



Village Monitoring Economy, Budget

By Kelly Hayden

Village Administrator/Treasurer

Whether your political preference is Republican, Democratic, or somewhere in-between the focus for the last couple of years has been the economy and whether we are heading back to the days of the Great Depression, or if we have seen the worst and are heading into recovery. The economy can be a subjective topic, and if you ask five different economists about the state of the economy, you may get five different answers; however, the following is my review of the economic state for the Village of Fontana.

In August of 2009 the Village Finance Committee and department heads started the long process of compiling the 2010 budget. At that time the committee and department heads were focused on cutting expenses to a level that met the needs of the community, but also allowed for the Village to operate in an efficient and due diligent manner.

The committee and department heads were successful in cutting approximately \$300,000 from the operating and maintenance budget for 2010. This was done to offset the forecasted declining revenues for room tax, building permit revenue, forfeiture revenue and investment income. Non-union and some union salaries were held at the 2009 level, overtime was reduced, and selective part-time labor hours were cut from the budget, along with other supplies, insect control, and maintenance expenses. It was a difficult process, but one that everyone felt was successful; therefore, the 2010 budget was adopted at the public hearing in November and tax rates were set and processed.

In addition to the reduction in operating and maintenance expenses, the Village Board and Finance Committee established a budget line item for the purpose of dedicating funds to replenish our working capital, or surplus funds. A large portion of the working capital funds were used to purchase two lots in the Country Club Estates after a

long legal battle with the owners. The board and Finance Committee opted to purchase the lots with working capital funds versus borrowing in 2009 and committed to build back the funds over time; however, a recent downgrading in our Moody's rating prompted the board and Finance Committee to reconsider the decision and the groups collectively decided to borrow the funds. The Finance Committee is currently working with Ehlers and Associates, the Village's financial advisors, to adopt a working capital policy where the Village keeps approximately 25 percent of our operating and maintenance budget in reserves. This action, along with replenishing the working capital should improve our bond rating to a possible A1 level and allow the Village to borrow future funds at a lower interest rate.

The Village recently refunded six long standing bonds, and even with the reduced rating, saved approximately \$120,000. The refunding was structured in a way to keep all bond terms the same so the Village will recognize a \$225,000 principal payment satisfied in 2010 followed by the retirement of \$115,000 principal payment in 2011 and likewise for 2012 in the amount of \$200,000.

In a recent review of the last five years, it is evident that the Village has made great effort to operate effectively and efficiently.

Operating Non-Levy Revenues:

Actual 2005	1,455,532
Actual 2006	1,580,719
Actual 2007	1,714,291
Actual 2008	1,794,297
Actual 2009	1,685,762
Projected 2010	1,672,955

Operating Expenses:

Actual 2005	3,754,501
Actual 2006	3,658,612
Actual 2007	3,968,037
Actual 2008	4,086,855
Actual 2009	3,996,651
Projected 2010	3,940,565

If the level of operation in 2005 is compared to that of the anticipated 2010, the Village has

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Village Planning Fontana Fourth Fest

The Village of Fontana and the Big Foot Lions Club are planning a Fourth of July weekend festival that will feature a Battle of the Bands Competition, an arts and craft fair and a concession and beer tent in Reid Park.

The inaugural Fontana Fourth Fest has been scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, July 3 and 4, 2010. The event will conclude with the annual Village of Fontana Independence Day fireworks display at dusk on the 4th of July.

Battle of the Bands Competition

The winning band in the two-day Battle of the Bands Competition will receive a contract to play the opening slot (Noon to 3:00 PM) at the annual Big Foot Lions Club Lobster Boil & Steak Fry in Reid Park on Saturday, July 31, 2010.

The winning band will be determined by ballot. Ballots will be sold for \$5 each to people attending the event. Participating bands will play one set, with the total length of the sets to be 60 to 90 minutes depending on the final schedule. Original and cover bands will be welcomed, and the sound system will be provided. Bands will be required to submit a CD or tape of at least three songs.

The Battle of the Bands competition will begin at 2:00 PM on both days. The event will end at 9:00 PM on Saturday, July 3, 2010, and at 6:00 PM on Sunday, July 4, 2010.

