

COLIN BAENZIGER & ASSOCIATES
EXECUTIVE RECRUITING

Section 10

Douglas K. Maxeiner

*Flagler Beach City Manager
Candidate Report*

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Cover Letter and Resume

May 30, 2023

Mr. Ron Williams
Colin Baenziger & Associates
Via email: Recruit37@cb-asso.com

Re: City Manager – Flagler Beach

Mr. Williams:

Please consider this letter as my application for City Manager for Flagler Beach. With 30 years of progressively responsible leadership positions in municipal government and documented accomplishments directly related to the requirements of this position, I am confident in my ability to effectively serve Flagler Beach in this capacity.

From the position profile it appears that the city is looking for an exceptionally well-rounded local government professional that is innovative, strategic, and adaptable while providing steady, consistent leadership in the organization and community. I believe my diverse background in public finance, project management and organizational development along with a track record of building successful relationships with employee groups, elected officials and the public will serve me well in this position.

My management style is highly collaborative and team oriented to tap into the strengths of the organization which I think will mesh well with the Flagler Beach management team. In addition to this team-oriented philosophy, I try to utilize humor and humility to facilitate effective communication. My co-workers and constituents typically find me authentic and approachable when discussing concerns or issues. The City Council and community will appreciate my ability to assess problems quickly and effectively while explaining complex issues succinctly and clearly.

I am at the stage in my career where I am looking for new challenges and feel Flagler Beach could be an excellent fit for my skills and abilities. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you need additional information or if I can be of assistance in any way. I look forward to hearing you.

Sincerely,



Douglas K. Maxeiner

Douglas K. Maxeiner

Mobile (224) 240-8187

4014 River Drive, Moline, IL 61265

email: dkmaxeiner@comcast.net

SUMMARY

Experienced local government professional with documented success in communities ranging in size from 6,000 to 160,000 and expertise in:

- Financial Operations and Budgeting
- Labor Relations
- Organizational Development
- Strategic Planning
- Downtown Redevelopment
- Human Resources
- Risk Management
- Intergovernmental Relations

RELEVANT PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

East Moline, Illinois – City Administrator

2019 – Present

Chief Administrative Officer of an historic community of 21,374 (2020 Census) operating under the Mayor-Aldermanic form of government with a total budget of \$46.1 million in FY 2023 and 170 FTEs. The City of East Moline is a full-service city including library, parks and recreation, police, fire, public works, and sanitary, water, and storm water utilities.

Major Accomplishments:

- Implementation of Priority Based Budgeting system (an ICMA Best Practice) to ensure resources are aligned with City Council priorities and assist in bringing fiscal sustainability to the organization.
- Facilitated the redevelopment of the 132-acre former Case-IH plant into a mixed-use development including hotels, restaurants, residential, office, retail and entertainment uses. The redevelopment has resulted in approximately \$53 million in private investment with another \$10 million planned in 2023.
- Through collective bargaining with Police, Fire and AFSCME, eliminated employer paid retiree health insurance for future employees to reduce OPEB (Other Post Employment Benefit) liabilities.
- Led the City Council through a \$41 million Pension Obligation Bond issuance to stabilize pension cost growth for unfunded pension liabilities.
- Initiated and negotiated an agreement for the sale of 200,000 gallons of water per day as the primary source of water for neighboring communities.

Moline, Illinois – City Administrator

2017 – 2019

Chief Administrative Officer of a community of 43,977 (2010 Census) operating under a hybrid form of government (a mix of Mayor-Aldermanic and Council-Manager forms) with a total budget of \$135 million in FY 2018 and 419 FTEs. Moline is the international headquarters of Deere & Company, the United States headquarters of Kone Corporation, the home of the Quad Cities Campus of Western Illinois University and Black Hawk College. Moline is also the location of the Vibrant Arena at the Mark, a 12,000-seat civic center arena, and the Quad Cities

International Airport. The City of Moline is a full-service city including library, parks and recreation, police, fire, EMS, and sanitary, water, and storm water utilities.

Major Accomplishments:

- Organizational restructuring of Public Safety Departments leading to the appointment of two new Chiefs and a change in recruitment strategies leading to an increase of over 700% in fire candidate testing resulting in the department being fully staffed for the first time in 10 years along with increased diversity.
- In conjunction with Economic Development staff, facilitated \$63 million in private investment in Moline in 2017-18.
- Identified grants and implemented funding strategies for body worn cameras for the Police Department implemented in 2018.
- Chairman of the Board of Directors implementing a consolidation of three public safety answering points (emergency dispatch centers) into the QComm911 Center that began operations in January 2019.
- Changed the personnel policies and procedures for the City's non-contract employees making new hires "At-Will" employees and moving from a flat anniversary increase to a performance-based compensation system.

Wauconda, Illinois – Village Administrator

2013-2017

Chief Administrative Officer and Finance Director for Wauconda, IL which serves as a year-round recreation destination in the Chicago metro area. Position is responsible for all administrative aspects of service delivery including financial planning and reporting, human resources, risk management, labor relations, economic development, and media/public relations for a local government with approximately 60 employees and a total budget of \$23.6 million including \$9.3 in the General Fund and \$5.5 million in capital projects (FY 16/17).

Major Accomplishments:

- Successfully led organizational efforts to approve a multi-jurisdiction, \$47 million capital project to bring Lake Michigan water to the community through a cost sharing agreement with neighboring entities.
- Implemented a "Pay-As-You-Go" capital equipment funding plan virtually eliminating debt for equipment/vehicles (\$1.5 million reduction (96%) in three years). Through restructuring and refinancing, reduced long term debt obligations of the Village by nearly 26% (\$6.5 million) in preparation for the Lake Michigan Water capital project.
- Prepared and presented an operational and financial analysis showing savings of approximately \$400,000 annually through consolidated emergency dispatch services with no reduction of services to the community. Spearheaded the public information campaign and led the Village Board through deliberations with consistent, patient leadership resulting in approval and transition to consolidated dispatch in May of 2016. Consolidation saved approximately \$485,000 in FY 2018.
- Facilitated a strategic planning process with numerous stakeholder groups and the Village Board to develop unanimous consensus on strategic goals for the Village.
- Led the Village Board through team building and governance effectiveness sessions to increase trust, overcome differences and establish mutual expectations.

Hampshire, Illinois - Village Administrator

2011-2013

Chief Administrative Officer for a small municipal government serving a rapidly growing community in the Chicago metro area. Position was responsible for hands-on service delivery in land planning and zoning, organizational development, financial planning and reporting, human resources, and risk management for a local government with 21 full time employees and a total budget of \$10 million for all funds (FY 13/14).

Major Accomplishment:

- Salvaged two defunct residential developments through negotiated settlements with insurance companies, banks, SSA bondholders, county government, and developers to complete unfinished public improvements, eliminate over two million dollars in delinquent taxes, and facilitate the sale of vacant lots. In 2013, over 70 building permits were issued in these developments resulting in the addition of an estimated \$19 million in construction value.

