and their need to protect it. Your efforts are not trivial.

### **Background Information**

<http://outreach.missouri.edu/mowin/Trainingstormwater/stormwater.pdf>

Links for information relating to runoff quality and quantity...very extensive.

[http://www.stormh2o.com/sw\\_0409\\_stormwater.html](http://www.stormh2o.com/sw_0409_stormwater.html)

Stormwater Utility programs...where do they stand now? Stormwater magazine Oct 2004

<http://www.epa.gov/ORD/WebPubs/nctuw/Cyre.pdf>

Great background information article, written by Hector Cyre of Water Resource Associates, located in Kirkland WA.

[http://www.stormh2o.com/sw\\_0501\\_guest\\_editorial.html](http://www.stormh2o.com/sw_0501_guest_editorial.html)

Stormwater Utility fee makes the best sense (Griffin, GA by Dr. Keller) even considering hurricane damage costs. The fee is a stable funding source set to meet the needs of the public

### **Setting the Fee Rate**

[http://www.pvpc.org/docs/landuse/storm\\_util.pdf](http://www.pvpc.org/docs/landuse/storm_util.pdf)

Tremendous article on "How to create a Stormwater Utility Fee" organized by Massachusetts Pioneer Valley Planning Commission. Good background.

[http://www.gocolumbiamo.com/PublicWorks/Minutes/Storm\\_Water/2004/Minutes\\_11-10-04.pdf](http://www.gocolumbiamo.com/PublicWorks/Minutes/Storm_Water/2004/Minutes_11-10-04.pdf)

Interesting dialogue between Columbia-Boone County, MO board members regarding: a) what if someone does not pay the fee b) Classes of watersheds by quality/quantity and c) higher rates for areas the board does not want to be developed?

<http://www.co.arlington.va.us/departments/EnvironmentalServices/epo/EnvironmentalServicesEpoSwfunding.aspx>

Arlington VA completed their Masterplan and are now working on their feasibility plan to set the SW fee rates.

<http://stormwaterfinance.urbancenter.iupui.edu/PDFs/Hargett.pdf>

City manager of St Petersburg FL notes how expensive infrastructure maintenance and desires a stable funding source, based on impervious surface

### **Selecting the Stormwater Fee Approach**

<http://www.bolton-menk.com/news/pdf/BMI%20News%20-%20Winter%202000.pdf>

Different Minnesota approaches available to set up stormwater districts and funding based on the needs of each community.

<http://www.ci.fort-collins.co.us/utilities/rates-stormwater.php>

Land use and risk-based fee determination equation for Fort Collins, Colorado.

<http://www.dnrec.state.de.us/dnrec2000/SWMTF/Draft%20Final%20Recommendations%20Rev.pdf>

Delaware SWAC committee recommends the creation of countywide Stormwater Utility fee programs. Many other technical recommendations follow  
[http://www.andassoc.com/ampersand/1998\\_05/page3.htm](http://www.andassoc.com/ampersand/1998_05/page3.htm)

Virginia Beach VA since 1993 has charged about \$3 per household. Community of 125,000 they realize \$8 million per year. General acceptance yet some call it a rain tax. The director of the program answers questions about the program.

# **Electronic Packets**

| <b>COST ANALYSIS OF ELECTRONIC BOARD PACKETS</b> |                       |                   |              |                     |                   |
|--|-----------------------|-------------------|--------------|---------------------|-------------------|
|  | <u>Average packet</u> | <u>Per packet</u> | <u>Month</u> | <u>Annual</u>       | <u>Cost</u>       |
| <b>Paper</b>                                     | 78 pgs                | 4.68              | 14.04        | 168.48 x 10 packets | \$1,684.80        |
| <b>Staff Time</b>                                | 60 mn per week        | \$24.65 per hr    | \$73.95      | 887.4               | \$887.40          |
| <b>PD time</b>                                   | 90 mn                 | \$30.99           | 92.97        | 1115.96             | \$1,115.96        |
| <b>Copier B&amp;W</b>                            | 0.1225                | 9.5               | 28.5         | 342                 | \$342             |
| <b>Meetings</b>                                  |                       |                   | 3            | 36                  |                   |
| <b>TOTAL COST</b>                                |                       |                   |              |                     | <b>\$4,030.16</b> |
| <b>Electronic Device</b>                         |                       |                   |              |                     |                   |
| iPad2 - wi-fi / 16 MB                            | \$499                 | x 8 units         |              |                     | \$3,992           |
| Kindle Fire (11/15/2011)                         | \$199                 | x 8 units         |              |                     | \$1,592           |
| Nook Color                                       | \$249                 | x 8 units         |              |                     | \$1,992           |
| Samsung Galaxy Tab                               | \$499                 | x 8 units         |              |                     | \$3,992           |



