

**VILLAGE OF ALLOUEZ
BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS**

**BUDGET HEARING: TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24TH
6:30 P.M.**

**VILLAGE BOARD PRESENTS A BUDGET THAT IS
BELOW THE 3% LEVY LIMIT IMPOSED BY THE STATE**

When staff began working on their budgets, \$254,015 had to be cut from the budget to meet the 3% state levy limit. When staff presented the budget to the board, \$104,964 remained to be cut to meet the 3% levy limit. The village board determined they wanted to cut further to bring the percent increase below the 3% which resulted in a 1.180% increase.

TAX LEVY

The 2009 payable in 2010 3% levy limit is based on the maximum allowable levy for the immediately preceding year. The tax levy of \$ 5,922,719 is up 1.180% percent from \$5,853,624. This is an increase of \$ 69,095.

MUNICIPAL PORTION OF TAXES

The Village's portion of taxes on a \$150,000 home is projected to be \$907.00 as compared to \$898.00 last year – an increase of \$9.00.

ASSESSED TAX RATE

\$ 6.048 per \$1000 of assessed value – an increase of 1.036 % from \$5.986 per \$1000 of assessed value.

MISCELLANEOUS BUDGETARY INFORMATION

LOSS OF REVENUES:

There is a decrease in general fund revenues of \$149,356 which includes less interest monies earned on village investments due to the economy and various state aids as follows:

- (1) Allouez will receive \$497,308 in shared revenue, a **reduction of \$74,069** from last year. Of interest, in 1990 the Village received \$1,265,439 in shared revenue and the dollar amount has been decreasing ever since.
- (2) Recycling aids **reduced by \$36,017**
- (3) Payments for municipal services (for providing fire/rescue services to prison) **reduced by \$ 11,000.**
- (4) **A reduction of \$ 3,424** in exempt computer aid.

Equipment Replacement Fund. The village utilizes an equipment replacement fund. With the exception of the police squads and water department vehicles and equipment, all village vehicles and heavy equipment/machinery are purchased using equipment replacement fund monies. Equipment charges will be reduced by \$100,000 for this tax year to reduce the levy. Because of this, all equipment purchases will be deferred to 2011 or later except for the purchase of an engine diagnostic replacement unit in the amount of \$4,000 and a street sweeper in the amount of \$150,000. A grant may be available to fund 50% of the cost of the sweeper.

Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department, some highlights

1. The park summer programs were reduced from 5 days a week to 4 days a week for a savings of \$2216.
2. The summer parkie supervisor position was removed from the budget for a savings of \$3125.
3. The subsidies provided to recreational activities and village band were cut in half for a savings of \$2640.
4. The proposed replacement of a 2000 F-150 pick-up and the replacement of a 2002 Polaris Ranger were deferred to a future budget.
5. Wages and fringe benefits for union park employees for 2010 are an unknown at this time. The contract is currently being negotiated.
6. Other budgetary increases are for electricity, fuel and natural gas.

Public Work's Department, some highlights

1. Previously the street department had 2 full-time mechanics in the garage. One of the mechanics resigned to take another position. That mechanic position has not been replaced. We will be operating in 2010 with one full-time mechanic with 500 man-hours of part-time help from the Street Department and 250 man-hours of part-time help from the Parks Department mechanic. This will be tested in 2010 to determine if this is workable long-term.
2. Wages and fringe benefits for union street and water employees for 2010 are an unknown at this time. The contract is currently being negotiated.
3. Street maintenance work including milling and asphalt overlay, asphalt paving, and curb and gutter repairs are included in the 2010 budget at the same funding level as in past years. However, no major street and utility reconstruction work is planned due to using up the previous bond fund (borrowed) monies.
4. Allouez will still remain a full service community; but some changes are being made to reduce operating cost. For example:
 - a. Fall leaf collection will start one week later than previous years, which maximizes use of the leaf baler and reduces operating cost.