City of McHenry, Illinois - City Administrator

2002–2010

Chief Administrative Officer for a rapidly growing, home rule community of 27,500 which serves as a shopping, employment and recreation destination for the region. Provided leadership and management for a staff of 150+ employees with a budget of \$34.4 million (all funds in 2010) with primary responsibilities in organizational and employee development, risk management, labor relations, economic development, downtown redevelopment, and intergovernmental relations.

Major Accomplishments:

- Developed the strategy and financing plan for the McHenry Riverwalk and oversaw the design and construction of the first phase of the project, a cornerstone of the downtown redevelopment strategy. The Riverwalk and redevelopment plan encouraged over \$24 million in private investment in the downtown area in the first four years following creation of the TIF District.
- Proposed, executed and managed the \$4.5 million purchase and renovation of a 110,000 square foot vacant warehouse for use as a Public Works Garage saving an estimated \$10 to \$13 million compared to new construction.
- Reduced personnel by 21 positions from 2006 to 2010 saving over \$1.5 million in annual payroll at the height of the Great Recession using organizational restructuring, elimination of vacant positions, early retirement incentives, and reductions in force with minimal impact on services to the public.
- Negotiated a 20-year economic incentive agreement with one of the city's largest sales tax producers keeping the auto dealer in McHenry, protecting \$500,000 in annual sales taxes and encouraging the expansion of the dealership creating jobs and additional property tax revenue.

Section 10

Assistant City Administrator (McHenry, IL)

1999–2002

Assistant Chief Administrative Officer with primary responsibility for developing and implementing financial management, human resource, collective bargaining and risk management policies and procedures.

Major Accomplishments:

- Project leader on the successful establishment of City's first TIF District for downtown redevelopment.
- Designed and implemented a compensation plan that formally created pay grades and classifications for non-contract employees and established parameters for movement within grades.

City of Rockford, Illinois - Central Services Manager

1996–1999

Division Manager in Finance Department providing support services in areas of budget development and implementation (\$150 million budget), capital project financing, centralized purchasing, risk management, collective bargaining, and information technology services.

Sr. Budget/Risk Analyst (City of Rockford)

1993–1996

Marzullo Fellow – State of Illinois

1989–1990

EDUCATION

MA - Public Administration
Northern Illinois University

MA Political Science
Eastern Illinois University

BA Political Science
Eastern Illinois University

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- International City Management Association (ICMA)
- Illinois City/County Management Association (ILCMA)

COMMUNITY SERVICE AND ORGANIZATIONS

- Board of Directors and Executive Board – Q2030
- Board of Directors – Quad Cities Chamber of Commerce
- Multistate P-25 Public Safety Radio Project Steering Committee
- Quad Cities First – Board of Directors/Treasurer 2017-19
- Board of Directors – Quad Cities Civic Center Authority 2017-19
- Board of Directors – Qcomm911 2017-Present (Chair 2017-2019)
- Advisory Board – Two Rivers YMCA
- Representative – Chicago 2016 Olympic Planning Committee - Metropolitan Mayor's Caucus 2007-09
- Strategic Planning Task Force – Elementary School District #15 2009
- East Moline Rotary 2021-Present

Candidate Introduction

Douglas K. Maxeiner

EDUCATION

Master of Public Administration, Northern Illinois University.
Master of the Arts, Political Science, Eastern Illinois University.
Bachelor of the Arts, Political Science, Eastern Illinois University.

EXPERIENCE

City Administrator, City of East Moline, IL	2019 – Present
City Administrator, City of Moline, IL	2017 – 2019
Village Administrator, Village of Wauconda, IL	2013 – 2017
Village Administrator, Village of Hampshire, IL	2011 – 2013
City Administrator, City of McHenry, IL	2002 – 2010
City Administrator, City of Marengo, IL	2002
Assistant City Administrator, City of McHenry, IL	1999 – 2002
Central Services Manager, City of Rockford, IL	1996 – 1999
Budget/Risk Analyst, City of Rockford, IL	1993 – 1996
Administrative Intern, Village of Bartlett, IL	1990 – 1991
Administrative Intern, City of Decatur, IL	1985

BACKGROUND

East Moline is one of the original Quad Cities (along with Rock Island and Moline, Illinois and Davenport, Iowa) located in western Illinois approximately two hours from Chicago. The Quad Cities metro area, including Bettendorf, Iowa, the fifth and fastest growing member of the “Quad Cities” has a population of approximately 450,000. East Moline, population 21,374, has historically been dependent on agricultural equipment manufacturing with a large John Deere Harvester Works plant located in the city along with several former agricultural implement manufacturers now closed including the Case/International Harvester plant. Many ancillary businesses in East Moline serve Harvester Works or one of the other Deere plants in the metro area. The four decades prior to 2017 were difficult in East Moline with a dwindling manufacturing sector and little else driving the economy.

Starting in 2017, East Moline initiated a public/private partnership to redevelop a 275 former manufacturing plant along the Mississippi River into an adaptive, multiuse development including hotels, restaurants, residential and commercial development call “The Bend.” In my tenure with East Moline we have opened new restaurants, an event center, apartment buildings, and a new 100,000 square foot XPO Center to this area bringing in over a million dollars in tax increment financing revenue annually. The Bend, along with another adaptive reuse of an old automobile manufacturing facility (The Rust Belt), has now made East Moline a go-to location for performing arts, entrepreneurial start-ups, and creative events.

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East Moline has a total budget of \$46.5 million and a General Fund budget of \$15.5 million for fiscal year 2023. The organization employs approximately 160 employees providing Police, Fire, Public Works, Engineering, utilities (Water, Sewer, Drainage), Inspections (building, plumbing, electrical, and health), Parks and Recreation, and Library services along with the support services provided by Human Resources, Administration and Finance. As City Administrator, I directly supervised 11 department heads and two administrative support staff.

The three most important issues facing East Moline are:

- Financial sustainability. Over the last several decades, revenues have declined consistently, and the organization has become more dependent on property taxes while service demands are increasing along with expenses. In particular, unfunded liabilities for statutorily mandated police and fire pensions are diverting a larger share of operating revenues annually.
- Enforcement of property standards. The housing stock in East Moline is fairly aged and the economic struggles of the community over the past several decades has resulted in neglect of property maintenance and standards. The city will need to increase resources channeled to property standards enforcement to arrest the decline of the neighborhoods and maintain or improve the quality of life within these neighborhoods.
- Changing the organizational culture. East Moline has not had a history of strong management or leadership over the years. Department heads have been allowed to work independently on their specific departmental goals while ignoring larger organizational objectives. While some progress has been made in this area, improvement is needed to reach a managerial team approach to operating this municipal organization.

GENERAL MANAGEMENT STYLE AND EXPERIENCE

Flagler Beach and northeast Florida in general is attractive to me for several reasons. I find the “old Florida” nature of Flagler Beach refreshing and a good fit for my tastes. While some development is inevitable and perhaps for the betterment of the community, the commitment to resist “over-developing” the coastline fits well with my personal and professional ethos. From a professional perspective, there are upcoming projects on the city’s horizon that will be meaningful for the community’s future such as the addition of the hotel and the pier replacement and, perhaps most importantly, preparing the community to face climate change. In my career, I seek out meaningful, interesting work and these projects fit that bill.