(Credit: Sarah Tew/CNET)

**Editors' note:** This story was updated October 2, 2011, to reflect the latest product announcements and to address upcoming rumored products.

Amazon pretty much invented the mainstream e-book market, so it's no surprise that the company's recently announced fall product line-up has turned the market--and this buying guide--on its head. Meanwhile, imminent new products from Sony, a big new **iPad** software update, and rumored products from Barnes & Noble are altering the consumer e-book reader market as well.

We're in the process of updating this story from top to bottom. In the meantime, however, here's a quick cheat sheet on what you need to know about upcoming products:

**New Amazon Kindles:** Amazon announced three new e-ink Kindle models for fall 2011, including new touch-screen models. All are affordably priced from \$79 to \$189. The company has also generated huge buzz with the debut of its new color 7-inch **tablet**, the \$199 Kindle Fire. However, most of these new products won't be out until mid- to late November. (In the meantime, the 2010 Kindle has been renamed the Kindle Keyboard, and is selling at a discount while supplies last.) **Verdict: Worth waiting for.** There's a lot to like about the new \$79 Kindle, so we would hold off on any buying decisions for a few weeks until we can review the step-up models--including the Kindle Fire.

- [Kindle Fire leads Amazon onslaught \(roundup\)](#)
- [Kindle 2011 \(full review with video\)](#)
- [Kindle Fire \(CNET first take with video\)](#)
- [Kindle Touch \(CNET first take with video\)](#)

**New Sony Reader:** Sony, a pioneer in the e-reader space, is releasing its 2011 Sony Reader Wi-Fi PRS-T1 in October for \$149. **Verdict: Needs a price cut.** We know this model offers a touch-compatible e-ink screen, Wi-Fi, audio playback capability, and support for reading library books--but the forthcoming Kindle Touch matches all of those features for \$50 less.

- [Sony Reader Wi-Fi puts Kindle in its sights](#)

**Rumored new Barnes & Noble Nook Color:** The original Nook Color was launched in October 2010, so it wouldn't be at all surprising to see a new model hit now (about a



year later). There are **rumors**--completely unconfirmed, we must point out--that we'll see a refreshed 7-inch Nook Color, and/or a larger Nook Color for \$349. **Verdict: B&N needs to go big or go home.** Barnes & Noble's Nook Color and \$139 Nook Touch were the best readers in their respective price classes for months--with an emphasis on the "were." Amazon's aggressive new pricing means that B&N needs to announce and release any updated products ASAP, and do so at lower prices than Amazon, regardless of how it hurts profits.

• **Two new Nook Colors coming this year?**

**Apple iPad gets iOS 5:** At \$499, the iPad is two to six times more expensive than the e-reader products listed above--but as a full-fledged multimedia tablet that competes with some laptops, it's really a different class of product. Nevertheless, an upcoming software update (to iOS 5) will bring even more reading options, most notable of which is the new Newsstand app--basically an app store for magazines and newspapers. **Verdict: An excellent tablet is only getting better, but the iPad's comparatively large price--and size--will give bargain hunters pause as cheaper competition looms.**

• **Apple takes baby steps with iOS 5**

**CNET's current recommendation: Wait** The next six to eight weeks--from early October to mid-November--will completely overturn the e-book and tablet product categories. The new and updated products listed above offer the potential for more choices and better values than we've ever seen. We strongly recommend that you hold off on any buying decisions until we've gotten a chance to fully review all of these new products, and update our recommendations accordingly.

