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Huntley OKs 2013 budget

HUNTLEY – The Village Board on Thursday put in place what it called a “maintenance budget” for 2013 – much along the lines of the current budget – except for money to extend Kreutzer Road west of Route 47.

Trustees unanimously approved the \$25.8 million budget. It includes a balanced, \$9.16 million operating budget that keeps intact funding for services such as police, public works and administration.

“It’s a maintenance budget, other than continuing our work on major capital projects, like Kreutzer and another payment to the Tollway,” Village Manager Dave Johnson said.

On paper, trustees endorsed a budget that has a \$5.8 million deficit. But it neglects reserve money not yet authorized to cover the Kreutzer Road extension, and the village’s second payment to the Illinois Tollway Authority for the \$69 million interchange project.

The \$5 million Kreutzer Road project has been on the village’s radar for years and represents the only significant infrastructure project in the village’s budget. The road will be extended west of Route 47 and connect to Main Street.

The village is relying on \$1.5 million from McHenry County to finance the extension, which is expected to be out for construction bids in January.

Huntley’s most active and largest portion of the budget – the operating fund – is balanced and factors in about \$610,000 more in revenue than in 2012.

Building activity this year encouraged officials to plan for \$450,000 in permit revenue – nearly \$150,000 more than what was figured for 2012. Construction of the 128-unit Deer Path Supportive Living Center led building activity in Huntley this year and helped boost 2012 permit revenue to \$750,000 – far above the approximately \$300,000 that was anticipated.

Centegra Health System plans to break ground on its new Huntley hospital and Ryland Homes’ ongoing project to transform part of the Talamore subdivision into an active-adult community should drive permit revenue in 2013, budget documents show.

In other business, trustees unanimously approved a four-year agreement with village police that will run from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 2016.

The deal includes incremental raises for officers’ additional experience, starting with 2 percent in 2013 and ending with 2.8 percent in 2016. The 20 union members, including patrol officers and detectives, ratified the agreement Dec. 5.

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