While my management style will typically be collaborative seeking input on important decisions from a variety of sources, my style changes depending on the circumstances. In some instances, there may be time constraints preventing collaboration or opinion seeking. In some instances, a department head may be headed in a wrong direction and a strict authoritarian style is called for. With newer employees there will likely be a coaching style making sure they are gathering the

Douglas K. Maxeiner

correct information and considering important variables before a decision is made. The important thing is to make sure that everyone is on the same page and working toward the same goal.

My staff would likely say that I am not a micromanager and that I give them room to manage their departments. In addition, I support them when needed but challenge them as well. Most employees would suggest that I am authentic in my style and open to two-way communication.

My elected officials would likely say that I am typically well prepared and do a good job at keeping them out of trouble. In addition, I will tell my elected officials no when needed followed by reasoning why that particular path or decision should not be pursued. They would say I'm professional and that I am adept at cutting through the noise to highlight what is really important.

My strengths are my ethics, creativity, my broad knowledge base, my strategic approach to decisions and interpersonal communications among others. In my 30+ year career, there have been occasions when an elected official or a member of the community has asked me to turn a blind eye or to do something that is inappropriate. I have been consistent in holding my values and norms to a high level and resisted these attempts. In addition, humility is an important quality. My favorite saying is this profession is that there are two types of City Managers: those that humble and those that are about to be.

As a creative, big picture person, I will occasionally miss a detail or two and I rarely get bogged down in the details. I like to put conceptual plans in place and rely on other to fill in some of the details. Some may say that I give my department heads too much room and freedom to run their department. I often say that I give them room to do their job until I have reason not to.

Decision making requires data and I try to gather the data available to make decisions and to evaluate them moving forward. I'll share a couple of examples. During my tenure in Moline, the Community and Economic Development Department worked on a video to improve resident perceptions of city services. I asked the staff how we would gauge if the video was a success if we didn't have a baseline measurement to start. I suggested a community survey to get this benchmark before gauging the success of the video. A second example is the recruiting for firefighter positions. I gauged how well our recruitment efforts were being received by comparing year over year data on testing and applications and also comparing this data to our neighboring communities.

In a 30+ year career, there are dozens of success stories that have been gratifying and rewarding. For example, I have twice spearheaded efforts to consolidate emergency 911 functions of multiple agencies into one efficient, effective dispatch center. In Wauconda, an unpopular Mayor attempted to consolidate dispatch services before I started with the organization. The community resisted loudly. After I joined the City, I was able, through public meetings and presentations and "hand holding" with the community, to encourage the City Council to unanimously decide to contract with a neighboring community for the service to save nearly \$500,000 annually. The second example involved the consolidation of four agencies in one, independent dispatch center.

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As the Chairman of the Board for the dispatch agency for the first four years of its existence, it was extremely rewarding to see this state of the art, next generation dispatch center up and running.

There have also been some outcomes that have been less than positive. As City Administrator in McHenry, my community was faced with an ill-advised, extremely large residential development in an adjoining town that would negatively impact nearly all aspects of our city. The potential development was in need of water and sewer utilities, and I felt my community was in the best position to offer those services. During discussions on utilities, I took a strong stand with the developer in an attempt to mitigate those negative impacts. I overplayed my position, and the developer pursued an alternative action. Unfortunately, that development and the negative impacts from it are coming to fruition today. Since that time, I have always tried to more fully evaluate my position in a negotiation and to approach it with a more moderate position.

As a chief administrative officer for multiple organizations, I have had to terminate numerous employees. In some cases, the employees were fired for malicious activity such as stealing from the organization. In those instances, I had no regrets on the action. In other cases, employees were terminated for under performing or not performing their job. Many of these situations came about after trying performance improvement programs and giving the employees multiple opportunities to succeed. One particular Department Head was let go after working with him for a lengthy period to address performance. The employee was talented and certainly capable of doing the job well, but we couldn't correct the issues satisfactorily which was disheartening.

In my opinion, the challenges facing the next City Manager of Flagler Beach are:

- Initially engaging and connecting with the community and elected officials to determine strategic goals and direction.
- Climate change related sea level rise and working with other entities in the region to identify and move toward solutions.
- Project management including pier replacement and beach replenishment.
- Mitigate the impacts of the new hotel.

If I am successful in becoming Flagler Beach's next City Manager, the first six months will involve a great deal of listening to the elected officials, the community and employees. It will be important to make sure that I am on the same page as the elected officials with regard to the strategic goals of the organization.

Regarding my efforts to work with the media, I have tried to treat reporters with respect and help them do their job. In return, I expect to be treated with respect as well. There is nothing in my background that would be an embarrassment if reported in the local media.

Douglas K. Maxeiner

In my current position, we hired a communications company to provide our social media presence. The strategy has produced mixed results. An assessment of strengths and weaknesses of employees would be important before preparing a social media strategy in a new position.

It is well known in my current community and organization that I am retiring from the Illinois municipal retirement system on August 31st, 2023. At that time, I will have 30 years in the retirement system. For those closest to me, it will be no surprise that I am seeking employment outside the state of Illinois. I do not expect any critical comments from community activists or others regarding my candidacy in Flagler Beach. I think my success in East Moline has been well respected and broadly admired by the majority of the community and by my peers in the area.

In my leisure time, I train for long distance cycling events. In fact, I am scheduled to ride in the 50th Anniversary RAGBRAI (Registers Annual Great Bike Ride Across Iowa) during the last week of July.

SIX ADJECTIVES OR PHRASES I WOULD USE TO DESCRIBE MYSELF

- Authentic
- Innovative
- Strategic
- Ethical
- Professional
- Humble

REASON FOR WANTING TO LEAVE CURRENT JOB

As mentioned above, I have announced my retirement from the Illinois municipal retirement system (in good standing) on August 31st and am looking for a new opportunity.

CURRENT MOST RECENT SALARY

My current salary at East Moline is \$163,000.

CB&A Background Checks

**Background Check Summary for
DOUGLAS "DOUG" KENT MAXEINER**

Criminal Records Checks:

Nationwide Criminal Records Search	No Records Found
County	
Rock Island County, IL	No Records Found
Lake County, IL	No Records Found
Kane County, IL	No Records Found
McHenry County, IL	No Records Found
State	
Illinois	No Records Found

Civil Records Checks:

County	
Rock Island County, IL	No Records Found
Lake County, IL	No Records Found
Kane County, IL	No Records Found
McHenry County, IL	No Records Found
Federal	
Illinois	No Records Found

Motor Vehicle	
Illinois	No Records Found

Credit	Excellent
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Personal Bankruptcy	No Records Found
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Sex Offender Registry	Not Listed
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Education	Confirmed
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Employment	Confirmed
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Social Media	Nothing of Concern Found
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**Background Check Summary for
DOUGLAS "DOUG" KENT MAXEINER**

Under the Fair Credit Reporting Act, 15 U.S.C. 1681-1681Y, credit and bankruptcy information are very sensitive and should not be used in the consideration of hiring. The information is included for each candidate because we do not want you to be surprised if third parties raise what they consider to be a concern. Also, some states have limited the reporting to seven years, so any records older than that will not be available in those states. In addition, motor vehicle reports are limited to three to seven years, depending on the state.

