



Come Connect & Celebrate 60422!

Saturday, June 4, 2022 at Flossmoor Park
 Pre-Party: Bike the Gem Starts at 11:30 pm
 60422 The Party: 1:00 – 8:00 pm

Admission is FREE!

VIP Ticket Option Available

Eat, Drink, Shop, See, Play & Hear the 60422

- Food Trucks & Beer Tent
- Flossmoor Businesses Vendor Village
- Art Sculpture Tours
- Activities for Kids of ALL Ages
- Live Music All Day Long

Plus an After Party at Flossmoor Station Brewery
 hosted by the Village Trustees, Village Clerk and
 Mayor Michelle Nelson!

Visit the60422.com for more information & VIP Tickets

Presented by **Flossmoor's Future**  **FLOSSMOOR**

Flossmoor gives green light to budget, water rate hikes

BILL JONES
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The Flossmoor village board on April 18 unanimously approved its Fiscal Year 2023 budget, with \$33.83 million in total expenditures and \$27.36 million in expected revenues, calling upon the village's fund balance to bridge the gap.

The 2021 streets storm sewer improvements has a fund balance use of \$4.73 million, with the money coming from a \$10 million bond sale from 2020 approved by taxpayers for that purpose. The general fund is using \$2.02 million in fund balance, with expenditures of \$14.62 million and revenues expected at \$12.60 million.

Village Manager Bridget Wachtel noted in a report to the board that much of the general fund gap is planned use of fund balance, with roughly \$1.5 million going toward the water meter replacement project. But in the general fund, \$556,235 is operating deficit.

That operating deficit can be attributed to a variety of factors, including: an inflationary market; an increase in the capital equipment contribution; the addition of a redundant internet service provider and other increased information technology costs; contracted fire personnel; personnel changes; the settlement of the Fraternal Order of Police contract; non-union wage adjustments and step adjustments; carryovers of capital project expenses from FY22 to FY23; and water meter replacements in the amount of \$1.5 million, according to Wachtel.

The Capital Equipment Fund is to use \$1.07 million of its fund balance, with \$2.01 million in expenses compared to \$942,214 in revenues. Wachtel noted in her report that each fund has adequate fund balance to bridge those revenue gaps. The overall budget also is helped by surpluses in some other funds.

In her report to the board, Wachtel noted Flossmoor is in good fiscal health and has sustained service levels.

"We are very excited to be entering into fiscal year '23 and meeting all of our community's goals," Wachtel said.

But there is a need to be proactive in the village's financial planning to address forecasted deficits in the long-term, Wachtel said. The pull-back of state-shared revenues, decreasing and flat revenues dependent upon the economy, the impact of the pandemic, pensions, unfunded mandates, the pressure of increasing operating costs, and infrastructure costs are among the areas of concern, she wrote.

"It's one thing to create the budget, which is huge, but it's also an ongoing continual process to monitor expenses so when you get close to the end of the year, you realize your hard work was done in a very thoughtful, prudent way," trustee Rosalind Henderson Mustafa said. "That can be the harder part: managing expenses."

The board also followed Finance Director Scott Bordui's recommendations and increased water rates by \$1 per 1,000 gallons and sewer rates by \$0.29 per 1,000 gallons. The recommendation was based on planned Chicago rate increases that come every June 1 and a City of Harvey charge that increases July 1 per the stipulation of a contract extension, according to Bordui.

The change will raise Flossmoor's water rates from \$11.48 per 1,000 gallons to \$12.48, retroactively effective April 1, which is the start of a new billing quarter for the village. Sewer rates will go from \$3.77 per 1,000 gallons to \$4.06.

Bordui explained the water and sewer fund in Flossmoor has faced a regressing trend, with a compounding impact from Chicago increases, the village's water billing losses and water infrastructure issues all playing a role.

The village is working with Homewood to acquire water from Hammond, Indiana through Chicago Heights, but the earliest possible connection date is September 2022.

Police arrest pair in stolen SUV

BY CHRONICLE STAFF

Two teens allegedly stole a grocery delivery person's SUV around 10 p.m. April 14, then were apprehended a half-mile away by Homewood police.

The delivery person went to a home in the 1800 block of 187th Street in Homewood, leaving the SUV running and unattended.

According to police, two juveniles drove off with the SUV. Police spotted the vehicle and stopped it in the 1400 block of Jill Court and arrested the pair.

Police charged the 14-year-old with possession of a stolen vehicle, aggravated fleeing and eluding and obstructing identification. He was transported to Cook County Juvenile Detention.

The 15-year-old, charged with possession of a stolen vehicle, was released to a guardian pending a court date.

The delivery person reported hearing a single gunshot as the thieves drove away with the vehicle, and Homewood police recovered a shell casing at the scene. Police continue to investigate whether the gunshot was related to the vehicle theft.