

**CHANNAHON VILLAGE BOARD
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
BUDGET WORKSHOP
MARCH 23, 2026**

VP Moorman Schumacher called the meeting to order at 5:13 p.m. and led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call was taken with Trustees Greco, Host, McMillin, Perinar, Scaggs and Slocum present.

Also present were Village Administrator Thomas Durkin, Finance Director Heather Wagonblott, Director of Community Development Scott McMaster, Director of Public Works Ed Dolezal, Assistant Public Works Director Fricke, Chief of Police Adam Bogart, EMA Director Dan Gilbert, Village Clerk Kristin Hall and Finance Department staff Maggie Churchill. Village Attorney David Silverman was not in attendance.

Public Comment

Discussion – 2026 - 2027 Proposed Budget

Wagonblott welcomed everybody to the budget workshop. It's a Monday, not a Saturday, so I guess that's a good thing. Thanks for changing it up and joining us this evening. Hopefully you're enjoying the dinner and there's plenty there. Please feel free to fill up those plates again. While we're going through everything, I thought I would start the evening with just a little fun fact Churchill found. Channahon is home to the smallest state park in Illinois. Small but mighty, it is a gateway to a much bigger network of amazing hiking, biking and nature paths throughout the village. Churchill had found this one and I thought it was appropriate because we are very much about the environment around us, nature, multi-use paths and just being out and about.

Wagonblott stated village staff has finalized the proposed budget for fiscal year 2027, marking another chapter of strong growth and fiscal stability. As we approach the conclusion of a successful fiscal 2026, the village's diversified revenue streams and robust economic climate position Channahon as an exemplary municipality in the region. The village's financial strategy remains rooted in growth without burden. Tonight marks the 12th budget presentation for staff since she has been here. It seems like yesterday that it was 2014 when she first started and all of us have been here, other than a couple chiefs that have retired. In 2014, we were all here. The village defines a balanced budget as one where estimated revenues and fund balances meet or exceed expenditures. By adhering to conservative spending habits and building reserves for future obligations, the village ensures continued prosperity and preparedness for the years ahead. The village's status is navigating significant growth. Before we discuss the present time, she'd like to go and take a walk down memory lane. She tried to change this presentation a little bit this year just to have it be more discussion based. We've all been here for the last 12 years and she didn't want to repeat herself and have the same graphs and charts, which include all good things and a lot of the same information. She did want to switch it up a little bit. The core budgeting process happens from November – December each year through March and April. That's when the focus is on the budget. But staff, year-round is focused on the budget, along with the Village Board's visions, determining goals and priorities. Then we look at and see what

resources are established and available to use. Then we estimate the costs, and then we prioritize those goals, which then leads us into that five-year capital plan that we've been making for several years. Then we allocate the funding accordingly. That's a brief overview of how the entire budget process works and how staff works together and have this document in this presentation for the board. Now we're going to walk down memory lane quickly. The first great leap forward for the village was in the late 1990s and early 2000s. The village had a significant boom in residential building. The village hall that we are in right now on Navajo Drive was built as a result of the growth. Around 2008, the world experienced a downturn in the economy and from that arose financial uncertainty which forced layoffs within the village. A few years later, in 2014, a large portion of the management staff was newly appointed by the Village Board. The village staff made a concerted effort to minimize expenses and maximize revenues. This was achieved by streamlining community development project approvals, reestablishing positive relationships with businesses and other government entities, and stabilizing the village's larger expenses, such as health insurance and workers compensation and general liability insurance. The Village Board voted to increase the village fuel and diesel tax, which then generated additional revenue to fund the annual road program. Staff also scrutinized expenses, which meant holding off on purchasing public safety vehicles and equipment, and then also developing creative funding mechanisms to utilize private development dollars to fund necessary public infrastructure. If you recall, back in 2014, the village was involved in a lawsuit involving the tax rebate program. The village lost a significant amount of revenue based on the Department of Revenue changing some laws. That had to be navigated in addition to coming out of a recession, In 2014, there was a lot of uncertainty, There was a lot of scrutinizing and a lot of looking at expenses. We had to hold off on some patrol cars and other pieces of equipment, and we had to be super ultra conservative with the funds. Durkin had made the comment several times that we were going to develop our way out of the struggles that we were seeing and the financial difficulties without raising property taxes, raising the sales tax or any other tax or fee. The board was very mindful of not burdening the residents or the businesses. It really shocking how far we've come from 2014 where the village had struggled, survived, and then really flourished. That's where we came from. As a result of, of the past decade or so, the village has experienced many successes. The same fiscally responsible practices which were established by staff to scrutinize expenses and control costs continue to this day. The village also continues to utilize development to maximize infrastructure investment and revenue generation, which continues to result in the progress of the community. The village is currently navigating a period of significant growth with several key capital projects moving forward in unison. Village staff is focused on managing this increased volume with the same diligence and precision that defines the standard of work that manifested more than a decade ago and even before that. Even before the 90s and 2000s, Channahon was a growing community. It's been through several different stages, and this is the stage we're in right now. The village has a lot of critical, important and complex projects underway. Not saying anything that the board doesn't already know, but just a couple months ago, the Village Board approved the five-year capital plan that had been updated for fiscal years 2027 through 2031. Within that capital plan there are a lot of these projects including the Grand Prairie Water Commission, the Lake Michigan Water project and the far west side wastewater treatment plant. There's the construction of the new public works building, construction and completion of various multi use paths, development of Town Center, village hall improvements, specifically regarding the elevator, generator and windows, multiple bridge repairs and replacements, and potentially the construction of the new police department building.

Additional developments within the village include the CN intermodal facility with over 8 million square feet of industrial development opening up the west edge of the village. We have continued residential development currently including 175 new single-family homes, which is made up of three different projects. Construction will begin soon on a 240-unit multifamily development and a 40-unit senior housing project. There's also increasing commercial development, regional transportation collaboration and the Route 6 road widening project that the village's partnered with the County and State and the City of Joliet. While the village's current project load is substantial, staff recognizes that the village depends on the continuity and expertise of village staff and the support of the Village Board. Maintaining the strength of the current team is top priority as institutional knowledge, dedication and experience are essential to ensuring every project is executed thoughtfully, effectively, successfully and for the least money possible. The Grand Prairie Water Commission, the far west wastewater treatment plant, the bridges, and the public works building, are the projects that the village board recently approved. The Village Board just approved the bond issuance ordinance not to exceed \$85 million. We've known for several years about all of those projects and every year those estimates of those projects creeps up a little bit just because of inflation and better estimates. The village has had those projects in their sight. We've always said that we would have to issue bonds. Wagonblott opened up the floor to address any specific questions about these larger projects or if staff wants to give any sort of updates as far as where these projects stand and how they will progress forward.