**Background Check Summary for
DOUGLAS "DOUG" KENT MAXEINER
Personal Disclosure**

Name of Applicant: _____

The following questions are designed so that we will be able to make full disclosure to our client concerning your background. Please answer them honestly. Cutting corners or misrepresenting your past will result in you being eliminated from all further searches conducted by this firm. We understand that frivolous charges are sometimes made and that charges do not mean you were guilty. We also understand that you may have been wronged and needed to seek compensation. The bottom line is that we want to be certain that our client is fully informed. If you have any questions, please contact us for clarification.

Please explain any yes answers on a separate sheet of paper.

1. Have you ever been charged or convicted of a felony?
Yes No
2. Have you ever been accused of or have been involved in a domestic violence or abuse incident?
Yes No
3. Have you ever declared bankruptcy or been an owner in a business that did so?
Yes No
4. Have you ever been the subject of a civil rights violation complaint that was investigated or resulted in a lawsuit?
Yes No
5. Have you ever been the subject of a sexual harassment complaint that was investigated or resulted in a lawsuit?
Yes No
6. Have you ever been charged with driving while intoxicated?
Yes No
7. Have you ever sued a current or former employer?
Yes No
8. Please list links to all your social media accounts (Facebook / Instagram / LinkedIn / Twitter, etc.) and your personal web page if you have one. Facebook = Doug Maxeiner; Instagram = @dougmaxeiner; twitter = @dkmaxeiner; LinkedIn = Doug Maxeiner, MPA
9. Is there anything else in your background that, if made public, would cause you, our client or our firm embarrassment if it came to light through the press or any other mechanism?
Yes No
10. Please provide a list of any lawsuits in which you are or have been a party either as plaintiff or defendant.
None

Attested to: Doug K. Maxeiner
Signature of Applicant

Please email this form via PDF DOCUMENT to Monique@cb-asso.com or via fax to (561) 621-5965 no later than 5:00 PM MST 06/14/2023.
(Note: Please be sure to sign the form with your actual signature if you are sending Fax or PDF Document)

CB&A Reference Notes

Reference Notes
Douglas Maxeiner

Steve Seiver – Village Administrator, City of Milan, IL 309-236-8406

Mr. Maxeiner and Mr. Seiver have known each other since approximately 2016. The Quad city region created a unique environment where Milan, Moline, and East Moline worked together in many interoperations in areas of public safety and technology. From their years of collaboration, Mr. Maxeiner's tremendous insight was apparent and valuable.

Analyzing and reading every angle of an issue was an immediate priority of Mr. Maxeiner. He filtered what was important and needed to be addressed first from opportunities, difficulties, staffing, policies, and projects. His skills in identifying and assessing paired very well with his soft skills of managing with guidance, collaboration, and consensus building. Interacting with board members or residents of his own city, or any of the Quad Cities, he understood what information would be needed, and at what stage to provide it. His ability to communicate clearly and appropriately within the timeline was extremely valuable in interoperations.

In Moline Mr. Maxeiner inherited an intergovernmental agreement to close three 911 centers, one of which was in his community, and build a new center in Rock Island, Mr. Seiver's community. Mr. Maxeiner was selected to chair the project. He quickly came up to speed and navigated the complications that arose because politicians wanted to leverage the situation to benefit themselves or their communities. Existing dispatchers were also fearful of how the change would impact their employment. He took the varied interests of employees, politicians, existing dispatch groups, and residents and built consensus in creating a state-of-the-art 911 Dispatch Center.

When it comes to finance, Mr. Maxeiner has a strong grasp of principles and concepts. He had the ability to recollect minute details which helped reduce time spent reviewing files. He communicated the details very well during bond and budget meetings.

In Moline, Mr. Maxeiner was faced with strong personalities on the city council and navigated landmines every day. After only two short years, he and many other staff members left due to the unrealistic expectations of the city council members. Mr. Maxeiner was affected both physically and mentally. Despite the toll taken on him, he demonstrated his conviction in high moral standards. He was immediately offered a position in East Moline because of how highly regarded he was. He left with professionalism, integrity, and resolve. When he started his position in East Moline, Moline's neighbor, he continued to work with Moline with professionalism. He modeled that public service should be valued over career advancement.

Mr. Seiver highly recommends Mr. Maxeiner. Mr. Seiver knows of no existing controversies in Mr. Maxeiner's background that would make anyone uncomfortable or concerned. He is a man of high caliber, integrity, and valuable soft skills. He will be an asset in any community.

Reference Notes
Douglas Maxeiner

Words or phrases used to describe Douglas Maxeiner:

- Astute,
- Knowledgeable,
- Effective,
- Loyalty,
- Integrity, and
- Perseverant.

Strengths: He has the soft skills needed to lead others and achieve a consensus.

Weaknesses: None identified.

Lincoln Knight – Former Trustee and Mayor, Village of Wauconda, IL 847-452-9062

Mr. Knight has known Mr. Maxeiner since approximately 2015. They met when Mr. Knight was a trustee and Mr. Maxeiner was the Village Administrator. Mr. Knight also served as the Mayor during Mr. Maxeiner's tenure. Mr. Maxeiner served as the calm voice when there was turmoil. He handles disputes professionally and calmly.

Large meetings were held at a local cafeteria because the Chambers could not fit over 100 individuals. When the Mayor lost control of these meetings, individuals felt they could stand freely and speak out of turn, Mr. Maxeiner mediated. On one occasion the Mayor was presenting the idea of outsourcing their 911 dispatch center to a neighboring town to reduce their costs. Many did not like this idea and tried speaking over the mayor. Once Mr. Maxeiner stepped in to explain the objectives, and details, and answer questions, the residents left calmer and more informed. The 911 dispatch center now saves approximately \$300,000 yearly.

Mr. Maxeiner was fiscally savvy, outsourcing the 911 dispatch center to save community dollars is a great example. He jumped into budget meetings with or without the finance director. When wells became contaminated, bringing fresh water to the community was going to cost \$50 million dollars and take multiple years. The staff brought many ideas and perspectives to the Board, but they only considered one solution, which was to purchase water from the Central Lake County Joint Action Water Agency (CLCJAWA). Unfortunately, the Mayor had previously insulted the Chair of the CLCJAWA and the agency did not approve their request for water. Mr. Maxeiner repaired the relationship and helped the city gain approval. The project involved many steps in which he was instrumental. He allocated resources and completed the project under budget.

Mr. Knight knows of nothing in Mr. Maxeiner's background that would cause concern or controversy. He is a trustworthy man who knows how municipalities work and can resolve the issues that occur.

Reference Notes
Douglas Maxeiner

Words or phrases used to describe Douglas Maxeiner:

- Professional,
- Dedicated,
- Missed,
- Driven,
- Good listener, and
- Responsive.

Strengths: Knowledgeable in his field.

Weaknesses: None identified.

Sarah Watson – Reporter, Quad City Times, IA 563-349-7294

Ms. Watson has known Mr. Maxeiner since 2021. She reported on East Moline’s City Council meetings, financial budgets, and infrastructure for about a year. Compared to other city administrators she had interviewed in the past, who often were defensive, Mr. Maxeiner was level-headed, professional, and open to questions.

