

Village of River Forest Financial Policies

The Village of River Forest's Financial Policies are the basic guidelines for the management of the Village's financial operations and have been developed within the parameters set forth in the Illinois State Statute and River Forest Municipal Code. These policies assist the Village Board and management in preparing the budget and managing the Village's fiscal affairs throughout the year. The policies are to be reviewed during the budget process, and modified as appropriate, to accommodate changing fiscal conditions, environmental challenges and Village Board policy initiatives. In addition to these Financial Policies the Village has separately issued and approved comprehensive policies on Purchasing, Investments and Fixed Assets.

Financial Planning Policies

1. The fiscal year of the Village will begin on May 1 of each year and end on April 30th of the following year. All accounting and budgeting functions of the Village will occur in conjunction with this fiscal time period.
2. The Budget Officer shall present a balanced budget to the Village Board annually. A balanced budget means that current operating expenditures, excluding major capital expenditures, are funded with current recurring revenues. The use of reserves to cover current operating expenditures should be avoided.
3. The Village will avoid budgetary procedures that balance current expenditures at the expense of meeting future year's expenses, such as postponing expenditures, accruing future year's revenues, or rolling over short term debt.
4. The budget will provide for adequate maintenance of capital plant and equipment and for their orderly replacement.
5. The Budget will provide for adequate funding of all retirement systems, with a uniform reduction of unfunded liabilities, in accordance with either state requirements or an independent actuarial study.
6. Within 30 days of the approval of the annual budget, the Budget Officer shall prepare a budget document that includes the legally adopted budget and other supplementary information. The document shall contain a transmittal letter describing the previous budget period's accomplishments and the Village's organization-wide goals, an estimate of revenues and budgeted expenditures by account, departmental goals and capital improvements.
7. The Village will prepare a three-year projection of revenues and expenditures annually. The projection will display the excess or deficiency of revenues over

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(under) expenditures and the resulting unassigned fund balance. Projections will include estimated operating costs associated with future capital improvements.

8. The Village will integrate performance measurement and productivity indicators within the budget where applicable.
9. The budget will maintain a budgetary control process, assisted by a financial accounting software system.
10. The Village will prepare a monthly financial report comparing actual revenues and expenditures to the approved budgeted amounts. The monthly report will provide a financial analysis that highlights major deviations from the approved budget.

Revenue Policies

1. The Village will maintain a diversified and stable revenue system to shelter it from short-term fluctuations in any single revenue source.
2. The Village shall estimate its annual revenues conservatively, using an objective analytical approach, taking into account all available information.
3. Potential revenue sources will be examined annually.
4. One-time revenues shall not be used to fund ongoing expenditures.
5. The year-to-year increase of actual revenues from the property tax will generally not exceed five percent.
6. The Village will set fees and user charges for the Waterworks and Sewerage Fund at a level that fully supports the total direct and indirect cost of the activity. Indirect costs include the cost of annual depreciation of capital assets.
7. The Village will establish all other user charges and fees at a level that attempts to recover the full cost of providing the service, including an amount for the cost associated with any capital assets used to provide the service.

Expenditure Policies

1. The Village will fund all operating expenditures in a particular fund from operating revenues generated by the fund. In developing the budget, recommendations will be made regarding service level adjustments that may be necessary to meet this objective. Service levels will not be expanded beyond the Village's ability to utilize current revenues to pay for the expansion of services.

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2. The Village will continually assess its organization and service provision efforts in order to provide service enhancements or cost reductions by increasing efficiency or effectiveness. The Village shall also constantly strive to provide the same highest quality of services using the most efficient means possible. During each budget process the Village will assess its current organization and service provision strategy and make adjustments if the analysis demonstrates that a particular enhancement would improve operations or reduce cost.
3. The Village will provide sufficient resources to train employees and thereby develop the specialized knowledge and expertise necessary to maintain and improve the quality of Village services.
4. The Village will strive to adopt new technologies and techniques that will improve efficiency and allow the Village to maintain or improve the level of service provided to residents.
5. The Village will attempt to maximize its financial resources by encouraging intergovernmental cooperation. The establishment of intergovernmental service agreements with other units of government may allow the Village to provide residents a higher level of service at a reduced cost. The Village will consider intergovernmental agreements as a means to enhance services or reduce costs.

