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## **Media Release**

For Immediate Release  
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Media Calls to  
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### **VILLAGE BOARD PASSES ORDINANCE TO RAISE WATER AND SEWER RATES**

#### **Citizens Advisory Committee Recommended Increase to Prevent System Failure and Fund Renewal Projects**

**Franklin Park, IL** – Based on the recommendation of the Citizen’s Advisory Committee on Infrastructure, a nationally recognized consultant and the findings of the Village’s Asset Management Report, the Board of Trustees unanimously approved an ordinance increasing water and sewer rates in Franklin Park.

“Our Asset Management Study detailed that our aging infrastructure requires serious attention and is in danger of failing,” stated Mayor Barrett Pedersen. “It noted the cost to address the severe need for water and sewer repair is approximately \$235 million over the next 30 years. After receiving the recommendation from the committee, we reviewed the Village’s finances and agreed with the committee that water and sewer rates must be increased to fund the renewal projects.”

Village officials also indicate that this action will strengthen the Village eligibility to apply for grant funding to support infrastructure improvements.

Last December, Mayor Pedersen appointed the Citizens Advisory Committee on Infrastructure to review the state of the Village’s water and sewer infrastructure and to make recommendations on a method to fund critical water and sewer needs. The committee felt that without proper

maintenance, replacement and renewal, the system would ultimately fail to deliver clean, safe water to the community.

“No one likes a rate increase”, said Pedersen. “But the Citizens Advisory Committee recommended it because it is the only viable solution to our infrastructure needs. Our residents and businesses are aware of the urgent need to repair, renew and replace our aging infrastructure and believe that we need to prioritize our infrastructure improvements and focus our limited resources accordingly.”

Over 80% of Village residents are in Tier 1, defined as using less than 900 cubic meters of water per month, and will see an average increase of approximately \$14 per month for combined water and sewer. The ordinance includes an affordability program for qualified low income individuals and families that provides for a rate reduction to assist them in paying their water bills.

The committee determined that the Village would actually save substantial amounts of money by addressing the problems now because the problems will only get worse and construction costs will only increase. When maintenance is ignored and upgrades are deferred, the problem is only compounded.

Last year, the City of Chicago drastically increased the rate suburbs pay for water by 94%. All suburbs that rely on Lake Michigan water were forced to pay the increase.

The Village has published tips to help residents to conserve water and therefore save money. Also, residents in single family residences can contact the Department of Public Works to request assistance in finding a water leak in their home which may be inflating their water bill. Residents can email [csliwinski@vofp.com](mailto:csliwinski@vofp.com) to more details.

“The Board, by accepting the recommendations of the Citizens Advisory Committee and addressing our infrastructure problems today, is setting the pace for the future and securing a better tomorrow for our Village,” concluded Pedersen.

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