Trustee Slocum inquired about the money in the budget for the Town Center and whether it is correct to assume that money will be carried over to the new fiscal year.

Wagonblott stated that is correct.

Trustee Slocum stated he thinks it's up to about \$2 million.

Wagonblott stated in fiscal 2027, there's \$500,000 for Town Center for final engineering.

Durkin stated the money is for engineering and some of the associated work around it.

Wagonblott stated then the following fiscal year, there's \$2.5 million for construction.

Trustee Slocum stated it'll be next summer, next building season, before actual construction begins.

Durkin stated it's anticipated to be. We have things like mass grading of the entire site, construction of Ring Road and the road coming off of Route 6. We need to do the final design of the village green. We've also installed a groundwater monitor to determine if the detention pond will hold water. It doesn't appear at this point it will be an option. We're going to have to shift gears on that, which is both a good and a bad thing. There will likely be no water feature, but at least the entire village green will be usable. The next thing that we do after the board approves a budget is to start with that final design plan and continue forward with the mass grading of the site.

Trustee Slocum stated we can't grade it until next year, right?

Durkin stated there's enough money in this year's budget to be able to start this year

Trustee Slocum stated oh, great.

Trustee Slocum stated because we were just kind of waiting on for the groundwater report, right Dolezal.

Dolezal stated it is a check to see as all along a wet pond has been proposed. The only way that was going to get accomplished is if you dug into the groundwater. That pipe we put in is 15 feet deep and it's still not showing water at the bottom, so you would have to dig a 20 plus foot hole. And this is during the wet time of year. Who knows what that would look like in the summer. That's why we're going to have to pivot on what has always been proposed Otherwise, we just have what looks more like a well rather than a water feature.

Durkin stated you'd be looking 20 feet down before you saw any water feature.

Trustee Slocum stated do you think we can move some dirt then this year to grade it out.

Dolezal stated it appears we can.

Trustee Slocum stated awesome. All right, thank you.

Trustee Scaggs stated is there any talk or looking into listing on this property, trying to sell it?

Durkin stated we've had conversations with a couple residential developers. As a matter of fact, one of those has reached out to us and wants to set up another meeting. They're very interested in doing something on the property. It's a development company that's done a lot of mixed use and residential developments in this concept. We also had a couple of conversations with some grocers, one of which has had initial interest. We haven't specifically listed pieces of property on the market, but we have been in conversation to move them forward with possible development.

Trustee Host stated with regard to the new Public Works facility, if any further investigation had been conducted regarding the cost of reusing the current salt shed versus constructing a new one at the proposed Public Works site.

Dolezal noted that the current focus remains on the design features of the new building itself.

Trustee Host expressed reservations about the \$1.3 million price tag for a new shed when the village already owns one. She raised several key points regarding fiscal responsibility and the justification for the expense when a cheaper alternative might exist along with the residential impact as the proposed site would back up to residential properties, leading to noise complaints from salt trucks operating with backup alarms in the middle of the night.

Dolezal stated that the current site is not operationally preferred.

Trustee Host pointed out that the existing site is only 1.5 miles away—a three-mile round trip—and questioned if the operational convenience justifies the cost.

Trustee Perinar supported investigating the cost of repairing the current structure.

Dolezal countered that there might not be significant savings, as the village would still likely need to build a new salt structure regardless of the location. The question is simply where to put it.

The board discussed various structural options.

Dolezal suggested a second dome might be cheaper.

Trustees Perinar, Greco, and Scaggs recalled a site visit to a "garage-style" shed in Fox River Grove. They noted that the facility was ineffective because salt caused the metal frames and overhead doors to rust and fail.

Trustee Greco asked if a new shed would offer more storage than the current one.

VP Moorman Schumacher asked if there is room to expand at the Blackberry site.

Dolezal confirmed there are acres available at Blackberry to build a larger facility or a second structure.

Trustee Scaggs inquired about the extra land purchased for the project, asking if the plan still includes selling off portions to residential neighbors to offset costs.

Durkin confirmed that this remains the plan once the final design is established.

Trustee Perinar noted that moving the salt shed to the back of the Blackberry property could free up the current footprint for other uses.

The Board reached a consensus that a formal cost analysis is required before proceeding.

Trustee Slocum and VP Moorman Schumacher requested a side-by-side comparison of building the new \$1.3 million facility at the proposed Public Works site vs. rehabilitating the current shed at Blackberry and potentially adding a smaller secondary structure to match the proposed 3,000-ton capacity.

Trustee Scaggs requested that the analysis include "hidden costs" such as staff overtime and lost time and tear on trucks over a 20-year period.

Trustee McMillin suggested looking into modern technology, such as "duck" sensors (white noise backup alarms) to mitigate noise for residents, or plastic-covered grain elevator-style storage as a low-cost alternative.

Dolezal concluded by confirming he will gather the facts regarding the failures of the garage-style sheds and provide a detailed price comparison between rehabilitating the Blackberry site and building new at the proposed facility.

Trustee Host reiterated that the ultimate goal is a "cheaper price tag."

Trustee Slocum stated one more thing about Town Center. Are we going to go back to the design firm?

Durkin stated Ginkgo Planning provided us with a cost estimate with a suggested landscape architect to work with. They will be managing the project with the landscape architect that would be doing the design.

Trustee Slocum stated instead of the water, they'll help us with the options.

Durkin stated correct. We'll have to get Spaceco involved too from the engineering standpoint and also work with Dolezal because we still have detention requirements. His thought is we can we take care of it in other areas on the property and not on the village green.

Wagonblott stated any other questions about the larger capital projects, will come up within the remainder of the presentation as well. We can always jump back to them. We'll move on to the proposed new and reestablished staffing. Just a few quick facts. In 2006, which was 20 years ago, it was noted that the village had 55 employees, which was more than the number of employees in 2018. That was coming out of the recession for almost a decade from 2008 to 2018. Now the village has been working towards reestablishing the proper staffing levels, with growth slowly adding either new positions or refilling current vacant positions. The village has been working towards reestablishing the proper staffing levels and retaining lead staff who are vital to the village's workflow success and continuity. Four positions are included in the draft budget. The GIS technician has been vacant since September of 2025. There is a public works clerk that has been vacant since July of 2025. The Assistant Finance Director, which we've spoken about recently, has been vacant for many years but that one is due to the retirement of the accountant Churchill later this year and then an additional patrol officer to increase the head count. In addition to the retirements, the board just approved posting for Anselme's position for Executive Assistant and also Thompson's position, the Marketing and Communications Manager. Three of these four positions have not yet been approved by the board for posting. Staff will go through and explain a little bit more on each of them. And we'll start with the GIS technician which is under the Administration department.

Durkin stated we'll be looking for board approval to advertise for that position to fill after the 1st of May this year. Dolezal, do you have anything to add on that?