Reserve Policies

1. The General Fund unassigned fund balance, plus the amount restricted for working cash, should be maintained at a minimum of 25% of the General Fund total budgeted annual expenditures in the most recently approved annual budget. This reserve is intended to provide financial resources for the Village in the event of an emergency or due to the loss of or reduction in a major revenue source and to provide adequate coverage for variations in cash flows due to the timing of receipts and disbursements.
2. Should the General Fund unassigned fund balance plus the amount restricted for working cash, drop below the required 25%, every effort shall be made to bring the balance back up to the desired level within three years.
3. The Village Board shall determine the disposition of excess fund reserves should the General Fund unassigned fund balance plus the amount restricted for working cash, increase above the required 25%.
4. No minimum assigned fund balance has been established for the Capital Equipment and Improvements Fund but the fund will only expend the amount available from the combination of the assigned fund balance, revenues or transfers. The Village shall transfer funds annually from the General and Waterworks and Sewerage Funds in an attempt to accumulate the funds necessary to replace vehicles and equipment

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and make capital improvements provided for in the fund. The maximum fund balance allowed in the Capital Equipment and Improvements Fund is equal to 3% of the equalized assessed value of the taxable real property located in the corporate boundaries of the Village (ILCS 5/8-2-9.5).

5. The Waterworks and Sewerage Fund shall maintain an operating reserve equivalent to three months of operating expenses. This reserve is intended to provide resources for unanticipated expenditures, to cover revenue shortfalls and to compensate for fluctuations in cash flows. A capital reserve shall be maintained in addition to the operating reserve.
6. Special revenue, debt service and pension trust funds do not have a minimum fund balance requirement. Motor Fuel Tax Funds are used to finance street maintenance and improvements and funds available may be expended for that purpose as provided for in the Village's Capital Improvement plan. Reserves in the debt service funds are accumulated to fund future debt service payments. Pension Trust Funds are funded bases on actuarial recommendations.

Capital Improvement Policies

1. The Village will make all capital improvement in accordance with an adopted Capital Improvement Plan (CIP).
2. The CIP shall include all capital equipment and improvements with a value of \$10,000 or more.
3. The Village will develop a five-year plan for capital improvements and update it annually. As part of this process, the Village will assess the condition of all major capital assets and infrastructure including, at a minimum building, streets, alleys, water mains and sewer lines.
4. The Village will enact an annual capital budget based on the five-year Capital Improvement Plan.
5. The Village will coordinate development of the capital improvement budget with the development of the operating budget. Future operating costs associated with new capital improvements will be projected and included in operating budget projections.
6. The Village will use intergovernmental assistance to finance capital improvements in accordance with Village plans and priorities.
7. The Village will maintain all its assets at a level adequate to protect the Village's capital investment and to minimize future maintenance and replacement costs.

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8. The Village will project its equipment replacement need for the next five years and update this projection each year. A replacement schedule will be developed from this projection.
9. The Village will project capital asset maintenance and improvement needs for the next five years and will update this projection each year. A maintenance and improvement schedule will be developed from this projection.
10. The Village will identify the estimated costs and potential funding sources for each capital project proposal before it is submitted to the board for approval.
11. The Village will determine the least costly financing method for each new project.

Debt Policies

1. The Village will confine long-term borrowing to capital improvements or projects which result in a product which will have a life of ten years or more and which cannot be financed from current revenues.
2. When the Village finances capital projects by issuing bonds, it will pay back the bonds within a period not to exceed the expected useful life of the project.
3. The Village will make every attempt to keep the average maturity of general obligation bonds at or below ten years.
4. Where feasible, the Village will use special assessment, revenue or other self-supporting bonds instead of general obligation bonds.
5. The Village will not use long-term debt to fund current operations.
6. The Village will maintain good communications with bond rating agencies about its financial condition. The Village will follow a policy of full disclosure on every financial report and bond prospectus.
7. The Village will make every effort to maintain a relatively level and stable annual debt service for all long-term general obligation bonds.

Accounting and Financial Reporting Policies

1. The Village will establish and maintain a high standard of accounting practices.
2. Following the conclusion of the fiscal year, the Village will prepare a Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) established by the Governmental Accounting

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Standards Board (GASB). The CAFR shall also satisfy all criteria for the Government Finance Officers Association's Certificate for Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting.

3. Monthly financial reports shall be prepared and submitted to the board. The reports shall include a summary of financial activity.
4. An independent certified public accounting firm will perform an annual audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and will publicly issue a financial opinion.
5. The Village shall request proposals from qualified independent accounting firms to conduct the annual audit every five years using a request for proposal process.