Current Washington County Fire/EMS Tax Levy Proposal

Informational Meeting

Thursday August 6th

6:30PM

VILLAGE OF

NEWBURG

BUILDING A BETTER FUTURE — 1846 —

Building a stable, community-centered EMS system for the next generation

- ❑ Mitigate long-term (5-10) property tax burden for Washington County taxpayer.
- ❑ Proliferate the Volunteer and Paid on Call Fire and EMS services.
- ❑ Preserve satisfactory level of EMS Service for all Washington County citizens.
- ❑ Relieve Municipal fiscal pressure.
- ❑ Provide fiscal sustainable improvements for Fire / EMS Departments while maintaining Local Control.

WASHINGTON
EST COUNTY 1836
WISCONSIN

How did we get here?

2023
Fire Chiefs request assistance

2024
County Fire / EMS Grant program begins

2025
Continued Grant support

2026
Continued Grant support.
Stakeholder Work Group formed

2026
Countywide EMS proposal developed

How Did We Get Here?

- In 2023 the fire chief's county wide approached the county for assistance in funding EMS services because the rate of increase was more than what the municipalities could absorb based on their Net New Construction Levy Limit.
- The issue became high call volumes for slips, trips, and falls that utilized resources but were either unbillable or billing was capped by Medicare/Medicaid
- In 2024 the Fire/EMS grant program was implemented which consisted of $1M worth of funds from ARPA and other funds as a one-time way of closing the gap. These funds were given to the local municipalities as grants to offset EMS costs and did not include the city of West Bend. This program was intended to be a 2-year grant but was extended an additional year by the County Board for 2026.

How Did We Get Here?

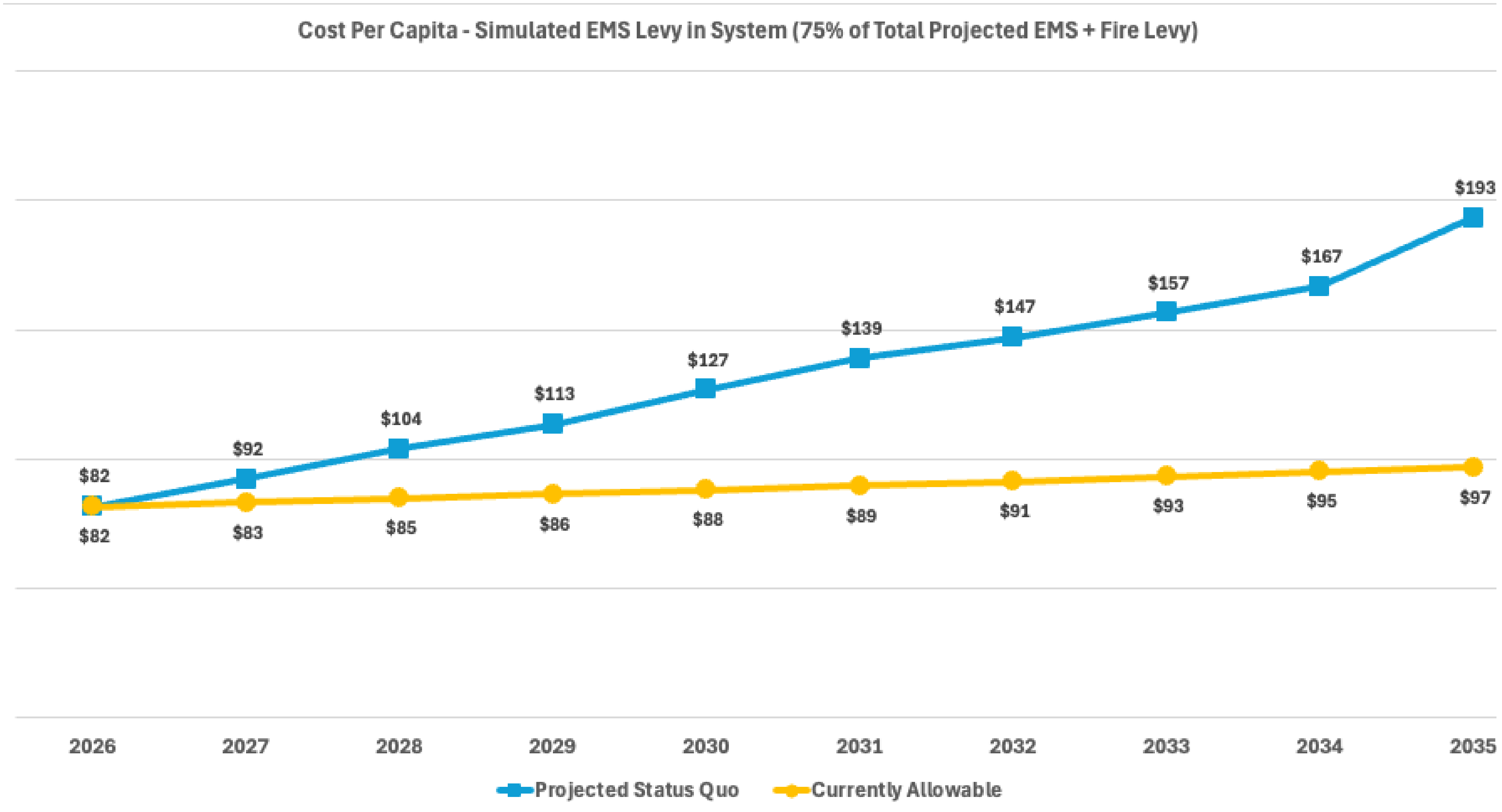
- Between 2024 and 2025 the county engaged in a county wide study to evaluate the Fire and EMS services in the county and based on the results of the study, meetings were held with Chief Elected Officials from the municipalities which resulted in a stakeholder work group being formed at the end of 2025 to begin the work on finding a solution.
- In 2026 a work group consisting of 3 fire chiefs, 3 municipal administrators, and 3 chief elected officials work with county officials to navigate the complexities of how to fund and distribute the funds. This group was open to any members of the 3 groups that chose to be involved.