Dolezal stated no but we do miss having that position on staff.

Trustee Perinar asked are we contracting it out right now?

Durkin stated we are.

Wagonblott stated not that portion though, right. The contracted portion is a different portion of the GIS, is that correct?

Dolezal stated we didn't contemplate not having the GIS coordinator here. There was always money budgeted for the system to be hosted off site and be maintained by what used to be Ruettinger Tonelli. What we've been doing is now just spending money with them to do the work that we were doing in house.

Durkin stated the off-site hosting of all the data is in place. The additional amount of money we've been doing now has been in lieu of having somebody in the position.

Trustee Perinar stated if we hired some of them, we would not need that anymore.

Durkin stated we would still have the off-site hosting of the information but not the additional work that we have are paying them to do.

Trustee Perinar stated are we under contract for that? Is that something that we hire them; are we paying for something that we no longer need?

Durkin stated no, it's just on an as necessary basis.

Wagonblott stated that the public works clerk has been vacant since last summer and that is in the budget as a part time position. Dolezal will explain the thought process on that.

Dolezal when we decided not to fill that last year, we were going to see how it continued to work without filling the position and we're still doing that. We seem to be hanging in there. He thinks it's likely we'll want to fill it when we are in the new building and everybody's together.

Wagonblott stated as far as the Assistant Finance Director, there are six interviews set up for this week and two for next week. We still have a few applications that are trickling in. She will address any other questions on that. If one of the interviews turns out to be a qualified candidate, we would bring that before the board, probably the second meeting in April, which would then have the person be on board at some point in May.

Trustee Perinar asked if that is listed until full?

Durkin stated all positions are listed as open until filled.

Wagonblott stated if there's not a qualified candidate in this round, then we would probably want to just hold off for a short while. We've received a lot of applications. A lot are not qualified, and a lot are from banking, which is not the same. They're not accountants and it's different. The last one is the patrol officer and I will let Bogart explain that one.

Bogart stated at present the police department is hurting. We have several officers who are out longer term with injuries. Those are due to arrests and a couple of training injuries. We have cut

our numbers in investigations. We were set to pull back our proact unit to bring that officer back here but he has resigned and moved on to Grundy County. We're running short and running into overtime, staffing issues and the officers are starting to feel the burn. Originally, this position was put in here to start building out our truck enforcement unit that the CN study that we had done indicated we need to have. We're going to bring that position from Grundy County, have this other officer and then that two-man unit would essentially be our traffic unit. That would allow for our patrol unit to stay at current staffing levels that we are meeting with coming out of that study. Six on days, four on nights. We balanced it a little bit differently, but we were at that number before these injuries. Not knowing or having a clear picture on the return for some of these injuries, we may be looking at months being shorthanded. It takes about a year to get an officer up and going and out on the street. Not only are we looking to add this officer to meet that traffic unit goal that we're shifting towards, but he'll be also looking for some more direction to bring that officer on a couple weeks early so that we can get into the academy on time and start this person right away. The academy dates that we have in place are placeholders at the end of April, and then we have some other additional spots held beginning of May. We would need to get that individual in here ahead of time. That would be a start of a relief or at least a plan in place for the officers to bolster some of our staffing numbers. We continue to look at additional restructuring within the police department that includes going shorter on the night shift. That includes possible discussions about moving an SRO from their position at one of the schools to patrol to make sure that we can maintain our calls for service standard, response times and things of that nature. We know we needed it ahead of time, but it becomes even more so important now with some of these injuries that came about. There is always some fluctuation within our contract that we can hire new officers up to step four. Everybody on that list right now would not qualify for anything over a step one. The budget number proposed is accurate.

Trustee Greco asked Bogart would you take the SRO completely out of school?

Bogart stated we have yet to have that conversation. I've reached out to Nick Henkle to talk to him. It would start with District 17. District 111, generates more calls for service, so the officers presence is better there. He hopes to suspend the IGA and reinitiate that when we have the staffing back up. He doesn't think that's our first option but should we get some of the additional bad news that we're waiting on, it is on the table. Not really what we want to do. The relationship the officers have built there has been tremendous. That's an advantage to us in whole.

Trustee Greco asked in numbers, how many guys are we short?

Bogart stated three officers are out right now with a fourth and maybe a fifth coming. The fourth is a likely, the fifth is a possibility.

Trustee Host stated those are all work comp, so our rates are going up?

Durkin stated it depends. We have to wait to see just what the extent of those are. There's a lot of factors that go into that insurance, because that's covered under the IRMA pool, which we are actually paying the same rates we were paying 12 years ago today for greater amounts of coverages. I'm going to hold off on that and say we're going to see what happens.

Bogart stated these are joint issues, some of them. There are different care plans for each different officer. Some require surgery while others are physical therapy at the moment. But there are still some that we're awaiting a decision on.

Durkin stated we had a large number of claims workers comp claims 10 or 12 years ago that had an impact on us for a momentary amount of time.

Bogart stated certainly this is an outlier with the police department. It's not anything that we've ever experienced before.

Trustee Host stated how many do you have on patrol right now as officers?

Bogart stated usually the full amount is 20. That's five on each shift. Two on the days, two on the nights, sergeants are included in that mix as well. There are typically three in investigations. Two school resource officers. We have one assigned to the pro act unit but we will not be rejoining that on a full-time basis. It may be a part-time option. We need that officer here. We're looking to move to increase those numbers so that we can add a traffic unit that does not take away from patrol. Those patrol numbers are good and solid as they stand and that's backed by the study that we commissioned. We don't want to degrade our services on the patrol side in the interest of establishment of a trucking unit. We want the truck unit to stand alone, to be able to have its own daily mission and not be tied to calls for service standbys or domestics. We would like them to be able to do their job and focus on it entirely.

VP Moorman Schumacher stated in terms of adding a patrol officer, I think that even outside of the injuries, currently it is in our best interest. Prior to knowing anything about CN, we talked about doing truck enforcement. That was one of the things we talked about when we hired Officer Anderson, as he had truck experience. That is one of those things that just has sort of fallen by the wayside because other things take priority. I think we're doing ourselves in the village a disservice when we know that we need truck enforcement, if we don't hire somebody to do that and we cannot at current staffing levels, especially with people out long term, stand up a truck enforcement unit and we have to have one.

Bogart stated we've developed a plan, this time around. It's not just let's stand up a couple guys and take them to start enforcing truck matters. We have a plan in place. We're currently advertising the position to the officers. We have interest and this year will be a training path for them to attend the needed courses to truly be invested in the truck enforcement program. He talked to other local chiefs about putting them on to do ride alongs with them. We've had private industries reach out to us, offering to put officers in trucks to learn more about the system. Having all of that leading into the CN, we put together a plan this time around. That plan does include hiring another officer in order to complete it to the best of our ability.

