



Summer 2015

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From the Office of the Village President

Another challenging budget year is ending, with another one set to begin. Members of our Village staff have again proven to be resourceful and creative in trying to save all of us money while maintaining the services to which we are all accustomed. Little by little we are moving toward the goals of value-based budgeting, aimed at investing in those things that can provide Village residents with the best goods and services based on our common, very high standards. Meanwhile, the need for enhanced asset management and capital replacement plans is not going to go away, and has everything to do with those goods and services.

The budget has been prepared with our customary conservative outlook and a refusal to count any chickens before they actually show up on a revenue line. There may actually be a few reasons to be optimistic about improving business and property values in the Village, and we look forward to those in future financial plans.

I think it's safe to say we can't expect any outside help with street maintenance in the near future. This brings the Budget committee to recommend collecting the remaining 2 mils allowed by law to the Village for General Highway. While this will not be a huge sum, it is hoped it will allow this fund to recover from the couple of large projects, and help establish a preventive maintenance program. Assets, assets, assets.

This summer we have the Marion Street/DDA Parking Lot project and the Wellhouse construction project. They are challenging now but once completed should last us for a while. After these, we won't have any more major projects in this budget year. There are always plenty of things to spend money on, and we may be hearing more about small parks & rec or beautification projects along the way as resources allow.

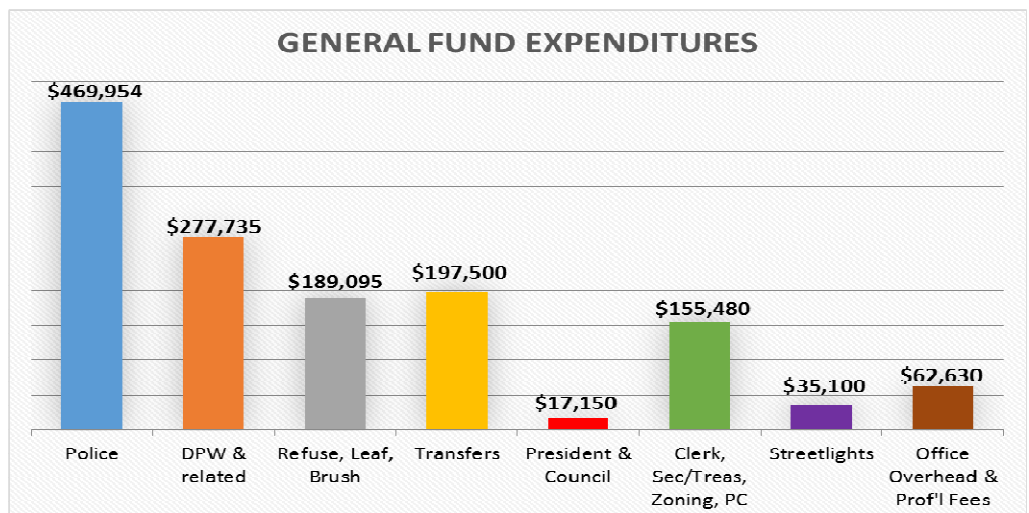
Finally, we are in year 4 of a 5 year plan for commodity rate increases. Our rate study conducted in 2011 established rates and fees to account for our increased maintenance expenses and reduced usage, as well as the need for capital improvement on an aging infrastructure. Effective with July 1st usage, you will expect to see a 5% sewer rate increase and a 4% water rate increase. These are commodity rate increases and base rates (ready to serve costs) are not being raised.

I strongly encourage you to spend a few minutes with the detailed budget summary that has been prepared for additional details, along with insightful comments and graphics. It can be found on the village website on the Taxes & Treasurer page.

2015 Taxes

Taxes will be accepted without interest or penalty until the due date of **Monday, September 14, 2015 at 4pm**. Payments can be made via mail, in person or online at villageofpinckney.org (3% fee for online payments). A drop box is to the right of the front door at Village Hall as an after-hours option. If mailing your taxes, keep in mind that postmarks are NOT accepted.

How your taxes are spent:



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From DPW:

Brush removal occurs on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month from mid-March through mid-October (these dates are flexible given the weather and leaf pick-up that takes over in October). Brush and branches need to be placed at the curb, cut ends facing the street. Branches can be no larger than 10" in diameter and no longer than 8 feet. No stumps.

Any brush that fails to meet these requirements will not be picked up.

Grass and weeds over 9" in height are in violation of Chapter 94 of Village Ordinance. If you are given notice that your grass is in violation of the ordinance, you will have ten (10) days to correct it. After 10 days you will incur a fine of \$125 and will be responsible for all costs of removal of grass and weeds. The 2nd offense is a \$200 fine plus all costs of removal. The 3rd and subsequent offenses are a \$400 fine plus all costs of removal.

****It is unlawful to blow your grass clippings into the street as it can get into the storm sewers and cause clogs and damage.****

Grass cuttings and **leaves** need to be bagged in the brown yard waste bags and set out on yard waste days for pick up by Granger. (Fall leaf pick-up by DPW begins in mid-October.)

The garbage, recycling, brush and yard waste schedule can be found online at the Village website or a copy may be picked up at Village Hall.

Important!



Recently, the NEW aerators at the wastewater treatment plant weren't functioning properly. After attempting various remedies, the manufacturer of the aerators came to inspect the equipment. They immediately found the reason that the aerators were not working. It was due to over **twenty five pounds of rags and paper-type material on just ONE of the 24 aerators in the ponds!**

These rags include disinfecting wipes, baby wipes, make-up remover wipes and other sanitary products.

These items are NOT flushable, even if the box indicates otherwise, they do NOT break down, and they create a HUGE problem for the Village's treatment plant. Which, in turn, incurs costs for higher labor and parts.

As a result of these items in the sewer, the ponds will need to be drained and cleaned, at a high cost to the Village. We are estimating that this repair will cost the village at least \$20,000 annually.

For more details visit, www.consumerreports.org and type "flushable wipes video" into the search box.

PLEASE DO NOT THROW ANY TYPE OF WIPE OR SANITARY PRODUCT INTO YOUR TOILET!

Movies in the Park

7/10, 7/24 & 8/7

Putnam Township Square

Begins at Dusk