What was considered?

- Privatization of EMS services were discussed and ruled out due to the high cost that municipalities had seen when trying to find solutions on their own
- Regionalized County Wide EMS as a County service was quickly ruled due to feasibility and would undoubtably have higher costs long term, no local control, and full-time depts are already doing the work and would not see any reduction in personnel costs due to service ready protocols.
- Fire District plans that divide the county. Districts where departments banned together and create a district under state statutes was discussed and tabled due to costs and the number of stakeholders that would ultimately need to agree on decisions for the district would make it difficult.

What are the Numbers?

- Cost to operate Fire/EMS across the county is about $22M
- When you remove EMS revenue and Financial Assistance Program Revenue, it is estimated that 75% of all calls for service are EMS related. Bringing the Cost to operate EMS to about $14M levied on taxpayers.
- The starting number that the group thought would be fundable to easy the burden of EMS was 20% or about $3.5M
- 2% annual floor and 4% annual ceiling increase potential.


Cost Per Capita - Simulated EMS Levy in System (75% of Total Projected EMS + Fire Levy)
$82
$92
$104
$113
$127
$139
$147
$157
$167
$193
$82
$83
$85
$86
$88
$89
$91
$93
$95
$97
2026
2027
2028
2029
2030
2031
2032
2033
2034
2035
Projected Status Quo
Currently Allowable

What is all in the Program?

- Funding for local EMS providers
- Funding for incentivizing and retaining Volunteer Firefighters
- Funding for County Administrative Initiatives

County Administrative Initiatives

- Priority Based Dispatching
  - This will provide an additional dedicated dispatcher for the EMS service
  - Technology for first closest and resource needed dispatching
- Support Medical Director costs.
- Administrative Costs associated with implementation of SMART goals and Strategic Priorities to enhance collaboration, innovation, efficiencies and effectiveness.

Volunteer and Paid on Call Firefighter Incentive and Proliferation

- Funds are set aside to fund incentive programs for volunteers to join and stay within the service.
- There are roughly 500 volunteer or paid on call firefighters and EMS personnel across the county

Local Municipal Funding

- The remaining $2.7M are given directly back to the Municipality and the Fire Dept for funding.
- 25% of each municipalities allotted funds are given to the Fire Dept from the county as a grant with an application process that mirrors what the fire depts already do for the state.
- The rest of the funds are given directly to the municipality to be distributed and offset the costs of EMS services.

HOW THE FIRE & EMS TAX LEVY WORKS

SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY.
STRENGTHENING OUR RESPONSE.

1. WASHINGTON COUNTY APPLIES TAX LEVY COUNTYWIDE
on behalf of local governments for EMS needed increases.

2A. $500,000 ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION
to Volunteer Fire/EMS personnel for service, to be decided by program.

2B. $300,000 REMAINS WITH THE COUNTY
for the administration of the program and to provide a county wide Medical Director if needed by the program.

REMAINING FUNDS
after allocations above

3A. 25% OF REMAINING FUNDS
are distributed directly to the EMS provider or Fire Dept through a grant application.

25%

3B. THE REMAINING 75% OF THE FUNDS
are distributed directly to the local municipality based on equalized value for local administration and allocation of funds to assist in annual cost increases within EMS services and contracts.

4. LOCAL BUDGETING & CONTRACTS
Fire/EMS providers provide budget increases and expense requests to local municipality for Fire/EMS contract is negotiated between Local Municipality and Local FD or EMS provider.