- b. Spring cleanup will be reduced to 3 weeks from 4 weeks to reduce cost as we have found that this can be completed in a shorter time period. It is important to get garden waste and leaves out early for both fall and spring cleanup. Refer to the published collection schedule in *All Around Allouez*.
 - c. Garbage and recycling trucks will operate as much as possible with 3 trucks, not four, thus reducing operating cost.
 - d. Refuse (trash/junk) collection will be by the rear packer collection truck and use of other trucks will be significantly reduced.
 - e. Village staff are providing lawn restoration when water and sewer line breaks occur, thus reducing the cost of outside landscaping services.
 - f. Smaller work crews will be assigned to refuse pick-up and brush pick-up during the several weeks when the waste volumes are typically lower.
 - g. Summer help staff will be reduced by one person.
 - h. Sidewalk snowplowing will be single-pass plowing. See the following item listed as Number 5.
5. Sidewalk snowplowing will be single-pass plowing except Webster and Allouez Avenue's which may be plowed more than once during snow storms due to county snowplows dumping more snow on the sidewalks. Commercial businesses and the schools are asked to plow their sidewalks as much as possible. Residents are asked to maintain their sidewalks clear of snow and ice following Village plowing and when snow storms are less than 3-inches. Ice removal is also the responsibility of the residents.

FIRE/RESCUE AND POLICE:

Fire/Rescue

1. Wages and benefits comprise the major increase in the fire/rescue budget.
2. Hydrant rental is contained in the fire department's budget, even though it is a function controlled by the Public Service Commission in the water utility. The amount for hydrant rental in 2010 is \$553,449.
3. Current rescue squad call transport fees are for a Level I call, Resident \$575 and Non-Resident \$700. For a Level II call, Resident \$650, Non-Resident \$800 plus \$9.00 per loaded mile.

Police:

1. \$23,000 is budgeted for a new 24 hour police squad. At about 14 months of use the 24 hour squad starts to need major repairs because it is on the road 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.
2. \$15,000 is budgeted for the services of the Brown County Sheriff's traffic team in 2010 to enforce traffic and speed control in the village.
3. \$630,137 is budgeted for the contract with the Brown County Sheriff's Department to provide 24 hour 365 days a year police service to the village.
4. \$91,818.83 is budgeted for the DEO I position
5. \$98,755.58 was deleted from the budget for the DEO II position.
6. \$15,000 was placed in the budget for a part-time community policing coordinator position.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND GENERAL:

1. The increase in the Administrator's budget is due to the retirement of the current administrator. Projected salary for replacement, recruitment costs and salary overlap for a one month training period are included in this budget.
2. There will be 4 elections in 2010 compared to 2 elections in 2009 increasing those costs.
3. Non-union salaries/wages were frozen in 2010 with the exception of the Park, Recreation and Forestry Director who received a 2.5% increase due to his added responsibilities of forestry and maintenance of all village owned buildings. Department heads and Finance Director will be paying 10% of their health insurance premiums in 2010.

News from the Village Assessor:

One of the questions I get asked is: "everything I read and hear in the news media tells me housing values have dropped over the past year so why hasn't my assessment dropped?"

The sales ratio study performed by the Wisconsin Department of Revenue indicates that property values in Allouez, on an average, have dropped only 3.48%. The sales ratio clearly illustrates that property sales in Allouez are not 20%, not 15% not 10% and not even 5% below the current assessments. The averages are ALL very close to 100% indicating that assessments in Allouez are reasonable and chances of selling a property near, at, or above the assessment are almost 50-50. On another note, the current assessment level in Allouez is at 103.67%.

Foreclosure sales do not meet the statutory definition of an arm's length market sale. Implicit in the definition of a market value sale is the premise of a willing buyer and a willing seller, neither under any undue stimulus to buy or sell. In a foreclosure related sale there is undue stimulus to sell, sometimes even desperation to sell. These sales are not used by the Department of Revenue in their sales-ratio studies, and are not used by the assessor as an indicator of value for the subject property or as comparable sales when analyzing the sales comparison approach to value.