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EDM MAILER  
ELWOOD, IL 60421

## Water & Sewer Study Overview Presented to Board

Village engineer, Baxter & Woodman, who was retained to evaluate the impacts of the proposed Compass Business Park and J-Power generation projects on the Village's water and sewer systems completed their evaluation of the systems.

The study evaluated the capacity of the existing water supply and distribution systems and the wastewater collection and treatment plants.

The Village water is supplied by two deep wells. These wells pump water through two ion exchange softeners. The softeners remove minerals from the water to improve the quality and reduce scale and mineral deposits associated with hard water.

The Baxter & Woodman study has determined that if either or both of the proposed developments moves forward, an additional well and softening unit will be required.

The Village has access to three capped deep wells which were constructed by the Army to serve the former arsenal property. In order to bring one of the wells back on line, a new pump and well house are needed along with the addition of another water softener. In addition to these improvements, a new water tower will be required.

### Public Works Repairing Faulty Readers

If you have been receiving an estimated water bill, most likely it is because the meter reader on the your house has become defective.

Many of the readers, which have been in place for eight to ten years, are now having battery failure. When the reader becomes defective it no longer sends the reading and the water billing staff estimates your usage. Currently there are about 100 defective readers.

Public Works staff will be replacing/repairing the readers and will come to your door to let you know that they are working on your reader. They will have a Village of Elwood picture ID and their badge will indicate they are in the Public Works department. If you are not home, notification will be left at your door.

While 90% of the time the repair can be made without entering your home, an appointment will be scheduled should they need to access equipment inside your home.

If you have any questions, please contact the Village Hall at 815-423-5011.

These improvements to the water system will benefit not only the proposed developments, but also the existing system users by providing a more robust and resilient system for all.

The wastewater treatment system was also studied as part of the Baxter & Woodman system review. The existing wastewater treatment plant is designed to treat 0.75 million gallons on an average day. The plant is operating at well below design flows and there is sufficient capacity for the proposed Compass Business Park wastewater with only minor treatment plant improvements.

The process wastewater discharge from JPower will be very low in biological and other regulated contaminates and is essentially clean water. Because of this, JPower is pursuing a permit from the IEPA to discharge directly to the surface waters, which is the preferred disposal option.

The developer will also need to construct water lines to not only service their facilities, but to also establish the backbone of the water system east of Route 53. The details of these improvements would need to be determined when a more detailed design becomes available.



Volunteers with "Wreaths Across American" were busy in mid-December at the Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery placing Holiday wreaths on grave sites.

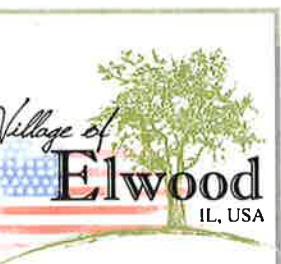
### Movie Night at Village Hall



January 19, 2018

6:30 to 8:30 PM

Popcorn, Water and  
Juice provided



January 2018

Village of Elwood  
401 E. Mississippi Avenue  
Elwood, IL 60421  
815-423-5011

Village President  
Doug Jenco

Village Trustees

Darryl Lab  
Don LaPaglia

Dean Lowrance  
Mary Matichak

Jasen Melahn  
Village Clerk  
Julie Friebele

Village Administrator  
Marian Gibson  
marian.gibson@villageofelwood.com

Chief of Police  
Fred Hayes  
elwoodpolice@villageofelwood.com

Superintendent Public Works  
Larry Lohmar  
public.works@villageofelwood.com

Finance Director  
Robbie Day  
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Code Enforcement &  
Permit Technician  
Pat Winters  
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Events Coordinator  
Marie Rodgers  
Marie.Rodgers@villageofelwood.com

villageofelwood.com  
facebook.com/Elwood.IL  
twitter.com/elwood\_il

Hello Elwood Residents:

This will be the last message I will be sharing with you. By now I am sure you have heard that I made the difficult decision to step down as Mayor of Elwood as of December 15.

It has been my privilege and honor to serve you, the residents of the Village of Elwood, as your Mayor since May. Having lived here my whole life, I know how great the people are who call Elwood home.

