

**J. MARK ROONEY**  
2 RONAN ROAD · HIGHWOOD · IL · 60040  
847 · 525 · 0829  
jmrooney7@gmail.com

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

### **Village Administrator, Round Lake Beach, IL**

**Sep 2021 - May 2023**

Chief Executive Officer for a suburb located 39 miles north of Chicago with a diverse population of 30,000. FY 2022 overall budget of \$40M, 82 FT and 22 PT employees. Responsible for 5 operating departments.

#### *Accomplishments:*

- Issued \$10M of new debt, at an interest rate of 2.95%, to complete Village goals for infrastructure improvements, primarily replacement of 80 year old water mains.
- Facilitated the completion of a revision to the Village's Building Permits and Code Enforcement process. Created "Get to Yes" vision for staff to implement Village goal of being business friendly.
- Worked with the Village Board and staff to develop a \$1.5M plan, utilizing the American Rescue Plan Act funding to create an outdoor concert venue and renovate the Village Cultural Center.
- Reduced cyber risk by implementing new hardware and software changes along with major changes to protocols for external and internal system access.
- Successfully secured \$2.75M grant from DCEO-STOCIP that will address storm water flooding. Began process to remove impacted taxpayers properties that require FEMA mandated flood insurance.
- Worked with County Administration to implement framework to establish County wide dispatch for Fire/EMS and Police.

### **Town Manager, Westerly, RI**

**May 2018 - Sep 2021**

Chief Executive Officer for a coastal community located 2.5 hours from New York and 1.5 hours from Boston, with a population of 25,000 residents / 50,000+ summer months. Home to magnificent beaches, including Watch Hill. Westerly's thriving tourist economy supplements a healthy mix of commercial and residential tax base exceeding \$6.5B in EAV. Responsible for ten operating departments. FY 2019/20 overall budget \$98M. 180 FT and 70 PT town employees, with an additional 350 school employees.

#### *Accomplishments:*

- Achieved certification in Rhode Island's municipal Resilience Program, a community focused process to assess current hazard and climate change impacts and vulnerabilities, due to storm surge and sea level rise. One of the first three in the state.
- Assisted policy makers in establishing Plastic Committee. Established plastic bag ban by 2020. Became leader in state to reduce use of plastic straws and utensils in all coastal establishments.
- Established Town's first Capital Equipment Replacement Fund (CERF) and other GFOA best management practices to prevent downgrade of Aa2 bond rating.
- Received first GFOA Distinguished Budget award.
- Implemented E-permitting system to reduce zoning and building permit wait time by four weeks for major projects.
- Lead negotiator for all collective bargaining units, Police, Public Works and clerical staff.
- Initiated process to redevelop closed mill site with US EPA grant funding to make site suitable for redevelopment, creating 45 immediate jobs and potential for over 100 jobs by 2022.
- Worked with staff and Town Council to pass a \$15M referendum for infrastructure improvements. Utilized Rhode Island infrastructure bank and saved over \$1M in bond and interest cost over the life of the bond.
- Managed \$15M capital improvements to town roads. Worked out a decade old dispute between the States of Connecticut and Rhode Island to rebuild a bridge destroyed by Hurricane Sandy in 2008.
- Applied and received \$2M federal dollars to dredge sand from inter-coastal pound damaged by Hurricane Sandy to restore salt marsh and provide beach nourishment on Atlantic Ocean beaches.

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#### *Accomplishments:*

- Coordinated the completion of a Harbor Management Plan that had languished for 15 years. Resulted in approval by both the Army Corp of Engineers and the Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management.
- Facilitated an agreement with the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management to improve the management of traffic, parking and trash at state and town beaches utilized by over 10,000 people every weekend from Memorial Day to Labor Day.
- Completed Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Map (1998). State requires every ten years. Last completed in 2006.
- Reorganized Animal Control and Town Dog Pound. Worked collaboratively with nonprofit agencies to reduce operating deficit by \$150K.
- Implemented a third-party billing and scheduling system to reduce police details and overtime by over \$500K in the first year. Increased third-party collections rate by 50%
- Increased grants from less than \$250K to \$2M

#### **Village Manager, Carpentersville, IL**

**Sep 2010 - Jan 2018**

Chief Executive Officer for a suburb located 32 miles northwest of Chicago. 39,000 residents. FY 2017 overall budget of \$65M, 178 FT and 42 PT employees. Responsible for seven operating departments.