5. COUNTYWIDE COLLABORATION
Fire Departments and EMS providers work collaboratively across the county to reduce costs through innovation and shared best practices.

6. CONTINUED LOCAL SERVICE
Fire Departments and EMS providers continue operating as they always have at the local level—providing the service our residents rely on.

KEY FACTS

LOCAL CONTROL
Decisions are made locally to meet the needs of our community.

FUNDING STAYS LOCAL
The majority of funds are returned to our municipalities to support local EMS and Fire services.

SUPPORTS FIRE & EMS
Ensures reliable emergency response for all who live, work and visit Washington County.

STRONGER TOGETHER
Collaboration across the county reduces costs and improves service for everyone.

Thank you for supporting a safer, stronger Washington County for today and tomorrow. ♥

STRONGER TOGETHER. READY WHEN IT MATTERS MOST.

LOCAL CONTROL • COMMUNITY FOCUSED • BETTER TOGETHER

Local Municipal Control Stays Intact

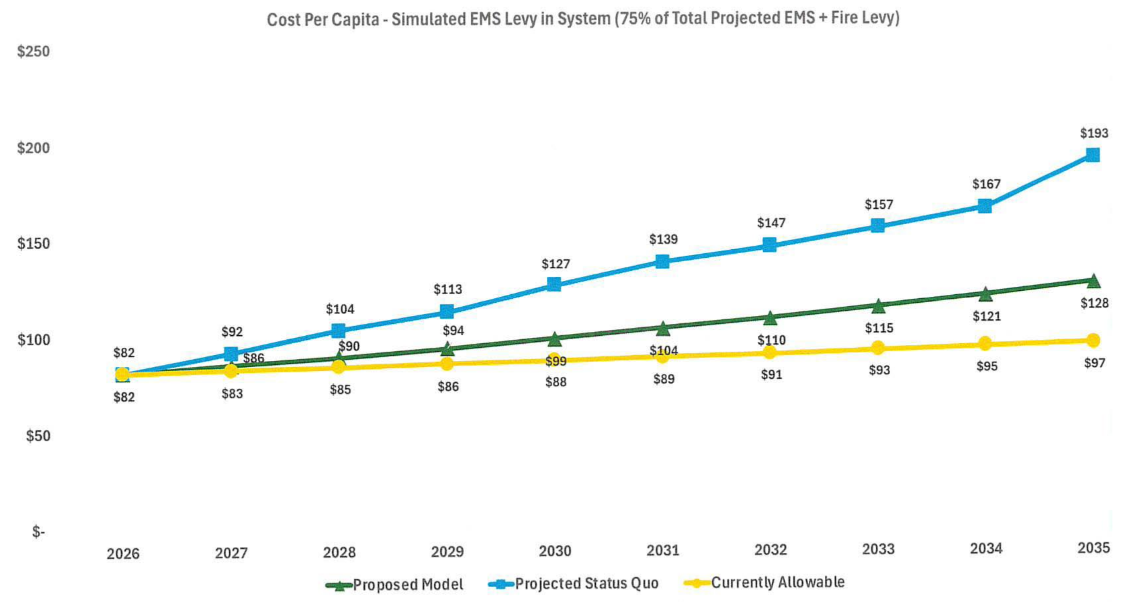
Local Municipalities are directly responsible for the negotiations of EMS services within their communities.

Local elected officials will determine the use of the funds through communications with their departments and budgeting practices.

All funds must only be used for EMS related expenses and remaining funds should be, as a best practice, set aside in a restricted fund for EMS uses as needed.

Necessary budget increases from the EMS providers will be addressed to the local officials and they will determine if the need is there and if the ask meets the budgetary limits of the program.

What Does this do?



COUNTYWIDE EMS PROPOSAL

THE IMPACT TO THE VILLAGE OF NEWBURG

Proliferating Premier EMS Services

SUSTAINABLE FUNDING. | LOCAL CONTROL. | STRONGER COMMUNITIES.

PROPOSAL

Washington County will levy a tax and distribute funding to municipalities, for the continuation of EMS under local control.

OBJECTIVE

Provide a fiscally responsible and sustainable funding mechanism for EMS across Washington County while providing Municipal funding relief.

INSIGHTS

- Funding is in line with demand.
- Provides a foundation that can be expanded.
- Maintain local EMS control.

IMPACT

$500,000	Volunteer Retention
$273,561	Administrative
$2,735,605	Base EMS Levy
$3,509,166	Total County Levy
$18,064	Village of Newburg's Contribution

$51 Impact on a $400,000 Home

ANNUAL BENEFIT

Year 1: $10,562
of County funds to Village of Newburg for EMS Services

Up to 5%
annual increases factored from actual cost increases

Covers 100%
of anticipated Year 1 EMS cost increases

Ongoing Support
of a portion of EMS cost increases for future years

COST PER CAPITA COMPARISON

Simulated EMS Levy in System (75% of Total Projected EMS + Fire Levy)

Cost Control

Utilizing established SMART goals to limit annual cost increases and bend the green line downward.

