

**From:** [Julie Friebele](#)  
**To:** [mpaerosmth@att.net](mailto:mpaerosmth@att.net)  
**Subject:** FOIA Request - Budget  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 07, 2018 4:40:00 PM

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Good Afternoon Ms. Peterson,

This email is in response to your FOIA requests as follows:

1. What part of the budget is unsustainable without borrowing from other accounts? Sewer/water I know is one....

**Response: The Water & Sewer Fund is the only unsustainable fund.**

2. Verizon 47,100?? how many phones? Smart phones, what kind. What service is provided? How many have them? Are they all needed, or can some be just a contact phone? Have we honestly looked at other options/providers? 4000 a month seems quite high to me.

**Response: Verizon \$18,000, covers 40 lines. All fulltime employees, the mayor, children's garden, summer help, water meter reading system (several lines are needed if one fails, the other will operate). The average monthly cost per line is \$37.50.**

**Call One \$27,600 covers all other Village telephones, faxes, lift stations, well houses, sewer plant, water plant, water tower, Scada system, fire alarm (several lines are needed at multiple locations if one fails the other will operate).**

**Miscellaneous Expense \$1,500, used for replacement of equipment, in my experience this has not been used, budgeted as a contingency expense.**

**The Village receives government pricing from Verizon.**

3. Sewer was recommended to go up by 20% per Ehlers? Why not 20%? Last meeting it was said to be 6%. That does not match what Ehlers has stated. I think it should as stated by Ehlers do the 20% to make it more sustainable.

**Response: The 20% increase referenced in the Ehlers financial management plan would be required if no new development came into the Village.**

4. Will Ehlers be coming back to clarify more to the village and residents a sustainable plan to refinance and Plan A, B and C to go forward?

**Response: The Village is planning a follow up presentation, no date has been set at this time.**

5. What steps have been taken to cut the budget? ANY? Has it been amended or stayed the same since I requested it early Feb?

**Response: The budget process will be outlined in the upcoming newsletter and it begins in October, the draft at the public hearing was reduced from the original department**

requests.

**There were 3 adjustments made since the public hearing:**

1. Water Rate increased from 5% to 6%
2. \$16,000 for engineering was removed from the W&S Capital Fund, this will be completed this fiscal year (emergency)
3. \$315,000 has been added to W&S Capital Fund, this item has been moved up on the 5-year capital plan due to an emergency repair.

7. I think I seen a new sign at the parks...stating address? We should watch out spending IMO - on everything. When did they go in?

**Response: Every property must have an address posted for “911” emergency services, most Elwood residents would know what the address is however out of town guests may not. The sign was placed over one year ago.**

7. Elwood days funding, does that put us in debt or sustain itself?

**Response: Last year was the first year the Village took over this event, we have already began soliciting donations from local businesses and vendors and sale of carnival wrist bands will to help defray the costs of putting on this event. The Village anticipates spending only the funds received.**

8. Are we spending within our means or borrowing still?

**Response: This budget does not reflect the village issuing any new debt and ending the year with surplus.**

9. Is there a littering ordinance? Fines being handed down to CenterPoint, it's a mess over there?

**Response: We do not have a local ordinance, but we enforce the State Law, The Village has been working with the property manager from CenterPoint, letting them know the issue is growing and tickets will be issued if they remain noncompliant.**

10. Did the roof papers from the build of village hall get found? If so is it covered as not to redo at this time since it's less than 10 years old? Also, the other improvements listed like boiler and work out back etc. for village hall, can that be used to pay down debt instead of used to do things we probably do not need at this time.

**Response: The warranty for the roof and the boiler are being researched.**

11. Wooded Cove resident stated lights are ok? Did we check to see how many replacements have taken place and find out if it is above a norm or acceptable? If not that many replacements.... I would hope to curtail spending on that as well.

**Response: On average the Village is making repairs twice per month, when a strong wind shakes the poles causing the lighting mechanism to come loose and requires additional repairs, certain parts are no longer available, the all-around quality is poor. The replacement to LED bulbs will save future electric costs as well.**

Thank you,

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