

Huntley's 2017 budget reflects village's strategic plan

By Jeanie Mayer

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The Huntley Village Board approved a \$27.6 million budget at last week's board meeting. Village Manager David Johnson said the budget has been directly linked to the goals outlined within the village's strategic plan. The document details capital improvement projects for the next five years including detailed project descriptions.

As part of the presentation Thursday, Johnson noted some of the highlights of 2016 including the Centegra Hospital Huntley opening, downtown improvement project completion including the veterans memorial, and the third year of facade improvement projects for businesses in the downtown district.

Johnson said the village has received more than \$308 million in private sector investments in residential, industrial and retail development in 2016. He also said the village has increased jobs for residents with more than 800 new jobs at Centegra and over 200 new jobs with other businesses. Johnson said that the outlook for fiscal year 2017 includes the possibility that there may be a lack of funds coming in from the State of Illinois. He noted that the village has been committed to a 50 percent operating reserve. This policy will help with unfunded mandates and regulatory requirements from Springfield, including those for water regulations and health care. Johnson said the coming year has \$5.8 million in budgeted capital expenditures including the construction of a multiuse pathway along Route 47.

Johnson noted that each department in the village is committed to improvement and should be credited with helping to create a tight budget. "What you see in your department heads is a relentless pursuit of improvement," Johnson said.

Jeanie Mayer is a freelance reporter for The CourierNews.

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