*The rest of this story remains unchanged from its September 23, 2011 iteration. Updates will appear as soon as we get more concrete data on the products discussed above.*

Shopping for an e-book reader? The good news is that you have more choices--at better prices--than ever before. The bad news? There are more choices than ever before. In the realm of dedicated e-book readers, the market has consolidated around a handful of major players: mainly Amazon and Barnes & Noble, with Kobo and Sony bringing up the rear. But every major tablet--including the Apple iPad 2 and nearly every **Android** tablet--also doubles as a reader.

So, should you get an inexpensive e-ink reader or go for a more versatile color tablet? Should you wait for rumored new versions of the Kindle or the Nook Color? Those are the dilemmas facing any shopper today. But don't worry; CNET's here to help. If you're an experienced shopper, you can jump straight to our **current recommendations**--or check our lists of **top e-book readers** and **top tablets**. If you're looking for a more in-depth discussion, read on to consult this quick guide, which boils the purchase decision down to seven questions:

## 1. Reader vs. tablet: Do you want more than just reading?

Start by asking yourself what you're really looking for. Do you just want to read books? How about magazines and newspapers? What about browsing the Web? Want to add multimedia to the mix--music, audiobooks, or video? Do you need Flash support? E-mail and messaging? Gaming?

If you want to stick with "just reading"--books, and maybe some newspapers and magazines--an e-book reader (\$114 to \$189) is probably your best bet. Every additional

Shop for products mentioned in this post on CNET.com:

**Barnes & Noble Nook Touch Reader (Wi-Fi) — \$139.00**

**Apple iPad 2 (16GB, Wi-Fi, black) — \$499.00 - \$1,050.00**

**Amazon Kindle Keyboard (with Special Offers, Wi-Fi, graphite) — \$99.00**

**Barnes & Noble Nook Color — \$249.00 - \$274.79**

feature you add will put you on the road to a more full-featured tablet (an iPad or one of the growing number of Android tablets). A tablet is much more versatile and can replace a laptop for many tasks--but it will cost you upward of \$300 to start.

Splitting the difference is the Nook Color. It's primarily a Barnes & Noble reader, but it's got a color touch screen and such tablet-esque features as e-mail, calendar, to-do lists, Web browsing, and even Flash video. The curated app store has **dozens of apps**--not the tens of thousands you'll find on iPad and true Android tablets--but it includes such keystone programs as Pandora, Angry Birds, and the like. In short, it will be "good enough" for many users, and its \$249 price tag is half that of entry-level iPad models and most Android tablets.



The Nook Color offers a curated app store.

(Credit: Barnes & Noble)

**Best basic e-book reader:** [Barnes & Noble](#)

[Nook](#) (with touch screen), [Amazon Kindle](#) (cheaper, no touch screen)

**Best reading tablet for less than \$250:** [Barnes & Noble Nook Color](#)

**Best all-around full-featured reading tablets:** [Apple iPad 2](#), [Sony Tablet S](#), [Samsung Galaxy Tab 10.1](#)

## 2. How large of a screen (and weight) do you want?

Even if you plan to never leave home with your e-book reader, you should consider its size before buying one. Since you hold the device in front of you whenever you want to read, the weight and size can be an issue.

The smallest and lightest dedicated e-book reader we've seen to date is the [Sony Reader Pocket Edition PRS-350](#), which has a 5-inch touch screen and weighs just 5.5 ounces (without a case). Unfortunately, this otherwise excellent touch-screen reader lacks Wi-Fi, which makes it tough to recommend. (It's also about to be replaced by [Sony's 2011 Readers](#).)

In the 6-inch-screen class, the [2011 Kobo](#) weighs a bit less than 7.1 ounces (without case). The latest [e-ink Nook](#), meanwhile, tips the scales at a very portable 7.5 ounces--more than a third lighter than the original. And the [Amazon Kindle](#) is a svelte 8.7 ounces (without case). Even with cases, all three models are light enough to hold for extended reading sessions without tiring.

The [Nook Color](#) boasts a larger 7-inch screen, but it weighs almost a full pound (15.8 ounces). There are also a smattering of [7-inch Android tablets](#) available.