I am grateful for the opportunity I had to work with our dedicated public officials and Village staff who are all committed to doing what is best for our village.

Wishing you the best in 2018.

God Bless,  
Todd C. Matichak



Doug Jenco



Don LaPaglia

## Thank You Message

## Jenco Appointed Mayor, LaPaglia Trustee

The Elwood Village Board, at their meeting on January 3, appointed Trustee Doug Jenco as Mayor. He is replacing Todd Matichak who resigned on December 15.

Jenco is in his seventh year on the Board and previously served 14 years on the Planning and Zoning Commission.

He served as the Village's plumbing inspector for 18 years and has been a member of the Elwood Community Days Committee for a number of years.

As former Director and member of the Jackson Township Sportsman's Club, he helped initiate the Bob Corcoran Youth Fishing Contest and the Youth Hunter Safety Program.

Also at the January 3 meeting, Mayor Jenco nominated former trustee Don LaPaglia to the vacant Trustee's position and his appointment was unanimously approved by the Board.

In the Fall he left the Board for personal reasons after serving the Village since 1999. He had previously served on the Planning and Zoning Commission and the Park Board prior to becoming a trustee.

## Upcoming Meetings

Planning & Zoning—Public Hearing, January 11, 7 PM  
(Elwood Grade School)

Planning and Zoning, January 23, 7 PM

Park Committee, January 24, 6:30 PM

Village Board of Trustees, February 7, 7 PM

# Processing Fee for Phone Payments

Beginning February 1, 2018, the Village will be implementing a payment processing fee of \$5.00 for all payments made over the telephone.

The following payment options are available free of charge.

## Pay Online

Electronic check, debit card or credit card payments can be made online using a Visa, MasterCard, or Discover or by using a debit card with the Visa/MasterCard logo.

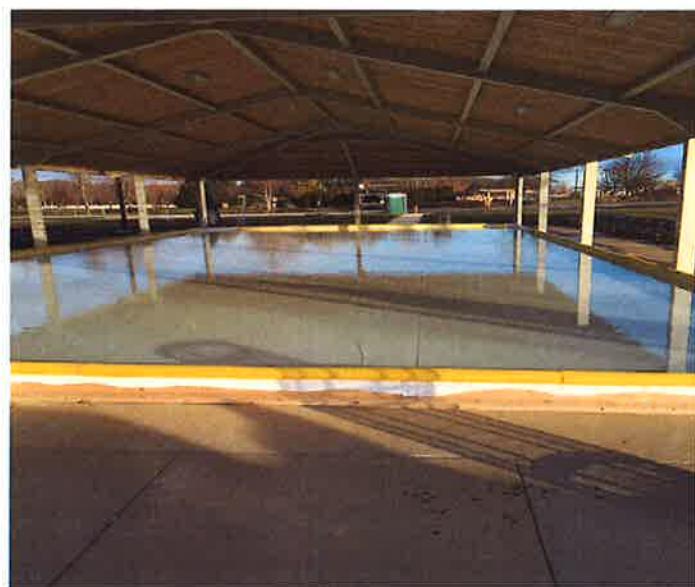
To make your payments online go to [www.villageofelwood.com](http://www.villageofelwood.com),



UTILITY BILL  
PAY

click on the

## Ice Rink Installed at Park



Public Works staff recently installed the ice rink at Lloyd Erickson Park. This year the rink is under the pavilion which they believe will extend the rink's use.

## Community Service Hours Available

If your son or daughter needs hours for graduation, we can provide opportunities at various village activities/projects. Contact the Village Hall for additional information.

There are also community service hours available through the Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery for graduation requirements or other reasons.

Contact Christine Gutzeit at 815-423-9958.

## Pay by Automatic Water Bill Payment Program

Payments can be made automatically from a checking or savings account directly to your water billing account. The transfer will occur on the due date. A Direct Debit Authorization Form must be completed to enroll in this program and can be found on our website at [www.villageofelwood.com/175/utility-department](http://www.villageofelwood.com/175/utility-department).

## Pay by Drop Box

Payments can be made by dropping your payment in the water bill drop box located in front of Village Hall near the main entrance.

## Pay by Mail

Payments can be made via mail to the address provided on the payment stub. Please allow seven to ten business days for delivery and posting to your account.