INVESTING TODAY.
PROTECTING TOMORROW.

This proposal strengthens EMS services, supports our communities, and provides lasting relief for taxpayers.

STRONGER EMS.
STRONGER COMMUNITY.
STRONGER TOGETHER.

Figures are estimates and subject to change. Based on current projections and County data.

2027 COUNTY EMS DISTRIBUTION PROPOSAL (DRAFT)

Totals for Muni w/FDs		Totals for Muni w/o FDs		Totals for Private FDs	
Germantown	$ 428,363.00	Addison	$ 50,315.00	Allenton FD	$ 21,502.00
Jackson	$ 175,820.00	Barton	$ 42,803.00	Boltonville FD	$ 8,651.00
Kewaskum	$ 65,550.00	Erin	$ 87,675.00	Fillmore FD	$ 9,875.00
Richfield	$ 317,612.00	Farmington	$ 55,578.00	Kohlsville FD	$ 17,220.00
West Bend	$ 504,938.00	Town of Germantown	$ 3,394.00	Newburg FD	$ 28,815.00
Hartford	$ 269,932.00	Town of Hartford	$ 53,512.00	Slinger FD	$ 63,837.00
		Town of Jackon	$ 63,743.00	St Lawrence FD	$ 11,974.00
		Town of Kewaskum	$ 18,038.00		
		Polk	$ 90,694.00		
		Trenton	$ 75,881.00		
		Wayne	$ 35,760.00		
		Town of West Bend	$ 136,663.00		
		Newburg	$ 10,562.00		
		Slinger	$ 86,898.00		
Grand Total	$ 1,762,215.00		$ 811,516.00		$ 161,874.00

$ 2,735,605.00

How do the numbers breakdown for Newburg?

- Newburg Pays in $18,064
- 58% of funds come back to Municipality Directly or $10,562
- 25% of funds go directly to NFD or $4516
- Remaining $2986 goes to County Admin initiative and the Firefighter Retention.
- This is a County Tax Levy imposed on all residents in Washington County and is currently proposed at $.12/ thousand of equalized value. This is equal to $51 on a $400,000 home.

Proposed Timeline

- **12 Aug.** County Board Meeting for full board dissemination of plan
- **19 Aug.** Public Safety Committee Resolution
- **9 Sep.** County Board Resolution (This is where we will know the most information on the proposal)
- **16 Sep.** Executive Committee Meeting for Draft Budget Review
- **21 Oct.** Executive Committee Meeting for Budget Resolution
- **11 Nov.** County Board for budget resolution
- **Nov.–Dec.** local municipalities sign contracts and Intergovernmental agreements

What have we already done?

- The Village of Newburg has approved a resolution to approve the taskforce and county to work on the proposed plan
- The Village of Newburg has approved a resolution indicating support for the County board and committees to move forward with the proposed plan and to work through the county process

What’s Next

- The County Board and committees will review, change, and vote on a version of the proposal to be submitted to the municipalities and to the executive committee.
- The executive committee will review how the funding will be applied within their budget and will issue a budget amendment.
- The municipalities will vote on the plan and then decide if they want to enter into the agreements.

Village of Newburg Wisconsin

Resolution 2026-16

A Resolution repealing Resolution 2026-14 in support of the Countywide EMS service

WHEREAS; The Village of Newburg Board of Trustees heard a presentation on the current proposal on July 23rd, 2026, and have taken action on Resolution 2026-14: A Resolution in support of the Countywide EMS Service; and

WHEREAS; that action was in favor of passing the resolution as presented unanimously and signed by the Village President and Village Clerk to be returned to the County; and

WHEREAS; the acting parties have reconsidered their action and heard more information from the County and Administrator on the details of the proposal and have fielded public feedback;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED; That the Village of Newburg Board of Trustees repeals and rescinds Resolution 2026-14 and their support for the Countywide EMS service with the full knowledge of the presentation and that the Washington County Board of Supervisors have not acted on the proposal yet and the details of the proposal are subject to change;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED; that at which time the Washington County Board of Supervisors passes a resolution and imposes a tax levy on the residents of the county, the Village of Newburg Board of Trustees will consider the required contracts and agreements to participate in the funding program as decided and imposed.

Passed and adopted by the Village Board of the Village of Newburg, Washington and Ozaukee Counties, Wisconsin, this 6th day of August, 2026.

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David C Deluka, Village President Heather Wellman, Village Clerk