#### *Accomplishments:*

- Oversaw the creation of 4 new TIF districts; maintained positive and collaborative intra-governmental relations with impacted tax districts: schools, park and Kane County.
- Negotiated a \$4.3M TIF incentive to bring a \$25M Wal-Mart Super center. (185,000 sq ft and gas station). Generates additional \$1.2M sales tax, \$80K local gas tax and \$650K property tax for the Village.
- Implemented a “priority-based” budget process which resulted in the Village adopting 7 successive balanced budgets with no reduction of service levels and a \$9.7M General Fund balance as of December 2017, a \$6.6M increase from 2010.
- Implemented the reorganization of 9 operating departments to 7 in 2011, resulting in the elimination of 25 full-time and 15 part-time positions resulting in annual savings of \$1M.
- Coordinated the completion of a comprehensive revision of the Village economic development process. Created “Get to Yes” operating slogan to implement Village Board goal of being business friendly.
- Negotiated a new, solid waste contract with a private sector company. Saved the Village \$1M over a 5-year contract term by implementing curbside solid waste and recycling containers.
- Managed the construction of a \$13M, 120,000 sq ft Public Works building and \$2M Village Hall rehab.
- Worked with staff and financial consultants to upgrade the Village’s bond rating to AA2.
- Received the Illinois Public Employer Labor Relations Association 2011 James Baird Leadership Award. One of three communities nationwide to receive the National Public Employer Labor Relations Association 2012 Pacesetter Award for the Village’s leadership and innovation in collective bargaining. Collectively the agreements saved the Village over \$250K by healthcare and step pay plan changes.
- Increased transparency rating by IPI, an independent watchdog agency, from 46% to 96%.
- Negotiated 12 intergovernmental agreements with various government entities.
- Initiated the Village adopting the Greenest Region Compact 2 to address and act on common public policy issues and multi-jurisdictional challenges regarding sustainability and environmental stewardship.

#### **Chief of Staff, North Chicago, IL** (*non-ICMA recognized position*)

**Nov 2009 - Sep 2010**

Chief of Staff for a suburb located 35 miles north of Chicago. Diverse population of 36,000. Home to the Naval Station Great Lakes, Rosiland Franklin Medical Center and Abbott Laboratories. FY 2009/10 overall budget of \$37M. Reduced \$2.3M deficit to \$650K.

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#### **Village Manager, Wheeling, IL**

**Oct 2006 - Oct 2009**

Chief Executive Officer for a suburb located 25 miles northwest of Chicago. 36,000 residents. Extensive industrial and office parks bring the daily population to over 100,000. FY 2008 overall budget of \$96M, 260 FT and 45 PT employees. Municipal board member of the Northwest Water Commission. Representative to Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County, SWANCC. Member of the Board of Directors of the Chicago Executive Airport, the third busiest airport in Illinois.

#### *Accomplishments:*

- Maintained Wheeling's AA+ Fitch Investor Services and S&P AA bond rating.
- Manage the \$25M construction of a 48,000 sq ft Village Hall.
- Demonstrated the cost savings of "Design Build" \$13M, 48,000 sq ft Public Works building; \$6.2M, 24,000 sq ft Fire Headquarters facility; \$5.1M, 48,000 sq ft renovation of Police Station and 911 Center. Total savings exceeded \$3M.
- Implemented two new TIF districts and negotiated an 11-year extension of an expiring TIF.
- Negotiated Village purchase of over 30 retail properties, totaling in excess of \$15M to accomplish downtown redevelopment plan. Increased EAV over \$50M.
- Negotiated with Village of Wheeling Park District and Metropolitan Water Reclamation District for the storage requirement of Levy 37, on the Des Plaines River to prevent regional flooding. Created a Forestry Division within Public Works; Managed by certified arborist.
- Created an Information Technology Department; Implemented GIS via an intergovernmental cooperative agreement with 12 communities.
- Negotiated IGA between Wheeling and the Cook County Forest Preserve to create a unique prairie restoration, canoe launch and bike/jogging trail.