If you want a truly large screen (around 10 inches), you'll want to buy the [Kindle DX](#), [Apple iPad 2](#), [Samsung Galaxy Tab 10.1](#), [Sony Tablet S](#), or similar Android models. However, those big beautiful screens come at a price: they're comparatively heavy.

Don't get us wrong, all of these big-screen readers and tablets are far lighter than a laptop; the Kindle DX, iPad 2, Sony Tablet S, and Galaxy Tab 10.1 all weigh between 1.2 and 1.4 pounds. But unlike a laptop--which sits on a table or in your lap while in use

--you'll be actively holding these readers or tablets aloft. For long reading sessions--say, more than 45 minutes or so--many users will find their fingers and arms becoming strained.

Remember, all e-book readers let you adjust the font size of the content you're reading, so even a small screen can display much larger type than you're used to seeing in a book, magazine, or newspaper. In other words, a smaller screen does not mean you need to sacrifice readability.

**Lightest e-book readers:** [Kobo eReader Touch Edition](#), [Amazon Kindle](#), [Barnes & Noble Nook](#)

**Midsize readers/tablets:** [Nook Color](#), [Samsung Galaxy Tab \(7-inch\)](#), [HTC Flyer](#)

**Large-screen readers/tablets:** [Amazon Kindle DX](#), [Apple iPad 2](#), [Samsung Galaxy Tab 10.1](#), [Sony Tablet S](#)

### 3. What are your screen preferences: E-ink or color LCD?

**E-ink:** As close as you'll get to a printed page

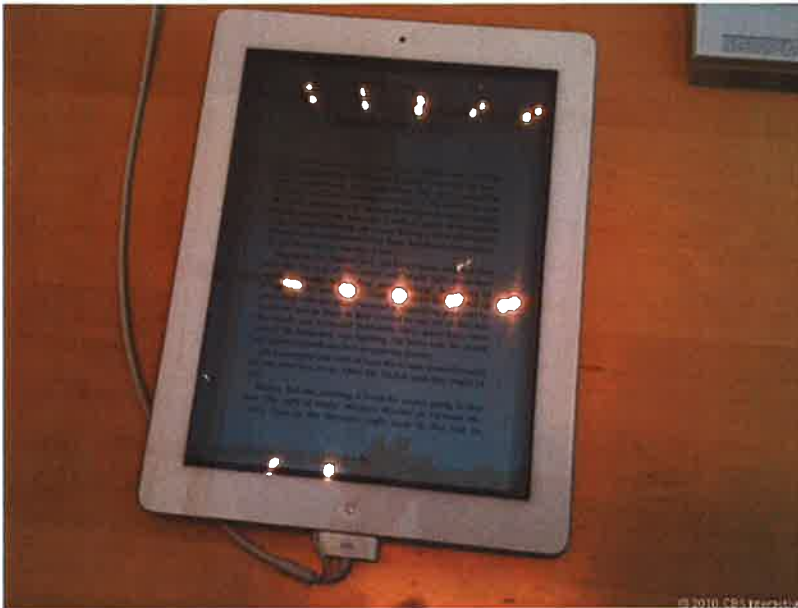
Dedicated e-book readers, such as the Nook, Kindle, Kobo, and Sony Reader, use an e-ink screen. However, e-ink screens have some drawbacks: they're black and white, and the pages don't refresh as quickly as those on an LCD do. However, they do an excellent job of reproducing the look of printed paper. They're not backlit--so you can't read in the dark--but you can read them in direct sunlight, which is something you can't do on an LCD screen (a fact Amazon is keen to point out in its [advertising](#)).

If you prefer to read at night with e-ink, however, all is not lost; cases with built-in lights (such as this [Kindle model](#)) are available.

The "Pearl" screen by E Ink is now standard on all major e-ink readers. So, whether you're getting the 2011 Nook or Kobo or the 2010 Sony Reader or Kindle, you're basically getting the same exact screen. Furthermore, E Ink has confirmed that it [won't be releasing a Pearl successor](#) before the end of 2011.

**LCD:** Bright, backlit--and potentially tiring

By contrast, the LCD screens found on all tablets (and the Nook Color) are bright, colorful, beautiful displays. But those advantages have trade-offs. The reflective screens on LCD tablets make it hard to read in bright light, and many people find that the backlight tires their eyes over long reading sessions.



