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Date: January 18, 2019
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VILLAGE BOARD APPROVES FISCAL YEAR 2020 BUDGET

(Glencoe, Illinois)—The Village of Glencoe Board of Trustees voted to approve the Fiscal Year 2020 Budget at their January 17, 2019 meeting. Now approved, the budget will go into effect March 1, 2019 and continue through February 29, 2020. The budget includes $25,890,565 in expenditures across all funds and departments, representing a 2.6% increase in proposed spending compared to Fiscal Year 2019. These same operational fund revenues are projected to increase by 7.2%, growing to $24,279,805. The increase in spending is attributable to investments back into the community’s infrastructure. These investments and the difference between revenues and expenditures are being funded through the planned use of fund reserves (money that has been saved by the Village from prior fiscal years).

The budget development process is a multi-month collaboration between staff and the Village Board, involving updates to and the review of multiple guiding documents including the Village’s Strategic Plan, financial forecast, 10-Year Community Improvement Program (CIP), fee and fine schedule and financial policies. Notably, a number of new reports and documents were prepared this year including the Active Transportation Plan and a proposed financing plan for planned infrastructure spending over the next decade. These documents were incorporated into the Fiscal Year 2020 Budget, which was initially presented to the Village Board for discussion at two budget workshop sessions in November, and again at the Village Board meeting in December. Since that time, the Village Board has also been presented preliminary designs for the Tudor Court Street/Streetscape Improvement Project, a $1.2 million placeholder for which has been incorporated into the final budget document.

“The Fiscal Year 2020 Budget is the result of six months of substantial review of proposed expenditures, including several public meetings in November and December. The projects and programs that the budget supports have been thoroughly vetted and will be continually evaluated to ensure that they embody the priorities expressed in the Strategic Plan and represent the best possible value for our taxpayers,” said Finance Director Nikki Larson. “The budget could not have been completed without the hard work and dedication of the Village President and Board of Trustees and all of the Village employees that participated in budget deliberations.”

Highlights from the Fiscal Year 2020 Budget include:

- Approximately $3.8 million in capital and infrastructure projects, many of which are planned to enhance Glencoe’s downtown business district and other major amenities, including parking management system upgrades, community wayfinding signage installation and the Tudor Court Street/Streetscape Improvement Project. Specifically, the planned improvements on Tudor Court aim to support the unique arts core on the
downtown street through place-making elements such as lighting, seating and entranceway markers. Other major capital and infrastructure projects include continued investment in technology to streamline Village operations, sidewalk restoration, sanitary sewer system upgrades and water main replacements at Euclid Avenue, Lincoln Drive and Longwood Avenue.

- Continued support for growing environmental sustainability efforts, both internally relating to Village operations and within the broader Glencoe community. This includes funds to access new sustainability benchmarking tools and to support the Village’s application for membership in the U.S. Green Building Council’s LEED for Cities & Communities program.

- Resources for the Village’s 150th anniversary celebration, including funds to support events and activities throughout 2019. These funds will be supplemented by sponsorships and several fundraising efforts throughout the year, including a commemorative vehicle license sticker.

- Funds for additional studies, surveys and analysis, many of which are detailed in the Strategic Plan, including the fielding of a community-wide survey, a comprehensive ordinance and regulation review, an analysis of the Village’s regulatory and financial authority, further evaluation of options for the Village’s water treatment and distribution services and continued process improvement projects. These analyses, coupled with various data collection and reporting efforts, will help guide future priorities and strengthen operational efficiencies.

- A renewed commitment to various staffing initiatives that are geared toward further developing an innovative, healthy and collaborative workforce through training, wellness opportunities and analysis of best practices in employee attraction and retention.

- The Village Board approved the property tax levy in December in accordance with statutory limitations. However due to the retirement of certain long-term debt, the Village’s share of the total property tax levy is projected to decrease in the coming year by 1.55%.

- Various changes to fees for service to better account for the cost of service delivery and provide funding for essential infrastructure improvements, including necessary, planned increases to the Village’s water and sewer rates. The increased water rate (an increase of 9%) is in line with the rate increase recommendations that were made as part of the comprehensive Water Rate Analysis conducted in 2017. Sewer rates are to increase by 7.1% to better provide necessary resources to fund State-mandated rehabilitation of the Village’s sanitary sewer system.

“I am proud of the work done by the Village Board and staff in developing this year’s budget,” noted Village Manager Philip Kiraly. “The Fiscal Year 2020 Budget is a reflection of the Village Board’s priorities expressed in the Strategic Plan and seeks to maintain the Village’s excellent services, ensures thoughtful investment in the community’s critical infrastructure and emphasizes continued efforts to streamline Village operations to reduce costs while remaining effective and responsive.”

The Fiscal Year 2020 Budget can be viewed online at www.villageofglencoe.org/transparency. Contact Finance Director Nikki Larson at nlarson@villageofglencoe.org / (847) 461-1108 with any budget related questions.