Bands that wish to be considered for the Battle of the Bands Competition should submit a CD or tape and contact information to Village Clerk Dennis Martin at the Fontana Village Hall, 175 Valley View Drive, PO Box 200, Fontana, WI 53125.

Craft/Arts Fair Booths Available

The Village of Fontana also is organizing an arts and craft fair for a portion of Reid Park, with individual spaces to be marked off and rented to vendors.

Vendors will be responsible to supply their own white tent and tables. Vendors will be required to have their spaces cleared by 6:00 PM on Sunday, July 4, 2010.

For more information, contact Village Administrator/Treasurer Kelly Hayden at the Fontana Village Hall at (262) 275-6136 or visit the Village website.

The Big Foot Lions Club concession tent will be offering brats and hot dogs, pork chop sandwiches, popcorn, chips, soda, water, Miller beer products and wine coolers from Noon to 9:00 PM both days.

Village Conducting Connection Inspections

The Village of Fontana Building and Zoning Department will be mailing out postcards with regard to the state required cross-connection inspections and stormwater infiltration inspections. Residents and property owners should call (262) 749-0004 or (262) 275-9769 within 10 days of receiving the postcard to schedule an inspection.

The Village is required to develop and implement a comprehensive cross-connection control program to ensure that there is not a risk of contamination of the drinking water supply that could be caused by back-siphonage or back flow. The inspector will assist property owners in identifying actual or potential problems on their property.

A cross-connection inspection consists of an on-site visual inspection of appliances and fixtures that utilize and are connected to a water source. The inspector will look at dishwashers, humidifiers, water softeners, hose bibbs, faucets, washing machines, boilers, icemakers, lawn irrigation, swimming pools and water closets for proper back-flow prevention devices and connections. Following the 10- to 20-minute inspection, property owners will receive a written report which will note any cross-connection hazards and the method for bringing the system into compliance. The state requires commercial and industrial services to be inspected once every two years, and all residential properties to be inspected every 10 years.

Open Book Dates

Set on July 23, 25

The Village of Fontana has scheduled the annual Open Book session for two days in July 2010 for this year's assessment process.

Following the June commencement of the annual property assessment field work and maintenance, the Village assessor will hold Open Book for the 2010 Assessment Roll on Thursday, July 22, 2010 from 3:00 to 5:00 pm, and on Saturday, July 24, 2010 from 10:00 am to Noon at the Village Hall.

The Board of Review hearings will be scheduled for Monday, August 16, 2010, from 2:00 to 4:00 pm.

The Village assessment firm, Accurate Appraisal, LLC will have one of its assessors available for office hours at the Fontana Village

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Notes from Nancy

By Nancy Krei

Fontana Library Director

Welcome spring! I am so excited that winter is finally over and we can look forward to this time of year with warmer days, flowers beginning to grow, and vegetation turning green. Spring is a time to shake off the doldrums of winter and start something new. Whether you want to read books by that author that everyone is talking about, decide that it is no longer time to put off spring-cleaning, or start an outdoor or indoor project the Fontana Public Library has materials for you. If you want to have materials ready for you to be picked up at the library, you can request those materials from your home computer. Link to: www.sharelibraries.info.

Spring is also a time to bring your preschool child to the library on Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. for the "Read and Romp @ the Library" program. This program is geared to children ages 3 and younger and combines stories and playtime. By having the opportunity to interact with one another, and through hands-on activities, children develop literacy skills. "Read and Romp" will be held on April 8, 15, 22 and 29, 2010. The library is once again very lucky to have to have our special volunteer, Carol Lobdell (who is fondly referred to as "Grandma Carol"), to share her talents as our reader and storyteller.