LCD readers are prone to glare.

(Credit: David Carnoy/CNET)

#### **Touch screen: All but Kindle**

All tablets (iPad, Android, etc.) have touch screens, as do all current models of major brand e-ink readers--*except* the Kindle. That will undoubtedly change when a newer Kindle is eventually (presumably) released. But for now, if you buy the Kindle, you'll have to forgo touch-screen control.

#### **How to choose**

So, which screen is better for reading: e-ink or LCD? We can't answer that question for you. (See "[LCD vs. e-ink: The eyestrain debate](#)".) If you don't have a problem staring at your laptop or LCD monitor screen for hours on end--or if you enjoy reading in low light without an external light source--you'll probably like an LCD screen. Likewise, if you enjoy reading Web sites, magazines, and newspapers, and if you want support for interactive children's books, you'll want to go with color. However, if you prefer the look of newsprint or if you enjoy reading outside, an e-ink display is your friend.

Whether you're checking your preference for e-ink versus LCD or touch screen versus keyboard controls, we'd strongly recommend that you try a few devices before you buy one. You'll find most major e-book readers (Kindles, Nooks, Sony Readers, Apple iPads, Android tablets) under one roof at your local Best Buy.

**Best e-ink readers:** [Amazon Kindle](#), [Barnes & Noble Nook](#), [Kobo eReader Touch Edition](#)

**Best LCD readers/tablets:** [Barnes & Noble Nook Color](#), [Apple iPad 2](#), or [any good tablet](#)

## **4. Do you need always-on wireless data?**

When buying many tablets and some e-book readers, you'll need to make a choice between two versions: the Wi-Fi model or the 3G version. In other words: do you want the more affordable Wi-Fi model (which requires you to be near a Wi-Fi hot spot to download books or access the Internet), or do you prefer to pay a premium--via a higher up-front price and/or a monthly bill--to add 3G access on a cellular wireless network?

If you're primarily interested in reading books, you're probably going to be fine opting for Wi-Fi-only models. You only need Wi-Fi access when you're buying new books. (E-book files are stored on the device--once downloaded, Internet access isn't necessary.) So, if you're a voracious reader, you can (for instance) buy a bunch of books, toggle off your Wi-Fi, and work your way through them at your leisure. In fact, many users keep the wireless on their readers switched off most of the time since it significantly boosts battery life.

John P. Falcone covers home theater and network entertainment products. He's been writing for CNET since 2002.

If you're using your hardware to access anything *besides* e-books--magazine or newspaper subscriptions, e-mail, the Web, apps, and so forth--ubiquitous wireless access becomes more important. Still, if you're using the reader/tablet primarily at home, Wi-Fi will probably remain sufficient.

If you're a power user or frequent traveler, opting for a 3G product is worth considering.

The current Nook, Nook Color, and Kobo models are only available in Wi-Fi versions. Amazon and Sony offer more expensive step-up Kindle and Sony Reader models that offer 3G wireless. Notably, those manufacturers don't charge any extra monthly fees for the 3G data services, but it's really only useful for shopping for new books and downloading new issues of magazines and newspapers--don't expect to be surfing the Web and watching video on those e-ink screens.

Tablets, of course, offer a much wider array of media options--and, as a result, 3G (or 4G) data access is much more tempting. Many Android tablets, such as the Motorola Xoom and [Samsung Galaxy Tab](#), are available in carrier-specific versions with terms similar to that of smartphones: you get a discount on the hardware, but you'll need to sign up for a two-year contract with beefy monthly bills. (Most Android tablets now also offer contract-free Wi-Fi-only versions.)

On the 3G versions of the iPad, you'll pay a monthly fee to the cellular company (AT&T or Verizon), but it's a prepaid monthly service, not a long-term contract; in other words, you can cancel or restart any time, without paying an expensive early-termination fee. But for the privilege of 3G connectivity, the iPad costs \$130 more than its respective Wi-Fi-only equivalent model.

Is 3G wireless a must-have? That's a question you'll need to answer. Just remember that--with more [phones offering Wi-Fi hot-spot functionality](#) and establishments such as Starbucks offering free Wi-Fi--there are plenty of ways to get seamless online coverage with your reading device without it having 3G network support built-in.