Mr. Maxeiner’s thoroughness reflected his strong work ethic. He updated Councilmembers during meetings. He provided up-to-date memos with documents and pictures to both the Council and the media. He was thorough and very easy to work with. He was soft-spoken yet confident and professional in interviews.

Mr. Maxeiner was very clear and detailed when complex stories were being reported on. The city was considering going out to bond for police pensions. Mr. Maxeiner explained the pension fund details and their sustainability for the future, manufacturing disputes, and future infrastructure plans, and did so in a way that she could understand.

In 2021, East Moline received a downgraded credit score. One reason for the downgrade was a deficiency in their police and fire pension fund. The City either had to freeze the pensions of police officers and firemen or borrow federal funds. In the end, \$49 million in bonds were used to pay pension liabilities. Mr. Maxeiner ensured that financial operations were and are stabilizing.

Under his tenure, Mr. Maxeiner led the city to apply for a very competitive federal department of transportation grant of \$24 million. The new streetscaping will allow the public to walk between the Bend which is a restaurant and event center, the City’s Main Street, and The Rest Belt which is a concert venue. This project, made possible by the grant obtained by Mr. Maxeiner, will improve connectivity and pedestrian safety between East Moline’s most popular attractions.

Reference Notes
Douglas Maxeiner

Ms. Watson is not aware of any conduct in Mr. Maxeiner's past or present that would cause concern. He was the calmest person in government that Ms. Watson has known. He was unique in his calmness and level-headedness when speaking about tough questions and issues. He delivered his prepared responses with a steady tone. His interactions and demeanor amidst controversy reflect his nature to lead. She highly recommends him.

Words or phrases used to describe Douglas Maxeiner:

- Calm,
- Thorough,
- Softspoken,
- Responsive,
- Confident, and
- Levelheaded.

Strengths: Always professional, knowledgeable, and thorough.

Weaknesses: Prior to working for East Moline, Mr. Maxeiner worked for Moline. In a short period of time, he and many other staff members left Moline abruptly and without explanation.

Rhea Oakes – Alderman, City of East Moline, IL 309-738-6859

Ms. Oakes has known Mr. Maxeiner since approximately 2019. He was professional, honest, to the point, stayed in his lane, knew his responsibilities, and always told the truth.

Communication is a strength of Mr. Maxeiner. When talking about the requirements within state and local government, and where funds needed to be allocated, he communicated with clarity so the public could vote with a knowledge of the subject. He was very mindful of the budget because he recognizes that the money comes from the community. He was very fiscally responsible.

The hiring process Mr. Maxeiner utilized was team based to provide various perspectives. He kept candidates informed of the process. He backed up all of his decisions, even when the hire did not work out. He accepted and respected perimeters.

Mr. Maxeiner managed people very well, related with the community, and was the epitome of being both tough and understanding. At community meetings or events, he gave the limelight to others, he was humble and understood that his job was not to be center stage. When an individual or business problem arose, he faced the vocal and hostile environment with a calm demeanor. For example, when individuals became hostile over how an outside property was maintained, he immediately addressed the issue while using the correct process. He was very knowledgeable about the steps and timeline to go through the city and the court system to resolve conflict.

Reference Notes
Douglas Maxeiner

Words or phrases used to describe Douglas Maxeiner:

- Strong minded,
- Honest,
- Works well with the public,
- Sincere,
- Good humor, and
- Patient.

Strengths: He is an organized communicator, communicates what is most pertinent, and communicates honestly to the community.

Weaknesses: Mr. Maxeiner has a softness about him. He tried to communicate everything so effectively and when something was not understood he was disappointed that he did not manage to communicate everything right the first time.

Chuck Black – Former Trustee, Village of Wauconda, IL 847-815-3009

Mr. Black has known Mr. Maxeiner since 2013 when Mr. Maxeiner was the Village Administrator. The former mayor had their own agenda which proved very difficult for the city. Despite the difficulties, Mr. Maxeiner demonstrated an excellent job performance.

Mr. Maxeiner's strength is working with others. Just like Phil Jackson, a past coach of the Bulls, he brought the people together. He attended farmers' markets, commerce and business meetings and other events to be present in the community. When Wauconda was in need of clean water, the city passed a referendum to access a pipeline that provided clean drinking water from Lake Michigan. Mr. Maxeiner worked as a buffer between a Mayor who was not supportive of the project, Boards, and other stakeholders until the referendum was passed and the residents had access to clean water.

Mr. Maxeiner was incredibly innovative and proactive. He came into the position with the idea to refinance bonds at a lower rate to save money. The proposal was passed before the deadline which speaks to his knowledge of timing and the process. They worked on many ordinances together. Mr. Maxeiner had the idea to refine the number of liquor licenses and simplify the applicable ordinances from 16 to 5. Section by section, he worked with the trustees to refine and adjust the ordinances which then improved the functionality of the city.

Mr. Black is not aware of any misconduct or controversy in Mr. Maxeiner's background. Mr. Black highly recommends Mr. Maxeiner for the job because he related to people, and they related to him. Any community would be lucky to have him.

Reference Notes
Douglas Maxeiner

Words or phrases used to describe Douglas Maxeiner:

- Failure is not an option,
- Amazing,
- Hard working,
- Diligent,
- Trustworthy, and
- Approachable.

Strengths: He was everything everyone needed him to be and was always present during emergencies. Trustworthy.

Weaknesses: None identified.

Reggie Freeman – Mayor, City of East Moline, IL 309-721-7635

Mr. Freeman has known Mr. Maxeiner since approximately 2018. Mr. Maxeiner performed 90% higher than any past administrator. He is an excellent manager.

Mayor Freeman put all confidence in Mr. Maxeiner to handle the hiring and he does not disappoint. He recognizes direction, is innovative, and performs very well. His financial background allows him to lead the yearly budget process with confidence and accountability. He is driven to learn more. He belongs to the International City Management Association (ICMA).

When presented with complaints, Mr. Maxeiner handled them fairly and equitably. On one occasion, their insurance carrier rejected a claim for water damage that had occurred in a municipal building. Mr. Maxeiner provided funding to cover what the insurance would not pay, so that the damage could be repaired.

Projects are taken one step at a time and Mr. Maxeiner does not jump in blind. Rather, he researches the matter, analyzes all angles, and forms multiple solutions for the elected body to consider. He plans the process well to alleviate stress along the way.

Moline's council approved a radio system and agreements with several cities for radio service shortly after Mr. Maxeiner's arrival. He tried to explain the length and expenses of such a project. Despite the tension, Mr. Maxeiner stood his ground and proved to be a person of reason. He does not waver amidst the controversies. He has no controversies in his background.

Mayor Freeman recommends Mr. Maxeiner because he is extremely professional, and he focuses on public relations.

Reference Notes
Douglas Maxeiner

Words or phrases used to describe Douglas Maxeiner:

- Professional,
- Detailed,
- Public relations,
- Mindful,
- Considerate, and
- Fiscally mindful.