Trustee Host stated I think the community has an expectation for that unit and so they're going to need to be visible.

VP Moorman Schumacher stated yes and dedicated to. When you have injuries and you have this priority and that priority, it's easy to pull those people. We need to have a dedicated truck unit that is there for that reason and like Trustee Host said, visible.

Trustee Scaggs stated he doesn't think anybody's against.

Trustee Host asked if Bogart needed us to give direction.

Bogart stated he is looking for direction so that we can bring that individual in ahead of the May 1st date.

Board Direction was to move forward.

Wagonblott stated to maintain a high standard of safety and our service to our residents that they expect, the proposed budget includes strategic staffing expansions. Since 2018, the village has increased the workforce by more than 40% to keep pace with significant community growth that has occurred over the past decade. Since 2006, the village has had to decrease staff and then increase staff slowly. In 2006 we went from 55 to potentially 76 in 2026, should the board approve all the vacant positions and additions to the positions. The village did not just fill seats over those couple decades to ramp back up. We secured the right people for the right positions. Developing a dedicated team that has built Channahon's current foundation. This has built a legacy of stability and excellence that is recognized both within and outside of the community. We are not just moving forward but are poised to take a significant transformative step into the future. The proposed budget accounts for fair labor adjustments as approved by the board for the local 150 union contracts for administration and public works and 4% for the local 150 sergeants and then an estimated 4% for the police officers contract. That expires April 30, 2026 and the new contract will begin May 1, 2026, in fiscal 2027. Those are pending the contract finalizations. Negotiations have not yet begun. These adjustments are fully supported by general fund revenues. Salary adjustments for non-union employees should be finalized prior to budget approval. Any adjustments considered will be fully supported by general fund revenues. The union increases are COLA increases and any applicable step from the union contract is also included in the draft budget. Union and non-union staff evaluations for all employees have been completed by the Village Administrator or the respective department head heads and are available for review. Should any board member wish to review any of the staff member evaluations, please reach out to the Village Administrator to arrange a meeting or to see the evaluations as they are available all year round.

Durkin stated as Wagonblott indicated, salary adjustments for non-union employees need to be finalized prior to budget approval. Under the municipal code, it is the Village Administrators responsibility to recommend employment conditions and salaries, while the Board holds the final decision-making authority. He takes this duty seriously. As an example, in 2015, he stopped the practice of automatic yearly cost-of-living (COLA) and merit increases for non-union staff because annual raises of 5-8% were unsustainable during a period of declining revenue and future uncertainty. Since then, non-union adjustments have been limited to the COLA increases agreed upon in collective bargaining agreements, with further adjustments only occurring during the 2019 and 2022 compensation studies. Unlike union contracts, which guarantee yearly COLA

and step increases regardless of performance, non-union staff salaries remained largely competitive while maintaining high standards of performance. An analysis performed by staff this year at the direction of the Village Board revealed a dramatic rise in regional salaries over the last few years, driven largely by inflation, employee turnover and employee poaching. Factoring in the compression issues with collective bargaining agreements, we are in a need to make necessary revisions to attract and more importantly to retain personnel. As an example, we just published for Anselme's position at \$60,000 to \$84,700. The two front office staff members this May, we'll be making \$61,000 and almost \$68,000 respectively. We're advertising for a position that right now the low end of that position would pay less than the people that they would supervise. That's because that is the old range. The new range that we had looked at based upon the current data starts that low end of that position at almost \$69,000 to \$96,000. One area also to be considered is the increased cost of benefits for employees, namely health insurance, due to sustained elevated medical trends, cost of prescription drugs, increased utilization and intensity of care, provider consolidation, and growing regulatory actions. When he brought the Village into the IPBC in 2015, we vastly improved the health benefits to those covered under the Village's insurance (MAP officers and non-union employees) by lowering the deductibles and out of pocket expenses to the employee at the same time reducing what the employee pays towards the premium from 13% to 10% without dramatically increasing the Village costs to provide those benefits. We have been able to maintain these benefit levels since our membership in the IPBC has allowed us to stabilize costs with premium increases near from 0-3% for a majority of those years. However, health costs are rising also with our premium increase at 10% for the upcoming plan year. While this is still less than the industry trend (11%), this increase will cost the employees more for the coverage.

As you all know and have said repeatedly over the years, Channahon is a great place to work and we have assembled a quality staff. The board has also invested heavily in succession planning through internal promotions, training and educational reimbursements. This has built significant institutional knowledge. While we cannot guarantee an individual's choice to stay with the Village, not responding to the current market salary data and the effects of increasing health costs, increases the risk of losing that investment and increases the risk to the progress we have made as a community. Our employees are an asset to our community. Qualified, experienced and proven employees are our greatest asset. We are at a critical juncture with several high-profile, complex projects underway and continuing into the immediate future. Ensuring these projects are completed thoughtfully, effectively and successfully by those who have proven their abilities is just as important as the financial investment in the projects themselves. With that, he strongly urged the board to consider the following recommendation:

- **Range Adjustment:** Update salary ranges based on the analysis of current raw market data. This is consistent with previous practices in 2019 and 2022.
- **Immediate Placement:** Adjust current staff salaries to at least the minimum of these new ranges. This is consistent with previous practices in 2019 and 2022.
- **Merit Considerations:** Consider additional adjustments for those whose performance warrants further advancement within the new ranges.
- **Long-Term Planning:** Develop a sustainable plan that addresses both COLA and merit. This could include a compensation analysis every 3–5 years, with off-year adjustments

consistent with collective bargaining agreements. The was the practice established in 2019.

He suggested he work with two board members moving forward to develop the specifics of the sustainable pay plan, put that plan implementation in place and review said pay plan every 3-5 years. To be clear, the Village Board holds the final decision-making authority on this matter, and these recommendations are intended to support—not supersede—that authority. His responsibility is to provide the most informed guidance possible to ensure our community remains on the positive course we've created by balancing fiscal responsibility with the practical necessity of competitive compensation. Our ability to serve the public depends entirely on our people; we must be positioned to attract top-tier talent and, just as if not more importantly, to retain the dedicated professionals who are already the backbone of this organization. He has listed individual recommendations on staff to discuss in executive session.

Trustee Scaggs asked why are we discussing it in executive session?

VP Moorman Schumacher stated executive session will be utilized to talk about individual salaries.

Trustee Scaggs stated we've got a long enough night tonight.

Wagonblott stated the next section is the non-capital initiatives over \$15,000. In previous years we would note any out of the ordinary expense for items over \$10,000. The spending authority was increased to \$15,000. We have a list of the expenses over \$15,000 that are normal operating expenses or any capital expense that we would have addressed in a five-year capital plan. The regional collaboration plan for the northeast Grundy County is also listed.