**Best Wi-Fi e-ink readers:** [Amazon Kindle \(Wi-Fi\)](#), [Barnes & Noble Nook](#), [Kobo eReader Touch Edition](#)

**Best Wi-Fi tablets:** [Barnes & Noble Nook Color](#), [Apple iPad 2 \(Wi-Fi\)](#), [Samsung Galaxy Tab 10.1](#)

**Best 3G e-ink readers:** [Amazon Kindle with Special Offers \(3G/Wi-Fi\)](#), [Amazon Kindle \(3G/Wi-Fi\)](#)

**Best 3G tablet:** Apple iPad 2 (3G/Wi-Fi): [Verizon](#) or [AT&T](#)

## 5. Apps vs. hardware: Which reading platform offers the most flexibility?

One of the advantages of having your reading collection "in the cloud" is that you can access your books on multiple devices, though some e-book vendors offer better cross-platform support than others do.



This is where terminology can get a bit confusing: the e-book stores can be available on different devices, including (in the case of Apple) those of rival e-book publishers--the e-book equivalent of buying a can of Pepsi from a Coke vending machine.



The iPad offers access to all major e-book stores via their respective apps.

(Credit: Screenshot by David Carnoy/CNET)

This multidevice support is accomplished through apps. On tablets (iPad, Android, and more), smartphones (iPhone, Android, BlackBerry, and others), and PCs (Mac and Windows), users can download free apps that let them read e-books from a variety of vendors. So, you can read a Kindle book on your iPad, a Nook book on your Android phone, or a Kobo book on your BlackBerry--and that's just for starters.

As of September 2011, here's how app support breaks down for each major e-book platform:

**Kindle:** Besides Kindle hardware readers, Kindle books can be accessed on iPads, iPhones, iPod Touch handhelds, Android phones (version 2.1 and later), Android tablets, many BlackBerry phones, Windows PCs, Macs, Windows Phone 7 phones, and via HTML 5-compatible browsers (the [Kindle Cloud Reader](#)). Full details [here](#).

**Nook:** Besides Nook hardware readers, Nook books can be accessed on iPads, iPhones, iPod Touch handhelds, Android phones (version 2.1 and later), Android tablets, many BlackBerry phones, Windows PCs, and Macs. Full details [here](#).

**Kobo:** Besides Kobo hardware readers, Kobo books can be accessed on iPads, iPhones, iPod Touch handhelds, Android phones (version 2.1 and later), Android tablets, many BlackBerry phones, the Palm Pre (WebOS), the BlackBerry PlayBook, Windows PCs, and Macs. Full details: [smartphones](#), [tablets](#), [PCs/Macs](#).

**iBooks:** Apple's e-book store is currently only available on Apple iOS devices--iPad, iPhone, and iPod Touch.

**Sony Reader:** Besides Sony Reader hardware, Sony books can be accessed on Android phones, Windows PCs, and Macs. (Now that Apple has modified the terms of the App Store, we expect that the Sony Reader iOS app--originally [rejected by Apple](#)--will be modified and resubmitted.) Full details: [Android phones](#), [PCs/Macs](#)

Nearly all of these apps allow you to sync your position in a book across devices, so if you read up to, say, Page 229 on your phone, you can pick up on that same page on your tablet or reader, and vice versa.

All of the apps are free, and--since each bookstore offers a wide selection of free books--you can freely experiment with any and all of the apps that work with your respective hardware.

**Best cross-platform providers:** Kindle, Nook, Kobo

**Most versatile hardware readers:** Apple iPad 2, Apple iPhone, Apple iPod Touch, Android phones with full Android Market support, Android tablets with full Android Market support

## 6. Can I check out e-books from my local library?

Many local libraries offer the ability to check out an e-book on loan--just as you can do with a regular book. Previously, support for this varied across e-readers and tablets. However, now it's basically universal. The Kindle was the last major holdout, but as of September 21, Amazon's e-reader can be used to read free library loaners as well.