# Village Board Hears Financial Management Plan Presentation

At the Board meeting on January 3, Village Trustees heard two presentations on the financial management plan.

Marian Gibson, Village Administrator, took the Board through a presentation on the current bond situation resulting from General Obligation bonds issued more than 10 years ago. At that time, Will County was one of the fastest growing counties in the country.

To support anticipated development and growth, Village leaders approved significant infrastructure improvements of approximately \$46M. These funds were used for a number of large projects designed to overhaul aging infrastructure.

This included water supply and wastewater improvements. It included new wells and a water tower and storm sewers, construction of the water treatment plant and water distribution systems. A new waste water plant, with a significant increase in capacity, was also constructed. Village streets were reconstructed to include sidewalks, curbs and gutters. Additional improvements were made throughout the village to the waste water collection. Also at this time the Village Hall was built.

Gibson explained that even with all the work that has been done, refinancing of debt and negotiating loan forgiveness of \$11M, the remaining debt service payments will place a significant strain on the Village's long term financial situation.

Following the explanation of the current bond situation, Ehlers Associates presented a preliminary Financial Management Plan to the Board seeking their input. The presentation focused on the review of existing funds and resources, new funding for capital projects and the tax impact on residents and businesses.

They assessed the capital improvement needs and the outstanding debt of the Village. They described the mod-

el they built to determine financial sustainability for the Village. Discussed was a "Living Model" that can be changed depending on circumstances. Two scenarios were presented which looked at impacts with and without development in which they analyzed the general fund, motor fuel tax fund, capital construction fund and the water and sewer fund. This model can be used by the Village as a long-term forecasting tool.

Ehlers explained the significant difference that occurs between the development and no-development scenarios for residents of the village as it relates to paying off the current debt. Without substantial development residents would see a significant increase in sewer and water rates and property taxes for payment of debt service.

The JPower plant construction and the NorthPoint Development can significantly impact future bond payments for the Village. With the development of the Compass Business Park and the estimated construction of 11 million square feet of warehouses it will positively impact the assessed valuation of the Village. Thereby spreading the financial burden over a larger tax base.

Based upon further discussions regarding the two developments and future capital needs of the Village, Ehlers will provide additional detailed analysis to determine if these projects can remove the future financial risk for the tax-payers of Elwood.

You can find both of these presentations on the Village's website [www.villageofelwood.com](http://www.villageofelwood.com) under Village Board, "Financial Management Plan – January 3, 2018". There is also a "Presentations" icon on the home page.



Elwood/Jackson Township Historical Society

A post office had been established at Jackson Creek in 1840 with James Gager as Postmaster. The early settlers had to travel through the prairie mud on foot, horseback or by wagon to get their mail which was brought from Joliet.

This remained an inconvenience to the Postmaster and the settlers until the Village of Elwood came into being the convenient trading post.

## Kavanaugh Named to Park Committee



Carolyn Kavanaugh has been appointed to the Village Park Committee.

She is a lifelong resident of the Elwood.

She and her husband Mike have two daughters

## Exercise Classes for the New Year



**Open Circuit Workout, 9-11 AM, Mon-Fri, Village Hall Basement. (Bring workout shoes)**

**Tuff Training, Mon/Wed/Fri - 5:15 to 6 AM; 8:45-9:30 AM. Tues/Thurs - 6:30 to 7:15 PM** Sign up at any class. Village Hall Basement



**Tai Chi, Mondays at 10 AM. Classes are from Jan. 15 to April 2. Sign-up at any class. Community Room**

## Village Debtor Ordinance Approved

The Village Board recently approved an ordinance prohibiting providing Village services, permits, and licenses for those individuals or businesses that are in debt to the Village.

It does not prohibit emergency Village services.

Following is the language from the ordinance. "Any person, partnership corporation or other entity (Debtor) owing any fine, penalty, cost, tax, user fee, judgement, financial contractual obligation or any other debt to the Village or any person, partnership, corporation or entity under the control of such Debtor, shall not be entitled to any Village service, permit, license or other Village action or approval unless that debt is paid in full."

Call the Village Hall (815-423-5011) if you have a question.