

Reviews Municipal Progress

By the Village Manager

Editor's Note: Accompanying is the second installment of Village Manager H. L. Woolhiser's annual report made before the President and Board of Trustees recently. The report covers the work of the Village departments for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1926. The purpose of the report was to review briefly the work of the past year and to outline a program of activity for the year ahead. It should be of interest to every citizen of the village, since it is, in effect, a statement of the condition of the corporation of which they are all stockholders. Another installment will appear in next week's issue of WINNETKA TALK.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Details of the work of the Public Works department are set forth in the accompanying report of Mr. Harold Bohnen, superintendent of streets.

It is interesting to note that the expense of operation of the Public Works department for the past fiscal year, namely \$60,400, shows a decrease of \$6,100 below the budget estimate, which was \$66,492, although it appeared early in the season that the budget would probably be exceeded.

An important factor in this saving is found in the operation of the waste collection department, where the total cost for the year was \$34,810, as compared with the budget estimate of \$40,436, a saving of practically \$6,000 below last year's expense.

Effect Big Saving

This saving was made possible by handling the collection of ashes and rubbish with our own equipment, which plan is now working very satisfactorily with the adequate service yard facilities which have been provided. We are still handling the collection of garbage under contract, because of the fact that this is the only method whereby the Village can be assured of a means of disposal, the contractor being a Glenview farmer, who uses the garbage for fertilizer and hog feeding.

It is believed that the Village should shortly give serious consideration to the acquisition of a site for an incinerator for garbage and rubbish, and it is believed that by the collection of garbage with our own equipment, we could save enough in operating cost in five years to finance the construction of an incinerating plant.

The income received for the collection of garbage and ashes is \$32,556, and adding to this, garbage tax levy of \$7,946, we have a total revenue of

\$40,502 for this service, leaving a surplus for the year of \$5,692. This is the first time in many years that the cost of this service has been less than the revenue.

During the year \$11,398 was spent for street repairs, which is considerably less than has ordinarily been expended. However, adding to this an item of \$8,700 for other street expenses, with 10 percent for overhead, and adding \$11,244 paid by the Village in public benefits for street improvements, we have a total of \$33,244 spent on the streets of the Village, as compared with \$30,768 received in vehicle taxes and road and bridge tax.

It is believed that the Village should increase considerably its expenditures for street maintenance during the coming year, laying particular stress on our brick and asphaltic concrete streets, which are in very poor condition, as the result of heavy motor traffic, for which they were never designed. A general program of macadam resurfacing should also be carried out, under the usual plan of depending on abutting property owners to carry a portion of the cost, and it is suggested that the Council give consideration to the feasibility of handling this work by special assessment, under a recent act of the legislature, thereby making certain that all property owners benefited, particularly non-residents, share in the expense. This would relieve the Village of carrying the burden of such property, and make available a corresponding amount for the maintenance of brick and asphaltic concrete pavements.

With regard to brick and asphaltic pavements, it is suggested that a careful study be made of the best method of resurfacing them, under the direction of the village engineer, and that some experimental sections be rebuilt this year, possibly with an asphaltic surface, to determine the best method for the remainder.

Need Traffic Route

The rapid destruction of our light residential pavements can be most effectively retarded by the completion of the through traffic route along the railroad, and it is suggested that every effort be made to complete the section now in court and institute proceedings for the section from Elm street to Tower road, as well as the section in the Manus Indian Hill subdivision, at the earliest possible date.

The completion of the new Village service yard has served to greatly improve the quality and efficiency of the service of the Public Works department, by providing adequate facilities for the storage and maintenance of motor and other equipment, storeroom facilities for supplies and tools and a comfortable and sanitary locker room for the men, by means of a building and yard structure which is not an eye-sore in the neighborhood, but rather an attractive improvement.

During the year, the manager had charge of the work of mosquito abatement, under a citizens' committee appointed by the village president, and the cost of this work was kept within the amount contributed voluntarily by citizens, so that no assistance was needed from Village funds.

Motorize Street Equipment

An important function of the Public Works department is the cleaning of streets, and it is felt that up to this time, the quality of this service has not been up to the other standards of the Village. It has been recommended to the Council and acted on favorably, that a motor driven street cleaning machine be purchased, and it is estimated that with this equipment, we can keep our business and residential streets reasonably clean, at a cost no greater than in the past.

The problem of snow removal during the past year was unusually difficult, due to the large number of ordinary snowstorms and two very heavy snowfalls. The snow plow attachment for plowing street pavements by motor truck, was used for the first time in

several years, with fair results. The plowing of sidewalks by horse drawn plows is becoming less satisfactory every year, due to the refusal of teamsters to get out early in the morning, and it is recommended that an investigation be made of the feasibility of discontinuing the use of horses and the adoption of tractor operated snow plows for side walk work.

A considerable number of sidewalks in the Village are in extremely bad condition, and it is believed that steps should be taken to secure the co-operation of property owners in relaying many of these walks, the Village bearing the cost of sidewalk approaches at intersections.

Obey Zoning Law

The matter of enforcement of the zoning ordinance occupied a considerable amount of the time of the building inspector and also of the Village Manager acting as superintendent of public works, and it is believed that with a few exceptions, the ordinance has been reasonably complied with. I wish to take this opportunity of expressing a word of appreciation of the self-sacrificing public service being rendered by the members of the Zoning Board of Appeals, who are devoting a very considerable amount of time to this work, not only in their capacity as an appeal board on zoning problems, but also as a special board to improve the architecture of buildings in the business and industrial zones of the village.

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