Library support is generally accomplished in one of three ways (all of which, of course, require you to have an account with your local library):

**For dedicated e-readers--download and sync:** Users of the Nook, Kobo, and Sony Readers can download e-book files from their local library's Web site and transfer them to the readers via a USB cable. You'll need free software such as Adobe Digital Editions to complete the process. The video below details the process on the Nook, but the process is similar on Kobo, Sony, and other EPUB-compatible readers. (You can also do a version of USB sync for the Kindle--see below.)

**Get free library books on your Nook**

**For tablets, smartphones, and computers--OverDrive Media Console:** If you're reading on a tablet (iPad or Android), a smartphone (iPhone, Android, BlackBerry, Windows Phone 7), or a computer (Windows or Mac), reading e-books from the library is far simpler. Just install the free OverDrive Media Console app. OverDrive will allow you to download and read library e-books--and MP3 audiobooks--within the app itself, without the need to sync up with a computer. (See the video below for more information.)

**Get free e-books from the library**

**For Amazon Kindle (hardware or app):** Amazon partnered with OverDrive to enable library lending, and the result is pretty seamless. Choose the e-book from the Web site of your local library, add the Kindle version to the cart, and check out. You'll be redirected to the book's corresponding Amazon page, where you can automatically send it to your Kindle reader or app (next time you sync via Wi-Fi), or you can download the file and sync via USB.

Read: [How to get free library books on your Kindle](#)

## Current recommendations

Our current buying recommendations are listed below. However, anyone in the market for a new e-book reader or tablet should note these major (rumored) product updates:

**New Kindles?** The 2010 Amazon Kindle is now more than a year old (it debuted in [late July 2010](#)), and is ripe to be replaced at any time. In fact, Amazon has scheduled a [press event on September 28](#), at which we expect the company to announce a new tablet or e-ink reader (which follows a series of [credible rumors](#)).

**New Nook Color?** The original Nook Color hit stores in November 2010. We were expecting a replacement soon, and there are rumors [one or two new Nook Colors](#) could hit very soon.

**New Sony Readers:** This one's not a rumor. Sony has confirmed that it will be releasing new [2011 Readers](#) in October.

Given the likelihood of one or more disruptive new products hitting the market, CNET **strongly recommends that you delay purchasing an e-book reader or reading tablet until later in the autumn.** At the very least, wait to see what Amazon will be revealing on September 28.

With that above caveat in mind: As of September 2011, CNET recommends two e-ink e-book readers, one 7-inch LCD reading tablet, and one full-size LCD tablet.

**Best overall e-ink reader:** [Barnes & Noble Nook](#). The 2011 Nook delivers the best touch-screen e-ink reading experience you can get at the current time, and it sells for an affordable \$139.

**Best bargain e-ink reader:** [Amazon Kindle with Special Offers](#). Unlike the Nook, the Kindle supports audio (Audible audiobooks, MP3 playback, and text-to-voice autonarration). And, as of September 21, 2011, the Kindle can now access free loaner



books from thousands of local libraries (as the Nook does). However, the Kindle is now the only major reader that does not offer a touch screen. As mentioned above, we expect a touch-screen Kindle to be released before the end of 2011. In the meantime, though, the entry-level Wi-Fi Kindle can be had for just \$114. (We think the sponsored screensavers on the \$114 Special Offers model aren't intrusive; see ["Should you buy the \\$114 or \\$139 Kindle?"](#) for more info.)

**Best sub-\$250 color e-reader: Barnes & Noble Nook Color.** Though it's not as versatile as the iPad or most Android tablets, its latest software update adds a bevy of great apps (including e-mail and Flash video), and the price is literally half that of those more expensive tablets.

**Best full-featured reading tablet: Apple iPad 2.** If you want a more full-featured tablet that can double as an e-book reader, the Apple iPad 2 is currently the best choice. It offers free Kindle, Nook, and Kobo reading apps, with full access to the content in those e-book stores. (Additionally, the iPad offers Apple's own iBooks application, though those e-books can't be accessed on any non-iOS device.) Android tablets also double as good e-book readers, with those same three major e-book apps available. The Sony Tablet S and the [Samsung Galaxy Tab 10.1](#) are currently our top-rated Android tablets.