#### **Assistant Village Manager, Wheeling, IL**

**Mar 2003 - Oct 2006**

#### *Accomplishments:*

- Lead negotiator for all collective bargaining agreements (Police, Fire and Public Works).
- Initiated request for a "special census" to ensure recent growth from new construction and annexation would be reflected in state revenue sharing figures and utility taxes. \$3M, 6-year, projected fiscal impact.
- Applied and received \$240K Brownfield Grant from IEPA.
- Negotiated exclusive waste hauler contract. \$175K annual franchise payment to Village.
- Negotiated a \$22M TIF incentive for a \$110M, 412 room Westin Hotel, retail and restaurant complex.

#### **City Administrator, Highwood, IL**

**Feb 1996 - Mar 2003**

First City Administrator in Highwood's 112-year history. Located 28 miles north of Chicago. 5,600 residents. Responsible for all aspects of City administration and policy implementation.

#### *Accomplishments:*

- Redevelopment of Fort Sheridan, a former Army base identified for closure under BRACC in 1988 and closed in 1992. Served as Highwood's chief negotiator in the redevelopment of Fort Sheridan from a former military facility to a premiere residential community. Preservation of unique historical and environmental features, which include 92 buildings listed on the National Historic Register and the restoration and conservation of its natural beauty and 2-miles of public beach access.
- Efforts recognized by the Illinois Planning Association in conjunction with the City Manager of Highland Park. Received award for historic preservation and adaptive reuse.
- Negotiated over 40 intergovernmental and developer agreements. Worked effectively with various levels and departments of government, i.e. Departments of Defense, Army and Navy, U.S. Senate, U.S. Congress, State of Illinois, Lake County, Cities of Highland Park and Lake Forest and 5 nonprofit organizations that held land interest on the closed military base.
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#### *Accomplishments:*

- Managed \$4.9 capital improvements to the City's water treatment plant and associated infrastructure to include a new, 1 million gallon water tower.
- Negotiated model agreements for telecommunication providers, which generated over \$400K annually.
- Improved service by contracting with the City of Lake Forest.

#### **Staff Assistant to Senator Paul Simon**

**June 1992 - Feb 1996**

- Achieved bipartisan consensus to facilitate the passage of Senate and House Bills which resulted in the redevelopment of Joliet Arsenal, Fort Sheridan, Glenview Naval Air Station and Rantoul Air Base.

#### **United States Army Officer, Lieutenant Colonel, Retired**

**Nov 1983 - June 2014**

*Active Duty*

*1983 - 1991*

*Reserve Duty*

*1991 - 2014*

Held positions of leadership and responsibility in domestic and international locations, including Germany, South Korea, East and West Africa. Graduated from military schools with emphasis on leadership, problem solving and cohesive team building skills. Possessed top-secret and compartmental security clearance.

#### **Desert Storm**

**Oct 1990 - June 1991**

*Saudi Arabia, Iraq & Kuwait*

#### **Operation Iraqi Freedom**

**Feb 2005 - June 2006**

*Iraq*

Senior Advisor for Military Transition Team (MiTT)

#### **Awards**

- Awarded the Bronze Star with V-device for valor, Combat Action Badge.

### EDUCATION & CERTIFICATIONS

Graduate of Command & General Staff College, Ft. Leavenworth, KS

*Civilian equivalent to Master Degree in Leadership Management*

Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL

*Completed all coursework for Master of Public Administration*

University of Nebraska, Lincoln, NE

*Bachelor of Science, Economics & History*

### AWARDS

- ILCMA Special Service Award for Service to the Profession.
- Labor Relations and Collective Bargaining:
  - IPELRA - Leadership Award 2011
  - NPELRA - Pacesetter Award 2012