Durkin stated that's not all village money. That \$200,000 that's shared with all the other members that are in the regional partner group. It's listed here because it's a revenue under our budget. We're collecting that money.

Wagonblott stated correct, we've already collected the money. Our portion was \$15,000 and the rest had come in already. We have to account for that expense because those expenses should be coming out in fiscal 2027. Otherwise, we'll carry it forward.

Durkin stated that plan is supposed to be completed at the end of June this year.

Wagonblott stated there are internships included in the draft budget. Public works summer help, 32 hours for 10 weeks at \$16 an hour. Two administrative administration interns, \$15 an hour for 32 hours for a 10-week period.

Durkin stated one of those is public works and one of those is for administration.

Wagonblott stated it is separate from summer help. There's three summer help positions that would be down at the Blackberry garage and then two positions in the village hall. The budget for the outside IT consultant is \$80,400. The village hall, holiday lights, the recurring expenses,

for the lights, and the tree. There's no additional decor except for a couple trees or bushes that are being added. That total is \$29,400. Last year the board approved the Joy topiary to be purchased. There were some shipment issues, so it didn't arrive here on time. The village will see a new piece, but we've already paid for that.

Trustee Perinar asked if the wind damage that was done to the tree was covered by warranty

Durkin stated yes.

Wagonblott stated with regard to the Arts and Culture Commission, she asked the board's guidance on the actual transfer of those funds. She wanted to have that discussion tonight before the budget is approved. If the board's wishes to continue in the same respect and budget a certain dollar amount to transfer into the Arts and Culture Commission bank account for future use, what is that amount? The draft budget includes \$10,000 for another transfer similar to the \$20,000 that was done in this fiscal year. It can be changed, obviously, one way or another, but if the board agrees to a transfer, that's something she would do closer to May 1st every year so that the Arts and Culture Commission had the full fiscal year to utilize or plan things in order to use those expenses.

Trustee Scaggs stated when is this arts commission going to be self-sufficient? We talked about that when we started this.

Durkin stated he doesn't recall that we ever said it was going to be fully self-sufficient. They are looking at various fundraising opportunities. They made \$4,000 approximately with Sips, Sights and Sounds last year. They're looking for other sponsorship contributions also. It's something that's on an ongoing basis that they're looking to do. Their big goal right now is to provide that first art piece for the village to be at the gateway property. They are looking at some other types of programs such as an art contest for America 250. This year we've got some benches that are coming that we received a grant for that will be no cost to the village. They're looking at a lot of different options to be able to raise revenue.

Trustee Perinar asked would it be better if they were to come to us and request the money, so we know what they're using the money for rather than just giving them money and it just sits there. She would almost prefer that rather than just giving them money.

Durkin stated so putting together a list of anticipated expenses for the upcoming year, like, what are your goals?

Trustee Perinar stated what are your goals and what's the cost of it going to be? Rather than just say, here's money and, you know, maybe spend it. She'd like to know, what your intention is with it and is it something that we're all on board with, as far as what are you doing? Then choosing to give them money makes sense to me.

Durkin stated we'll have that at least in the amount of \$10,000 for you coming up. It's something that the commission has been talking about. Because just to your point, Trustee Perinar, he has

said to them, if the board's going to want to put some money towards this, they're going to want to know what you're going to be doing for this upcoming year.

Wagonblott stated is it okay to keep the \$10,000 this in the budget, but then the Arts and Culture Commission will come before the board and we'll decide at that point. That's what I'm hearing, right?

Trustee Perinar stated that sounds okay.

Wagonblott stated ongoing landscape maintenance for I-55 and Route 6, roadway medians, the village hall properties, things of that nature is budgeted at \$60,000.

Durkin stated he has to stop you there for this one, to Trustee McMillin's point, we have been in contact with the state museum on the mounds property. He is expecting a site visit within the next couple weeks from a representative from the state museum up to the site. His point bringing this up here is that he wants to make sure that the board understands we may be adding some additional maintenance around the mounds area.

Wagonblott stated this year zoning ordinance updates is included in the budget for \$120,000. She'll let McMaster expound on that a little bit.

McMaster stated this was a conversation that was born before he came on board here with Channahon. It's something that needs to be overhauled. There's some very antiquated language within our zoning ordinance. There's also some missing language due to current times and current events, developments and things that we should be addressing like data centers and solar and certain trucking developments as well. The \$120,000 is the average of what other communities have paid. That doesn't mean we will be paying \$120,000. There are some grant opportunities out there that could assist with that as well.

Trustee Scaggs asked how does that work?

McMaster stated you hire a consultant. I went through this in another community and you hire a consultant that looks at what the language is in the zoning ordinance. Then they essentially adjust to current times. He doesn't know when the last time ours was looked at.

Trustee Greco stated it was a long time ago.

Durkin stated probably four or five years ago we discussed the need to do this when Petrick was the Director of Community Development. We had a lot of conflicting antiquated language. One thing McMaster didn't touch upon and that's the things we've seen regarding housing lately. That's something that's not addressed in our ordinance that we probably need to start addressing in our ordinances to provide for those. It's long overdue. So yes, Trustee Scaggs, the thing to do is hire a consultant. There are consultants that do this. As McMaster said, you go through a process similar to a comprehensive plan update. We'll assemble a committee of people to work with the consultant. We'll go over what we want to have in there. They'll provide different

examples of that. Then after a 12 to 18 month process us, they will come up with a new zoning ordinance.

Trustee Scaggs asked are you talking codes for different building for new homes or just the zoning ordinance?

Durkin stated just zoning.

Trustee Host asked if we will go out to bid.

Durkin stated yes, we'll do an RFP. \$120,000 like McMaster said, is more than enough to be able to take care of it.

McMaster stated even since he has been here, there have been times when somebody has presented something and we don't address in the ordinance. We're trying to determine what's the most relevant in the provision in the code that can address that. A zoning ordinance overhaul will probably address a lot of question marks that do come up.

Wagonblott stated we also have drone and drone equipment for the police department.

Bogart stated we settled most of this in the current fiscal year as far as our needs. We will work on it but we need to have a placeholder in case we need some equipment.

Trustee Scaggs asked regarding the fireworks, is that our contribution to the park district.

Wagonblott stated yes. That's \$16,500 for the village's half. It was \$14,000 or \$15,000. Five years ago, it was probably \$10,000. There is also replacement flooring in the village hall \$35,000. It's the portion of the hallway out here behind this wall and then also the lunchroom. It's not replacement of the tile in the foyer.

Durkin stated it's the same flooring that's in the police department. Just to continue through the Village Hall portion including the bathrooms.

Wagonblott stated the village hall parking lot LED upgrades that is slated to occur this year as well.

Trustee Scaggs asked do we get any rebate from ComEd on that?

Dolezal stated something might come up and if it does, we will apply for it.