Strengths: Extremely knowledgeable of government.

Weaknesses: None identified.

Madrina Wilson – CEO, Quad City Chamber of Commerce, IL 563-322-1706

Ms. Wilson has known Mr. Maxeiner since 2019. He follows through and is thoughtful in the process. He is a soft-spoken individual and when he speaks, people listen.

Mr. Maxeiner has always demonstrated a positive attitude. He gives quality feedback to help those in leadership roles and knows how to lead from behind instead of micromanaging. He mentored newly elected officials by anticipating their questions, open communication, and listening before responding. He provided perspective without alienating anyone in the process. He ensured there was space for all perspectives.

Mr. Maxeiner was very thoughtful when directing meetings. In quarterly meetings with Ms. Wilson's staff, Mr. Maxeiner always acknowledged perspectives. He redirected if the conversation was going down a path that would not support the objective and goal. In meetings with nonprofits, he knew what the responsibility of the government was and did not overpromise or overextend. He has a great ability to bring people together.

Financially, Mr. Maxeiner had a great skillset. He provided governance, asked critical questions, and led the charge on determining how dollars would be spent.

Ms. Wilson recommends Mr. Maxeiner because he is a willing collaborator and holds space for differing perspectives with respect and dignity.

Words or phrases used to describe Douglas Maxeiner:

- Thoughtful,
- Pensive,
- Intentional,
- Strategic, and
- Willing partner.

Reference Notes
Douglas Maxeiner

Strengths: Strategic, patient, calculated.

Weaknesses: None identified.

Jamie Wilkey – Former Auditor, Hampshire, Lauterbach and Amen, IL 630-209-1035

Ms. Wilkey has known Mr. Maxeiner since 2011. They spent limited time together but have worked closely over the years in Hampshire, Wauconda, and East Moline. As Mr. Maxeiner has progressed through different positions in different cities, he has consistently used her auditing firm to help the City he is working for.

The City of Hampshire was brought into the current century through Mr. Maxeiner's guidance. He is a team player with the capability to foster momentum in a community. He leads with a team approach and brings together strengths and personalities. In East Moline he used the auditing firm to move the community forward. Prior to his arrival, East Moline did not have the expertise and depth of experience. Now, the city has access to experts to improve its financial capabilities.

Being consistent with his actions is one of Mr. Maxeiner's strengths. He is receptive to suggestions and makes the changes necessary to improve how the organization operates. He is very aware of how money is used and the ripple effect that government decisions have. Compared to the other 125+ managers that Ms. Wilkey works with, he is one of the top administrators. He has a solid financial base and the skill set to understand forecasting and budgets.

Ms. Wilkey is not aware of anything controversial in Mr. Maxeiner's background or conduct. She recommends him because he consistently demonstrates his ability to lead a team and keep the organization focused on goals and objectives.

Words or phrases used to describe Douglas Maxeiner:

- Experienced,
- Fiscally savvy,
- Peacemaker,
- Team player,
- Creates positive momentum, and
- Change is not just for change alone.

Strengths: His knowledge and ability to lead a team.

Weaknesses: None identified.

Prepared by: Liliana Sessions, Colin Baenziger & Associates

Section 10

CB&A Internet Research

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Douglas K. Maxeiner
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Quad City Times (IA)
May 17, 2023

Police raid house where 15 people were squatting with nine dogs

Author: Thomas Geyer

Agents with the Quad City Metropolitan Enforcement Group seized guns and meth and arrested three men from an East Moline home early Wednesday where 15 people and nine dogs had been living amid refuse and trash both inside and outside the home.

Neighbors have complained about the problem home, and city officials have been pursuing legal means to condemn the property at 724 20th Ave., East Moline City Administrator **Doug Maxeiner** said. "We first became aware of the condition of the property about nine months ago, in August and September of 2022," **Maxeiner** said. "It's a bank-owned property that hired a management company to oversee the property," he added. "So we were trying to get with somebody to get this thing resolved."

Bank officials told East Moline that nothing could be done about the property until everyone living there was evicted, **Maxeiner** said. "It took forever," he said. "We had an eviction hearing scheduled for May 26. I don't know what the status of that is at this point. "Our police department has fielded in excess of 100 calls to the property since January of 2022," he added. The water and sewer had been turned off to the house, he said. "We've been pursuing a search warrant for public health reasons, but today's search warrant on the criminal activity took care of that," **Maxeiner** said. As of about noon on Wednesday, three truckloads of refuse had been removed from the property, particularly the back yard, and about that much remained Wednesday evening, he said. "The interior is just as bad as the outside," he added.

People had been living in the garage as well as inside the home. **Maxeiner** said the city would go after the bank to help pay for some or all of the cleanup. "East Moline police are glad this property is contained," he said. "The neighborhood has to be breathing a little easier. We felt very sorry for them, but we had to stay within the bounds of the law and we were finally able to get some progress today." Agencies were trying to line up shelters for the other people who were evicted from the property, **Maxeiner** said. "Most of them were homeless and have other issues." The house has been boarded up, and condemned, he added.

"It is probably some of the worst living conditions I've ever seen," Andrew Fratzke, director of the Quad-City Metropolitan Enforcement Group, said. "We've been investigating this property for about a year based on citizens' complaints and information received about the property," Fratzke said. While agents were seeking drugs and weapons, Fratzke said closing the house down was a win for the neighborhood. "Whether we got anything out of this or not, we did our job today for this neighborhood," he said.

Darren Lyle Abney, 53, was arrested for failure to appear in Henry County Circuit Court on a charge of possession of meth less than 5 grams, a Class 3 felony that carries a prison sentence of

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(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

two to five years. Abney was supposed to have appeared for a preliminary hearing in the case Monday. His bond is set at \$20,000, or 10%.

Dean C. Johnson, 31, was arrested for failure to appear on a Henry County charge of aggravated identification theft, a Class 3 felony, and identity theft, a Class 4 felony. His bond is set at \$50,000, or 10%. A Class 4 felony in Illinois carries a prison sentence of one to three years.

Leon Hubert Starberg Jr., 43, was arrested on charges of unlawful possession of a firearm and possession with the intent to deliver meth. He was being held without bond. He is expected to make a first appearance on the charges Thursday in Rock Island County Circuit Court. All three men were being held Wednesday night in the Rock Island County Jail.

Assisting at the scene were the East Moline Police Department, Moline-East Moline Crisis Containment Unit, Illinois State Police and city of East Moline Maintenance Services Department. The case remains under investigation by the East Moline Police Department and the Quad-City Metropolitan Enforcement Group. Anyone with information is asked to call the East Moline Police Department Investigations Unit at 309-752-1547, Crime Stoppers of the Quad Cities at 309-762-9500 or use the Crime Stoppers P3 Tips mobile app.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Douglas K. Maxeiner
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Quad City Times (IA)
May 5, 2022

East Moline State of City address highlights growth and financial stability

Author: Sarah Hayden

In his State of the City address Thursday afternoon, East Moline Mayor Reggie Freeman said the city is making a strong financial and economic comeback from the impact of COVID-19. Hosted by the East Moline-Silvis Rotary Club, Freeman addressed the crowd of local city and county officials, staff, business leaders and residents gathered inside the Bend Event Center in East Moline. Freeman reviewed the city's accomplishments over the past year and highlighted economic development plans for the future. "In early 2020, our stars were aligning. Our future was bright and our arrow was pointing up," Freeman said, noting the onset of the pandemic presented numerous challenges for the city. "While development activity slowed, it did not stop."