This year, National Library Week will be observed April 12 to 17, 2010. First sponsored by the American Library Association in 1958, National Library Week is time to celebrate the contributions of our nation's libraries and librarians and to promote library use and support. The theme that has been chosen for this year is "Communities Thrive @ Your Library." The Fontana Public Library will be serving coffee and refreshments that week, and Tuesday, April 13 has been designated as National Library Workers' Day, so stop in and say hello to the library staff. I feel very fortunate to have such a caring and dedicated staff, so I wanted to express my thanks and appreciation to Jodie Porep, Margaret Reuland, Norma Gowlett and Kathy Bikowski. I would also like to thank the people who so generously made donations to the Fontana Public Library. A very special thank-you goes to Jerry Sjoberg of Home Design MFG, who gave the women's restroom a much-needed new look by donating a new sink, faucet fixtures and a custom countertop, as well as provided his crew to install them. The library has also been fortunate to receive annual donations from the Adreani Family Foundation, the Alben F. Bates

and Clara G. Bates Foundation, and the Chapin Foundation. The library is also extremely grateful for the continuous donations from Gordy's and Whowell's Woods. The library is always willing to accept monetary donations. Historically, these donations have been used to increase and enhance the library's collections of DVDs, audio CDs, large print books, and picture/board books for children. Donations are also used to support the library's programs.

Although spring has just begun, the library staff is planning the Summer Reading Program. The theme, "Make a Splash @ Your Library" has a water theme, and will be a perfect fit for Fontana. More details will be available at the library and on the Village website at www.villageoffontana.com/library.html. The library is here to help you with your informational, recreational and educational needs. Stop in and "check us out!"

Village Installing Parking Pay Stations

The Village of Fontana will install centralized parking pay station units on the southeast corner of Third Avenue and Reid Street and in the Boat Trailer Parking Lot for the parking stalls in lieu of erecting individual parking meters.

Stall numbers have been painted on the surface for each parking space. During the season from March 15 to October 15, motorists who do not have the Village of Fontana resident F sticker will have to pay for parking at the centralized pay stations using the individual parking stall numbers. A ticket will be printed for display in the parked vehicles.

Parking is still free for motorists with Fontana resident F stickers displayed on the driver's side of the vehicle's front windshield.

Village Unveils Electronic Newsletter

The quarterly newsletter will no longer be printed and mailed to property owners and residents. The newsletter will be posted the first week of January, April, July and October on the Village Website at: www.villageoffontana.com. Property owners and residents may submit requests to have the newsletter emailed to them, or they may pick up printed hard copies at the Village Hall and Public Library.

To request a copy of the newsletter, property owners and residents should send their email address to: villageclerk@villageoffontana.com.

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Dog Walking on Beach Over for Season

In an effort to help abate the pollution problem created by the large flocks of geese and seagulls that gather on the beach during the fall, the Village of Fontana encourages residents to walk their dogs on the municipal beach from October 15 through March 31.

The Village Board amended the Municipal Code several years ago to allow for people to walk dogs on the beach after the summer season has ended.

During the summer season, dogs are only allowed at the Duck Pond Recreation Area dog track area. Dogs owners are reminded that the Village Municipal Code requires owners to pick up their pet’s waste.

Park Commission Offers Tree Program

The Village of Fontana Board of Trustees recently adopted a Tree Enhancement Program that is facilitated by the Park Commission. The purpose of the Tree Enhancement Program is to support public and private tree conservation and management through three program components.

Property owners may apply for the Tree Replacement Rebate program, which offers up to \$50 for replacing eligible trees; the Commemorative Tree Program; or the Trees for Tomorrow Program.

Benefits of the Tree Enhancement Program include: Environmental Benefits, such as improvements to air and water quality, storm water interception, noise abatement, shade, wildlife food and habitat, and reduction in soil erosion; Aesthetic Benefits, such as softening of hard development edges and increased beauty throughout the community; Social Benefits, such as pride in regional identity, preserve neighborhood character by balancing growth with existing tree canopy, and improvements to human physical and mental health; and Economic Benefits, such as reduction of costs for heating and cooling, engineered systems for water and air quality control, and increased property values.

For more information, program applications are available at the Village Hall or from the Village website.

Park Commission Plans Events

As well as the Park Commission’s annual Pig in the Park fund-raising event for the new equipment at Little Foot Playground, there are two new events being planned this year.

Farmer’s markets are being planned for Sunday mornings in the fall, with the site tentatively being planned for the Porter Court Plaza/Mill Street area. And initial planning has commenced for a Chili Cook-Off/Bonfire on a Saturday in early November at the Duck Pond Recreation Area. Besides the chili cook-off and bonfire, the family event also will feature hay wagon rides, face painting and children’s bounce structures.

