

Candidate Profile – Rob Umans

It has been an honor to have served as your Village Trustee for the past two years. I currently chair the Water and Sewer committee. I also serve on the Protective Services, Street and Highway's and Zoning Board of Appeals committees. I also represent our Village as a director on the GLEA (Geneva Lake Environmental Agency) board.

As your Village Trustee, it is my opinion that the prime responsibilities are Police and Fire protection, EMS service, a balanced Budget as well as make sure that our Water & Sewer infrastructure is dependable and meets today's standards and needs.

It is therefore that as the chair of the Water & Sewer committee I have taken the lead to collect W&S infrastructure data with the objective to put together a sensible plan to address immediate and future infrastructure needs.

The last two years have been very productive in gaining knowledge about the aging condition of our Water and Sewer infrastructure. Doug Snyder (Village engineer – Baxter and Woodman), graciously donated his time and knowledge on many Friday afternoon meetings and he has been a tremendous help with these studies and his recommendations.

We put together a Capital Improvement program and sorted the needed improvements into a systematic approach to be executed in the next 5-10 years.

It was immediately apparent early in 2020 that a conventional Water Rate increase would be needed to pay for the upcoming expenses. In September that year we hired the Baker Tilly company to assist us with the PSC water rate increase application. This application was filed on time on July 30th last year and we expect to receive a formal detailed rate increase confirmation letter from the PSC before the end of March this year. This rate increase is projected to be minimal.

Separately, we will also need a small Sewer rate increase. Route 67 (Elkhorn Road) is scheduled to be redone Spring 2023 and we will need new 12" sewer pipes from the Fire station to the Lions Club Field house.

Impact fees:

The total financial burden of paying for existing water infrastructure upgrades as well as future water infrastructure expansions should not totally fall on just the current water users. Impact fees are calculated against infrastructure improvements that must be built due to new property developments. Our current impact fees date back to 1992 calculations and must be raised.

All increases will need full Village Board approval. Water and Sewer rate increases for current users are projected to be modest. All increases will allow us to borrow funds and start construction.

My plan is to schedule a public meeting this May in the Village Hall to share detailed information about the rate increases and provide you with the projected sequence of upgrades for both Water and Sewer. I encourage you to attend this meeting and share your thoughts and concerns.

In closing, I want to thank you for your continued support and encouragement. It is greatly appreciated.

Rob Umans