Since then, Freeman said city staff has been working diligently with local developers to bring a number of projects to the city. Plans include a 38-duplex residential complex along the Mississippi River and an additional hotel within The Bend property to be constructed on the south side of the Expo Center. MetroLINK will also add a Channel Cat Water Taxi stop at The Bend, where construction of a pedestrian path connecting The Bend and Rust Belt with downtown East Moline are also planned, as is construction of the Chicago Regional Council of Carpenters and Millwrights Training Center. The training center, to be located near the former Quad-City Downs, will serve more than 2,000 union members and apprentices in the Quad-Cities and the state. Freeman also highlighted the \$7 million renovation of the city's new library, a 22,000 square-foot building at 1523 8th St. "The new library should be ready for patrons any day now," Freeman said.

Finance Director Annaka Whiting said that because of COVID-19, the city "budgeted cautiously" last year. "Our 2021 sales tax increased 19.3%, or almost \$550,000 from the previous year," Whiting said. "The city also saw an increase in our non-home-rule sales tax of 27.9%, for \$133,000 (more)." Whiting said the city also benefited from increases in the replacement tax and income taxes because of corporate tax receipts. Going forward, Whiting said the city is expecting moderate increases in revenue from entertainment and tourism-related taxes. "Progress takes time. It takes work and stepping outside of our comfort zone and planning ahead," she said. "Decisions we make today have a direct impact on the future of the city. Staff continue to seek opportunities and develop plans that encourage long-term financial investment and sustainability."

City Administrator **Doug Maxeiner** said the city's "main revenue sources are strong" and things are trending upward. "We've got a lot going on in East Moline," Freeman said in closing. "We are still on the upward trajectory, and I'm proud of the things we have been able to accomplish."

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Douglas K. Maxeiner
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Quad City Times (IA)
December 29, 2021

East Moline won't raise taxes, enacts mostly balanced budget

Author: Sarah Watson

East Moline is on more stable ground financially than in recent years. That's the message city staff had for East Moline City Council members as they hammered out the 2022 budget that will take effect Jan. 1. However, money is still tight. At this time last year, the city faced a \$1.2 million structural deficit, which is when the city is spending more money than it's taking in. The City Council passed a status quo budget on the condition city staff would return with midyear cuts to the 2021 budget to close the gap. Among other measures, the city delayed hiring two police officers and four fire personnel.

This year, "while this proposal remains a work in progress, it represents considerably better news from a financial perspective than what we have experienced over the past two years," City Administrator **Doug Maxeiner** wrote in a memo to council members in November. That's because of, city staff say, a combination of recovered revenues during the pandemic, changes in tax law and containing costs, including participating in a risk pool, restructuring legal services, contracting IT services, limiting employer-paid retirement benefits for future employees and issuing about \$41 million in pension obligation bonds to stabilize the city's growing pension liability.

Whiting said the city hired one of the delayed police officer positions earlier this year and planned to hire two firefighters in the final quarter of 2022 and two in the first quarter of 2023 to fill the delayed positions. East Moline's \$17.135 million general operating budget, which pays for city salaries, street and bridge maintenance, and police and fire budgets, will see a \$1.4 million surplus. That surplus is due to federal pandemic relief monies East Moline is expecting to receive in 2022. While the general operating budget is balanced, the water and sewer enterprise funds, which pay for the system's operations and improvements and take in water and sewer fees as revenue, will be \$2.65 million in the red. To offset costs of an aging sewer and water system, the City Council earlier this year approved a plan to gradually raise city water and sewer fees over five years, which would build in money to replace water and sewer pipeline.

But the increased rates will fall \$2.65 million short of the break-even point in 2022. East Moline Finance Director Annaka Whiting said it's not yet clear with the gradual rise in rates how many years it would take to cover the shortfall because of expected upcoming federal mandates for lead and copper pipelines that could mean a faster timeline for replacing water and sewer pipes. The water and sewer deficit will be covered in part by reserves, and Whiting said: "the deficit is continuously being monitored and capital improvement projects evaluated carefully."

According to **Maxeiner**, \$1.1 million of the water and sewer fund deficit is because of a non-cash expense the city has to take into account for future Other Post-employment Benefits, or OPEB, which are benefits for employees after retirement that aren't pension payments, like

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Douglas K. Maxeiner
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

health or life insurance. It's required to be included in the budget by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board but doesn't need a cash allocation, Whiting said. "There is no physical exchange of cash, nor does it impact the bottom line, but should be budgeted for per these standards," Whiting wrote in an email. Between deficits from the water and sewer funds, tax-increment finance district deficits, and capital project and equipment funds, the city is planning to use \$2.1 million of its reserves, decreasing the city's reserves from a 2021 year-end of \$16.8 million to \$14.7 million by December 2022, according to the approved budget. Overall, because the \$1.276 million for future OPEB liability is included in the city's budget but doesn't require a cash allocation, the city's overall expenditures, including the OPEB, outpace its revenues by \$1.274 million. Whiting said looking ahead to 2023, the city's budget and structural deficits will "continue to be a work in progress with more long-term impact than immediate results."

City Council member Gary Almlade, who represents East Moline's 2nd Ward, said last year he thought the city needed to make deeper cuts, but with revenue rebounds later in 2021, he told city staff he's glad the city didn't end up needing to make drastic reductions. "Last year about this time, I was throwing daggers at the budget, and I thought a lot more had to be done to balance it," Almlade told city staff at the council's final meeting of 2021. "... I think, in retrospect, now, I think some of my proposals that I would have made probably would have harmed the city a little bit. So, I want to thank the city administrator and the finance director for coming up with a budget and working so it helped the city instead of hurt the city, and I'm just glad you two are on board for the city to help us out." The City Council passed unanimously the budget and the proposal to keep the tax levy flat at its meeting Dec. 20.

Plans for federal funds

East Moline is expecting to receive \$2.8 million broken into two installments from the federal pandemic relief bill, the American Rescue Plan Act. Nationally, municipalities received \$65.1 billion, according to the National League of Cities, with the most going to metropolitan cities. Because East Moline is considered a "non-entitlement" city under the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, it receives a smaller share than entitlement communities. The city received half of its allocation in August and will receive the second half in August 2022.

While there's not a specific requirement for the city council to approve the ARPA fund uses, Whiting said some proposals would need to be presented to council according to the city's purchasing policies. City staff made these recommendations for use of ARPA funds, which were included in the budget council approved Dec. 20: Personal Protective Equipment for the Fire Department: \$50,000 immediately. Great River Trail resurfacing: \$575,000 to be used in summer 2022. Babcock Drainage: \$100,000 to be used in fiscal years 2022 and 2023. Revenue loss: \$1,684,568 once the city receives the ARPA funds. Replacing Boost Pump No. 1 at the Water Plant: \$130,000 for fiscal 2022. Water Plant ROV Clearwell Inspection: \$5,000 for fiscal 2022. Water Plant 10th Street Tower Valve: \$12,000 for fiscal 2022. Storm Sewer Repair on Archer Drive: \$100,000 for fiscal 2022.