The third annual Pig in the Park fund-raising pig roast event will be held Saturday, September 4, 2010 in Reid Park.

Economics

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increased operating expenses by approximately 5 percent over a five-year period and on average less than 1 percent per year, while operating revenues have increased by approximately 15 percent over the same five-year period.

The Village continues to promote fiscal responsibility by reducing operating and maintenance expenses, and by finding additional ways to generate non-levy revenue.

To help clarify, non-levy revenue by definition is all sources of revenue generated by the municipality outside of taxes. Some examples of non-levy revenues would be beach revenue, boat ramp revenue, building permit fees, and zoning fees. The amount generated from the tax bill is known as a levy.

The effort to reduce expenses and increase non-levy revenues is far from over; however, I think the Village is on the right road and department heads are committed to continue paving the path. A motto, that is not used enough, is "We all do better when we work together," and our future financial state is no exception.

Assessor

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Hall on three more Fridays in 2010. Office hours will be conducted on Fridays, June 18, July 16 and August 13, 2010, from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Appointments are not necessary, but can be made by calling the Fontana Village Hall at (262) 275-6136.

Residents and property owners may contact the Village assessor throughout the year by calling toll-free, 800-770-3927, or by sending an email to info@accurateassessor.com. Assessment information also is available at www.accurate-assessor.com.

“Property owners may apply for the Tree Replacement Rebate Program, which offers up to \$50 for replacing eligible trees.”



VOF Calendar

A special Election
for the Lakefront
Building Proposal
Referendum will be
held Tuesday, June
15, 2010.

April 2 & 3, 2010 - Village Hall and Public Library closed for Holiday
April 5, 2010 - Village Board meets at 5:00 pm
April 6, 2010 - Spring Election, Polls open 7:00 am to 8:00 pm
April 7, 2010 - CDA Board meets at 5:30 pm
April 8, 15, 22 & 29, 2010 - Read & Romp Program @ Library at 10:30 am
April 8, 2010 - Fontana Municipal Court Date at 5:00 pm
April 10, 2010 - Village Hall reopens for Saturday morning hours from 8:00 am to noon
April 11 to 17, 2010 - National Library Week
April 14, 2010 - Plan Commission Staff meets at 1:00 pm
April 15, 2010 - Evening Book Club meets at Library at 5:30 pm
April 19, 2010 - Protection Committee meets at 4:00 pm
April 21, 2010 - Park Commission meets at 6:00 pm
April 22, 2010 - Finance Committee meets at 5:00 pm
April 22, 2010 - Fontana Municipal Court Date at 5:00 pm
April 24, 2010 - Public Works Committee meets at

8:00 am
April 26, 2010 - Plan Commission meets at 5:30 pm
April 28, 2010 - Lakefront and Harbor Committee meets at 4:30 pm
April 30, 2010 - Arbor Day Program at Fontana Elementary School at 11:30 am
May 3, 2010 - Village Board meets at 6:00 pm
May 5, 2010 - CDA meets at 6:00 pm
May 8, 2010 - Annual Marathon at Reid Park Gazebo
May 12, 2010 - Plan Commission Staff meets at 1:00 pm
May 17, 2010 - Protection Committee meets at 4:00 pm
May 19, 2010 - Library Board meets at 10:00 am
May 19, 2010 - Park Commission Meets at 6:00 pm
May 29 & 30, 2010 - Fontana Garden Club Plant Sale at Park House
May 31, 2010 - Village Hall and Library Closed for Memorial Day
June 2, 2010 - CDA meets at 6:00 pm
June 7, 2010 - Village Board meets at 6:00 pm
June 15, 2010 - Special Election for Lakefront Proposal Referendum
June 16, 2010 - Library Board meets at 10:00 am
June 16, 2010 - Plan Commission Staff meets at 1:00 pm
June 16, 2010 - Park Commission meets at 6:00 pm
June 28, 2010 - Plan Commission meets at 5:30 PM

www.villageoffontana.com

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