Wagonblott stated recently we discussed the elevator maintenance and the issues that occur with the elevator in this building. Full replacement is being delayed and smaller repairs are being budgeted for in this fiscal year. Generator replacement is included as well. That's in the capital plan. We've included the replacement of the missing parkway trees. This is the money that developers are required by ordinance to pay to the village if they remove trees during their development. We put that in an escrow or a liability account. It's a restricted fund balance until

it's spent for its purpose. The purpose being trees and replacement of trees. Dolezal has a plan he would like to discuss.

Dolezal stated in previous years, including the current one, we've had a 50/50 tree replacement program. We do a dozen or two trees a year with this money. Last year we thought we would just go out, target an area and just put trees where they were missing, whether anybody wanted them or not. What if we do something a little different? What if we take the same amount of money that we were going to just do that, and we just turn that 50/50 into 100% tree replacement. It would be to people who called up and said they want like a free tree in my lawn, my parkway, and see how that goes, at least initially, we know we're replacing parkway trees and we know we're going somewhere where the people want the tree. We will advertise it as best we can. We have this money. We're going to do trees. Instead of just us pounding them in where we thought they should go, let's just turn the 50/50 into a zero cost.

Trustee Slocum stated they're going to be a first come, first serve, like 30 or so trees.

Dolezal stated we'll go until we reach \$100,000.

Trustee Slocum asked what does a tree cost?

Dolezal stated we're getting them installed for \$400 - \$500.

Trustee Slocum stated they're little saplings.

Dolezal stated no, no, they're two inch in diameter 12 inches above the root ball.

Trustee Slocum agreed with the concept. At the same time, there's a lot of roads that neighborhoods just don't look right because people aren't putting them up. I understand asking people to jump in on that, but drive down Navajo, for example. Navajo would be a beautiful street, but there's a lot of people that have lost trees and haven't put them back in. I think it impacts the neighborhood.

Dolezal stated we put a lot of them back as replacements of the ones we had to cut down. I know when we did, I remember asking people what they wanted. If we don't get interest in this with the free trees, then that really tells you something about what's going to happen when we just start putting the parkway trees in.

Trustee Perinar stated you're going to plant those and people aren't going to water the and then its just money out the door. That's a big cost right there. People might not want to spend the money to water them.

Trustee Scaggs stated we should plant them in the fall when they don't need water.

Dolezal stated they will get planted in the fall.

Trustee Slocum stated if they ask for them.

Trustee Perinar stated that's what I'm saying. You definitely prefer they ask rather than just dropping.

Trustee Slocum stated maybe we make some kind of deal with them. Hey, water them. You have to water them a couple days a week or something like that.

Dolezal stated we don't do that now. Even at the 50/50, people were kind of doing that. He thought we'd just see what they do at zero cost. Along with this money that Wagonblott mentioned, we thought we'll take a closer look at our tree ordinance, but we can probably expand that to do a few other things that are like tree nature related. One of them is to do some landscaping down on Bluff Road at the I-55 interchange, where the Frontage Road used to extend. Then we have Red Wing park, which is the one out off Ridge Road that the village owns and maintains. Now, it's naturally planted. We did a controlled burn on it for the first time last year that was successful. We've always wanted to put some paths through there. We can probably use some of this money to do those kinds of things. So that's the plan with the tree money.

Trustee Scaggs stated at I-55 and Bluff; it's all overgrown and everything looks terrible. Where are you talking about putting trees?

Dolezal stated if you're at the northbound off ramp and you're looking forward. There used to be a road there in that area.

Durkin stated you can dress that up and hide a lot of that.

Dolezal stated there's not too much space out there and that actual ramp that's ours to do something with. A bunch of landscaping went in at our cost when we did the road.

Trustee Scaggs stated okay, I'm lost. I don't know what you're talking about.

Durkin stated we require developers to put parkway trees one every 40 or 50 feet in the parkway. They do a subdivision, they put trees in. Those trees, some of them live, most of them live. A few of them die. They replace the dead ones because there is a year warranty under their landscape contract. We can elect to do the same thing and just put trees in the parkway. Most of them are going to live, some are going to die and you'll have to replace them or you use that warranty. You'll find out that first year.

VP Moorman Schumacher stated we had 3,000 dead ash trees. There are a lot of gaps. That's my next question. Are they going to have variety options to choose from.

Dolezal stated we'll handle that like we do for the smaller program with the 50/50 where we find out what trees will be available to us. We then have people choose one or two their top selections and then we're able to mix and match. It works pretty well.

Churchill asked are residents that got trees replaced last year going to be upset that trees will be free this year?

Wagonblott stated the last one is the demolition of the current structures on the future public works building site. The piece land that we discussed a little bit ago where the new public works facility is going to go.

Dolezal stated we have a contract. We'll be having it inspected for any asbestos so we know what to put in a demo contract.

Wagonblott stated we have the bike path pavement maintenance budgeted for \$50,000. Then we talked about the Red Wing Park, the controlled burn and the amenities. Then this current fiscal year there is budgeted office furniture and filing cabinets for the finance department. In fiscal 2027, we're creating an office for the assistant finance director and moving the conference room from where it currently is to the bigger room that used to be called the mail room. That'll be the new conference room for the second floor. The old conference room will be where the assistant finance director will go. We're going to talk quickly about the annual road maintenance program. The village for fiscal 2027 has allocated \$3.6 million. That's a \$400,000 increase over the prior year. The investment is driven by a comprehensive analysis of road conditions and rising material costs. The revenue source for these expenses is the village's local fuel and diesel taxes. The Village Board had made the decision to increase the fuel and diesel taxes a couple times back in 2015 and then again in 2017 and that it was for the purpose of ensuring that those who utilize our infrastructure contribute directly to its upkeep. Within the \$3.6 million are a few special projects which include \$400,000 for the Shepley Road Bridge relocation, \$250,000 related to Dellos Road, the actual road, and also bridge repairs, \$165,000 for the McEvelly Road bike path and that should finish that project. \$280,000 for the ADA compliance sidewalk improvements which was an unfunded mandate. Despite historical volatility, diesel sales in the village have surged in the first nine months. In fiscal 2026, they're up to nearly 1.1 million gallons, which is about \$120,000 over the same period last year.

VP Moorman Schumacher asked if that revenue was starting to decline as electric vehicles and more fuel-efficient vehicles are becoming more popular?

Wagonblott stated Petrick and I would always have this battle back and forth because he would say with the electric vehicles we're going to see that decline. And yes, it's something that we had to watch and keep an eye on. It has fluctuated and has gone up significantly. The only thing I can attribute that to is Loves had an account with a trucking company or two. Then suddenly about 11, 12, 13 months later, that ship sailed. Now we're back down. We are still at good levels, but whatever they were selling at Love's diesel wise to whoever was really, really good. I keep waiting for that shoe to drop and we will keep a close eye on it. That's why I wanted to make sure. It's moving still in an upwards direction. Once Quik Trip opens, we'll wait to see. She believes the regular fuel will not change a whole lot. You might get a little bit more because it's convenient for some, but the diesel just continues to just be a huge revenue source and we would not be able to sustain all of these road related programs, the projects, the bike paths, the actual annual road maintenance program without all this diesel and fuel revenues.