Depending on what features are important to you--color versus black-and-white screen, backlight versus readability in the sun, touch screen versus not, cheap versus expensive, 3G versus Wi-Fi, lightweight versus heavy, reading-only versus full-featured--the device you prefer may be different from ours. However, there's no arguing that the range of choices for e-book readers is better and more affordable now than it ever has been.

Share your thoughts and experiences about e-book reader preferences in the comments below.

#### Related links

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[www.villageofgilberts.com](http://www.villageofgilberts.com)

October 5, 2011

To: Ray Keller, Village Administrator

From: John Swedberg, Chief Building Inspector

Subject: Recommended Flat Fee Structure for Miscellaneous Building Permits.

The Building Departments wishes to recommend several changes to the fee structure in the Village Code when it pertains to the miscellaneous building permits. Miscellaneous building permits are permits usually taken out by existing residents to construct upgrades and enhancements to their homes. Swimming pools, wooden decks, fences, patios and sheds are some of the typical construction enhancements that have a building permit attached under the miscellaneous heading. While the actual numbers of these permits vary from year to year, the miscellaneous permit is the largest form of permit issued each year.

The recommendation is to move away from the "ala cart" form of fees used today and moves towards an easier to understand flat fee structure. Some miscellaneous fees were calculated from 3 to 4 selected fee items and some were calculated by declared valuation. In either case, it was sometime difficult for a resident to calculate their building permit fees when budgeting for their project. The flat fees are calculated by using actual cost of the building department personnel and other overhead components in relation to customer counter service, processing, plan review and inspection. In most cases, save for one, we found that fees have stayed the same or decreased. One fee, the residential re-siding permit, the fee increased to follow current costs.

Also, you are aware that the current fee structure requires an application deposit with each building permit application received. The deposit is used to help defray costs the Village could incur by conducting the plan review for a project and the builder deciding not to take out a permit or if the permit holder failed inspections. Over the years, this deposit fee has escalated to \$193.00. This fee can be burdensome for many residents, and the Building Department cannot justify its full amount. Rarely does a permit holder fail three or more inspections. And even rarer does an application come in the door that the project does not move forward. We recommend that the building permit application deposit be reduced to \$58.00 for the miscellaneous permits to cover two failed inspections.

Public Works Facility  
Finance & Building Departments  
73 Industrial Drive, Gilberts, IL 60136  
Ph. 847-428-4167 Fax: 847-551-3382

Police Department  
86 Railroad St., Gilberts, IL 60136  
847-428-2954 Fax 847-428-4232

## Recommended Flat Fees for Miscellaneous Permits

|   |                        |
|---|------------------------|
| In-ground Swimming Pools or Pools w/ walls < 4' in height w/ Safety Barrier:      | \$193.00               |
| Includes: Pool, Equipment, Grounding, Barrier, Concrete Deck and Five Inspections |                        |
| Does not include: Check Valve Inspection when required                            |                        |
| Above-ground Swimming Pools w/ walls or walls with top barrier > 4' in height:    | \$135.00               |
| Includes: Pool, Equipment, Grounding and Three Inspections                        |                        |
| Does not include: Check Valve Inspection when required                            |                        |
| Driveway Replacements – Any Approved Surface:                                     | \$106.00               |
| Includes Concrete, Asphalt or Brick Paver and Two Inspections                     |                        |
| Re-Roof / Re-Side:  | \$106.00               |
| Includes Permit and Two Inspections   |                        |
| Fence – Any Approved Type:  | \$106.00               |
| Includes Permit and Two Inspections   |                        |
| Decks – Wood or Composite or Combination:   | \$106.00               |
| Includes Permit and Two Inspections   |                        |
| Furnaces/ AC Units/ Water Heaters:  | \$77.00                |
| Includes Permit and One Inspections   |                        |
| Eliminates the BTU Fee.   |                        |
| Sheds:  | \$77.00                |
| Includes Permit and One inspection  |                        |
| Basement Finishing:   | \$0.20 per square foot |
| Includes Permit and Village Inspections   |                        |
| Does not Include outside Agency Plumbing Inspections:                             | \$50.00 per            |
| Eliminates the Declared Value Rate.   |                        |
| Building Permit Application Deposit:  | \$58.00                |