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## Flossmoor hires firm in hopes of garnering more federal funds

BY BILL JONES

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Flossmoor is spending money in hopes of finding more federal money for local projects.

The village board voted unanimously Jan. 18 to approve a year-long agreement with Smith Dawson and Andrews and a budget amendment of \$20,000 to cover its services through the end of fiscal year 2022.

The hope is that the Washington, D.C.-based government affairs company can secure more funding through federal agencies and congressional set-asides, according to a report from Village Manager Bridget Wachtel. Other south suburban municipalities — including Matteson, Park Forest and Richton Park — have worked with the company, and in at least one case have seen \$8 to \$13 come back to their community for every \$1 spent with SDA, according to Mayor Michelle Nelson, who added she is excited about the results the firm gets in the area. She said she also likes the relationships SDA has with local representatives and senators.

"There's an emphasis at a federal level on water projects — getting rid of lead lines and improving water mains and sewers," Nelson said. "The village definitely has a need for those items. Getting those funded at a federal level would help free up some money for some other capital projects we have here in the village."

Wachtel noted in her report there is some risk to investing in the firm but

that its ability to help secure competitive grants and future set-asides for capital projects was worth consideration. The firm is to help the village with congressional and federal agency meetings, as well as work toward advancing appropriation requests at the federal level.

Trustees had a few questions, but all voiced their support for the agreement. Trustee Gary Daggett added that he appreciates the diversity of the group working at SDA and knows Flossmoor can use the firm's help in getting more support.

"I know this is how the game is played to get federal money, and I appreciate the experience that they have," Daggett said. "If it can help us accomplish some of the things we have to do with infrastructure in other areas of the village, I'm all for it."

SDA's rate is a fixed monthly fee of \$5,000, or \$60,000 annually.

### Contract expanded

The village board voted unanimously to amend its street rehabilitation program design engineering contract with Milhouse Engineering to pay the company an additional \$130,000 to account for an expanded scope of work for the project for a total of \$300,000. The village last June approved a \$170,000 contract with Milhouse Engineering based on an estimated construction cost of \$1.7 million for the first phase of the program. But a report from Public Works Director John Brunke noted the program has been revised to be completed in one year, instead of two, at an estimated construction cost of \$4.25 million.

## Woman dies, one injured after three-car crash on Halsted St.

BY CAROLE SHARWARKO

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Homewood police released the name of the 81-year-old woman who died from injuries she sustained in a vehicle crash on Halsted Street in late January.

Emma Quarles, of Calumet City, was treated for injuries at the scene of the crash, which happened at about 1:45 p.m. on Jan. 27 in the 17600 block of Halsted Street. She was transported to Advocate South Suburban Hospital, where she died.

According to police, Quarles was the driver of a blue colored Chevrolet, one of three vehicles involved in the crash, which also included a tan Toyota and a black Nissan.

Homewood police and fire departments responded to the crash, assisted by Glenwood Fire Department.

Also injured was the driver of the Toyota, a 34-year-old male, who was also treated for injuries and transported to South Suburban Hospital.

Homewood Police Department Criminal Investigations Unit is investigating the crash, along with the Suburban Major Accident Reconstruction Team. On Jan. 31, SMART officers blocked off the Halsted Street site to investigate and conduct a crash reconstruction, according to Homewood Police Deputy Chief Kelly Strayer.

Homewood police ask anyone who may have witnessed the traffic crash to contact the department at 708-206-3420.