Durkin stated something he mentioned to Wagonblott before with CN coming on, once that gets started, is it time for us to look at that diesel tax if there's any further adjustments we want to make. It's something to think about and see if maybe going up another penny or two and what that result is.

Trustee McMillin stated he has noticed the last couple years they're building a lot of Loves and Pilot fuel stations up in the city now with all those big giant rail yards and shipping yards up there. They're up and down Cicero Avenue on South side.

VP Moorman Schumacher stated she can't believe we haven't been approached by a developer to build a fueling station down toward the CN property yet.

Wagonblott stated consequently, the village has projected a total of \$3.3 million in combined fuel and diesel tax revenue for the upcoming budget. The public works departments created the list of streets and roadways scheduled for improvements or maintenance under the fiscal 2027 annual road program. The listing of the streets is located on page 6 of the Budget workshop memo which you have an additional copy in front of you and that was also included in your budget draft packet. This way you have it to refer back to if needed. Unless anyone has any specific questions about the roads that are listed and unless Fricke or Dolezal want to say anything specific otherwise, she will move on.

The village board and staff have made sound fiscally responsible decisions and has therefore accomplished the following. We've had a decade of declining property tax rates. We have had the EAV more than double which has been driven by hundreds of new homes, new industrial commercial buildings and thriving businesses throughout. The village has then been able to establish investment accounts and diversify investments long term and short term. The village currently has 19 million invested in short-term investments and more than \$28 million earning high yield interest rates for a long-term investment. The village has also received several accolades. The GFOA Award for Excellence in Financial Reporting for twenty consecutive years. We began the PAFR and for six consecutive years received that GFOA award. The police department has been Illinois accredited for 15 consecutive years. The village is consistently recognized as a safe community in Illinois. We have a recognized EMA department with 28 volunteers. We have a solid credit rating, reaffirmed financial investment credit rating. She did want to mention that we have done all this without burdening the taxpayers. The property tax rate continues to go down. It has gone down again. The sales tax has not been increased. These are all financial vehicles that the village has to generate revenue to provide the services. The village does not need to go out and make those changes or request that sales tax is increased. It's not to say that one day she won't be standing up here saying yes, it's time, we need to do that. This is something we should consider. It's been a good run thus far and we've been able to accomplish so much from so little back in 2013, 2014, 2015. By aggressively pursuing commercial and industrial development, the village has achieved creative funding mechanisms and positive working relationships with other taxing bodies. That's allowed the village to capitalize on development of nearly 5 million square feet of industrial development with IDI and Crossroads 55 more than doubling the revenues previously received through the tax rebate program. These actions have positioned the village to continue and complete the development of the Channahon Town Center and provide the long-anticipated expansion of the wastewater treatment system to

serve commercial and industrial growth in the western part of the community. Through conservative budgeting and high yield investments, the village has consistently fortified fund reserves and what we refer to as rainy day positioning ensures that Channahon can pay annual debt obligations for the major infrastructure projects, observe any economic shock that comes our way without compromising public safety. The village can fund critical infrastructure and equipment upgrades. The village can ensure competitive salary levels to retain and attract qualified staff to meet the needs of a growing community, strengthen services provided to the residents and business owners, and assist in the future diversification of investments. We've been talking about this for the last several months and several years. As of May 1st, the village maintains four outstanding general obligation bonds and IEPA loans. Two IEPA loans and two GO bonds, one of which isn't the villages, it's Westcom. The general fund has been debt free for the last several years. Planning and saving up the reserves for the large projects is what the village has been doing in anticipation of Lake Michigan, in anticipation of the new public works building, in anticipation of a new police department, the west side wastewater treatment plant. On the screen and in the memo is just a recap of what is still outstanding. One of the IEPA loans is 0%. There's only five years left. The most recent IEPA loan was in 2021 for the wastewater treatment plant expansion. That one is the longest at 15 years. But next year this schedule will look different. We will have issued the bonds for the upcoming larger projects and we will see that. We are prepared for it. It's scary. It is absolutely high numbers. They're large numbers. We have prepared for this. If there's any questions, she can certainly try to answer them. There's a lot going on, there's the large projects, there's the day to day, there's smaller projects. It's a lot.

Durkin stated he thinks that's a function of how fast we move. You want to capitalize on that. You want to make sure that that continues and you're positioning yourself to be able to go forward from there. This is a watershed moment for the community and where we're at right now. We put ourselves here.

Wagonblott stated we're going to issue up to \$85 million. The dollar amount will be refined over the next three to four months. The village is also not intending to increase property taxes to repay these bonds. The GO bonds that the village board will issue will be abated just like any of the other GO bonds that the Village Board has been abating for a long, long time. She is not aware if there has even been a GO bond that's been put on the tax roll. There's no burden to the property taxpayers. There are other revenue sources that are established to repay these bonds. It's kind of like buying a car. Some of us are fortunate to drive a car past when the loan is done, which is a good feeling and exciting. We know, that someday you're going to need a new car. Most cars don't last an entire lifetime. It'll have to be traded in and you'll have to buy a different car. You save up for that probably, or you're at least aware that this payment's going to be coming because most people don't pay cash for a whole car. You take out that loan. That's where the village is. We have to take out that loan for these bigger projects and then we repay it over 20 years. These projects or equipment and vehicles will be brought before the board for approval. These are going to be all of the five-year capital items that were in the plan that were approved by the board for fiscal 2027. All of these are included in the draft budget. These projects are either started, planned, or they're in process, and this is a continuation of expenses or quotes and estimates that are going to begin to be obtained. If there's anything that the board wishes or has thought about since the five-year capital plan or any issues or exceptions, certainly let us know and then we can move forward and make some changes, if necessary. Otherwise, as these big

expenses come up as required, the staff would need to go before the board and get those approvals for those contracts for the big equipment purchases.

Trustee Slocum stated is that \$935,000 for McKinley Woods bike path? Is that complete cost from start to finish or will it be more than that.

Wagonblott stated it'll be more than that.

Trustee Slocum stated that's just for the portion that'll get done in the next year.

Dolezal stated for the path? That's our portion of it.

Wagonblott stated but is that completing the whole path.

Fricke stated that's from the ComEd power lines all the way down to the forest preserve.

Dolezal stated it's all the part that's incorporated. Then there is the stretch that's still unincorporated. The township has said they will put in a gravel path.

Wagonblott stated we talked about a lot of good things and just as we're wrapping up, with the good comes the bad. She mentioned what can halt the progress and the success of the village and the development. Obviously, anything could happen. We've all lived through COVID. She doesn't think anyone ever thought anything like that would happen. But it did and it's been six years. We could have a declining loss of revenues. There could be a natural disaster, loss of business. You could lose crucial, experienced staff members. We kind of understand that in the police department, even if an officer is hired tomorrow, they're not actually on the street for 365 days. It takes some time. If there's differences in staff members, then that could also significantly halt successes and the movement. She wanted to mention that she did have someone asking me recently why Channahon has four jobs open. She explained to them that some are retirements and one made a career change to a different job in the same department. That public perception, as we all know from people writing on Talk of the Town and whatever else on social media, may not have all the information. She is glad this person asked me because then she was able to explain because sometimes it just looks like it's a mass exodus or it's not where people want to work. At least she was able to explain that and give a little background. The village is fortunate to prioritize the pay as you go for capital equipment. Things like squad cars, snowplows. We're able to pay cash. We're not taking on debt. That has helped us tremendously because we're eliminating that long-term interest cost and we're able to maintain that operational flexibility during economic fluctuations which thankfully we haven't had to experience. We have a robust reserve. We have been maintaining strong fund balances which is a core priority. She is happy to say that the property tax rate that just came in from Will County is lower than last year, so we'll be able to say we've reduce the tax rate for 11 consecutive years. The rate is 0.5521 for the Village of Channahon. The EAV is \$634,894,471. Interest income for fiscal 2026 is estimated to be \$2.3 million. Interest rates remain steady. They're not increasing, but they're not declining swiftly. That's the positive. Obviously, it's something we'll watch and we'll keep a close eye on because that could dramatically shift how things go. With respect to sales tax revenues, this one just completely shocked her and she had to check three times. In fiscal 2021, which even then,

\$3.4 million was way more than the village was receiving in prior years, Even with the Grundy County tax, sales tax, and the rebate program. Now we're estimated at \$7.5 million for just sales tax. That's more than double from five years ago.

Trustee Slocum asked if this is due to the warehouses?

Wagonblott stated oh, absolutely. That's a big, big part. Had it not been for the Crossroads 55 and the IDI developments, we wouldn't be looking at these numbers. Absolutely would not be seeing these kinds of numbers. We really have developed our way out of the issues, and we've been able to grow, steadily grow, and reap the benefits of that in every way, shape and form. Our reserves, in fiscal 2025, which would have been the last audit that was completed, had an addition of \$6.2 million in reserves. Even though there's fluctuations, those are all additions to reserves. We've yet to draw from reserves. Sometimes we planned to, but we just never did. She did want to paint the clear picture that the draft fiscal 2027 budget reflects for the general fund a \$19.2 million increase in the general fund reserves. That's because we're issuing bonds. \$29 million is what is budgeted in the draft for revenues coming in from issuing the bonds in fiscal 2027. This next slide is representative of if we didn't issue the bonds and receive that money in fiscal 2027, and if we weren't doing those larger capital projects and not having those expenses in the general fund in fiscal 2027, the village would still be seeing a \$2.2 million increase in reserves. We're pretty much at the end of this presentation. It's not just the people within the workforce that affect the success of the village. It's consistent, informed decision making and progressive thinking that provides confidence to the residents and to the development community. The decisions made by the Village Board and staff need not only be for the present, but also for the future as well. Channahon continues to be a premier destination to live, work and visit. Our success is the direct result of disciplined management and the unwavering dedication of the Village Board and staff. The fiscal 2027 budget as proposed reflects the village's continued economic vitality and commitment to long term fiscal sustainability. Through a combination of conservative financial management and strategic growth, the village remains a model of municipal excellence. She can continue and say some more positive things. It's all good stuff. She is glad to be able to say it. Certainly, she knows someday it may be different. Hopefully not, but realistically speaking, we've had a lot of good years, and we've got a lot of good years coming up here..

Trustee Slocum stated just to be clear, you said the money in the bank that we can dip into any time, at the end of this year will be \$7.5 million.

Wagonblott stated the fund balance isn't cash. There's a difference between the fund balance, what's being added to reserves, and an actual cash balance. The monthly treasurer's report breaks out between the General fund, actual cash. The other funds. Actual cash. The utility funds. Actual cash. That gives you that snapshot in time of what that actual cash balance is. When we talk about the additions to the fund balance, it's not always one for one cash.

Trustee Slocum stated okay, so there's still \$47 million in investments, basically.

Wagonblott stated for all funds, yes. Not just the general fund, but yes, for all funds. We just have some key dates here. At the next meeting on April 6th there will be a public hearing for the

budget that's required to be held. Then she will get a final budget out to everyone before April 20th. April 6th will be first read of this budget draft. Then April 20th would be when staff would be looking for the board to approve that budget document and budget ordinance. If there's any changes to the budget, she needs to know before April 13th to get that to Anselme, for the April 20th second read. She will email the final budget, but she's not planning on printing a budget for the final draft. Does anyone want a paper copy? Unless there's any other questions, thank you to the board for listening and for all the leadership and the confidence in the village staff, and for the commitment to the community. Thank you Brian Bojak for setting up the boardroom and helping. Thanks to staff and the Village Administrator as there's a lot of work that goes in to preparing the budget. A lot of meetings, a lot of conversations, a lot of estimates, a lot of changes, a lot of work. Thank you to everybody.

VP Moorman Schumacher stated well done, as always.

Trustee Perinar asked if Wagonblott heard from Betsy. Did she set up a time to be coming?

Wagonblott stated not yet. I have a calendar reminder to reach out to her next week.

Trustee Perinar stated text her because we need to get her in right away way.

Wagonblott stated she's aware that the board approved the contract with Sikich, so we should be getting that information once she gets settled.

Trustee Greco made a motion to open Executive Session at 7:10 p.m. for Appointment, Employment, Dismissal, Compensation, Discipline and Performance of an Employee of the Village of Channahon. Seconded by Trustee Scaggs.

ROLL CALL AYES: Host, Greco, McMillin, Perinar, Scaggs and Slocum.

NAYS: NONE

MOTION CARRIED

Trustee Slocum made a motion to close Executive Session at 7:48 p.m. for Appointment, Employment, Dismissal, Compensation, Discipline and Performance of an Employee of the Village of Channahon. Seconded by Trustee Perinar.

ROLL CALL AYES: Host, Greco, McMillin, Perinar, Scaggs and Slocum.

NAYS: NONE

MOTION CARRIED

Trustee Slocum made a motion to adjourn the Special Board Meeting at 7:48 p.m. Seconded by Trustee Perinar.

VERBAL ROLL CALL: ALL AYES

MOTION CARRIED

Submitted by
Kristin Hall
Village Clerk