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Douglas K. Maxeiner
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Quad City Times (IA)
December 6, 2021

East Moline city attorney resigns, new appointment coming

Author: Sarah Watson

East Moline will contract with a new attorney at the start of the new year. Its general corporate council attorney resigned in November after council members expressed dissatisfaction with his job performance. Lincoln Scott, with Moline law firm Mason & Scott, was hired on an hourly basis to prepare meetings and offer legal advice. He started in January 2019, after his firm took over from Lee & Lee, according to council meeting minutes.

On May 17, East Moline City Council members voted 6-1 to not accept Scott's reappointment, according to meeting minutes. Third Ward council member Nancy Mulcahey said she'd voted not to reappoint Scott because he lacked knowledge of city administration, operations and procedure. "If it was a 5-2 or 4-3, OK, but we had a 6-1 vote," Mulcahey said. "That sends a pretty big message that there was some dissatisfaction, so you hope that's taken into consideration."

According to meeting minutes, Mayor Reggie Freeman said Scott would continue until Freeman came back with another appointment or the City Council members changed their minds. Freeman said in an interview Monday that at the time he wanted to wait and see if concerns continued after Scott had been with the city for longer. "I felt that he was doing a good job, and I thought we would go forward... I wanted to see what was going to happen, if there was still displeasure among the council members," Freeman said.

In October, council members again raised concerns with Scott's performance after he notarized a transaction a city employee improperly handled without council approval.

City Administrator **Doug Maxeiner** told council members that month that an unnamed Inspections Department employee accepted a \$10,000 insurance check and a quit claim on a home damaged by fire that needed to be demolished, without council approval for the potential costs. Scott notarized a document for the transaction, rather than raising questions about the deal, city councilors said. "It should've been stopped because (Scott) should've known we should've voted on this," First Ward Alderman Larry Toppert said.

The city inspections employee directed Scott to file the deed on behalf of the city, **Maxeiner** said. "I thought the city attorney had processed the request like he had before on instruction from the city employee," **Maxeiner** said. "While I was not happy with the transaction, I could not fault Lincoln Scott for that transaction."

Maxeiner consulted with a separate legal adviser on the matter. "The legal opinion offered was that it was a reasonable assumption that the (inspections) employee was operating in his official capacity and, despite the fact that he acted beyond his authority, the transaction was considered

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valid," **Maxeiner** wrote in an email to council. **Maxeiner** said new internal policies and procedures had been implemented and the inspections department employee was disciplined.

But after an Oct. 18 closed session discussing specific employees or legal counsel, the council voted unanimously to ask Freeman for a plan for a new attorney before the Nov. 15 council meeting, according to meeting minutes. "He as a lawyer became an issue," Toppert said. "A lawyer is not supposed to be the issue. A lawyer is supposed to be there to plan our meetings properly and be a referee." Scott resigned before Nov. 15, Freeman told council members. Scott did not respond to requests for comment.

On Nov. 15, Freeman told council he would appoint Moline firm Califf and Harper to start at the beginning of 2022. For the two remaining council meetings, **Maxeiner** will prepare and read ordinances, and the city will rely on other legal counsel, such as its TIF attorneys, if needed.

Freeman will bring the new legal appointment to the council for a vote, and Freeman said if the council votes it down, he will look for another attorney or firm, but there's no required timeline to have a new appointment in place.

Toppert said he wanted the council to interview the appointment before they voted. "What I want to do is make sure we interview Reggie's next appointment before we appoint them," Toppert said. "We have to make sure we have a lawyer that is going to address the issues we've had in the past. ... And a new attorney needs to be proficient in Robert's Rule of Law. Before, it would end up jamming up the flow of the meeting and things wouldn't get discussed properly."

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Douglas K. Maxeiner
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Quad City Times (IA)
October 19, 2021

Water and sewer rates set to rise in East Moline to replace aging water infrastructure

Author: Sarah Watson

Water and sewer rates are set to gradually go up for residents and businesses in East Moline to pay for repairs and replacements to an aging water system. The East Moline City Council voted 6-1 on Monday to advance a five-year plan to increase sewer and water rates beginning in 2022.

The proposed rates, according to an analysis done by HDR Engineering, would generate revenue to meet costs for annual renewal, replacement and repairs to the water system, as well as fund the city's reserves in case of an emergency. "We have been woefully inadequate in investing in our water system," **Doug Maxeiner**, East Moline city administrator, told council members on Monday. "We are one bad break away from having to borrow some money to fix our system."

According to the analysis by HDR Engineering, the increased rates aim to give the city about \$1.5 million per year per utility for capital improvement. Shawn Koorn, associate vice president of HDR Engineering, told council members that amount would fund about a mile of pipeline replacement per year.

East Moline has about 100 miles of pipeline, said Brianna Huber, East Moline's director of water filtration. Huber said the recommended standard was to replace 3-5% of pipeline in a city per year, and although the city is increasing rates, it would still fund less than the standard replacements. Under the proposed rates, the average East Moline resident's water bill would increase from \$46.74 in 2021 to \$73.58 in 2026, with gradual increases of about \$4-\$6 per year. Residential sewer bills will see smaller changes, an increase from an average of \$33.93 in 2021 to averaging \$44.35 in 2026. The largest share of the cost increase, though, would fall on industrial customers, Koorn told council members. Now, Koorn said, industrial and municipal customers are paying less than what it costs to produce and treat the water. But new rates would tighten the gap. "One of the key elements that came out of the cost the service was that it showed that those municipal and industrial customers were not paying an equitable share of all the costs," Koorn told council members.

The last time East Moline raised water and sewer fees was in 2018. Fewer than five businesses will account for the most revenue under the increase. An industrial customer that uses 6 million gallons of water a month would see its monthly bill change from \$6,096 now to \$12,193 in 2026 under the proposed rate structure. Council member Nancy Mulcahey, 3rd Ward, asked whether a partial rate increase was enough. She expressed concern that the council was putting too much cost burden on residents as the budget and property tax rates weren't finalized yet. "I want to think about that as we're increasing all these other costs to our residents," Mulcahey said.

Maxeiner said city staff were putting the final touches on the budget, but that they likely wouldn't propose any new "taxing instruments." Mulcahey voted to advance the proposal. The

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Douglas K. Maxeiner
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only opposing vote was Council member Gary Almlade, 2nd Ward, who also expressed concern about costs to residents. The rates will be voted on again at the next Council meeting, and the final rates could still be amended or changed, **Maxeiner** said.

Koorn said the trade-off to underfunding water reserves was the risk of expensive emergency repairs. "If you take your system, which isn't young, your pipes are getting pretty old, as those start getting older, they start springing leaks, etc, those emergency repairs can add up pretty quickly," Koorn said. "So that's where we look at this, the million and a half dollars gives you about a mile of pipeline a year, which is close to replacing about every pipe once every 80 years or so, which theoretically is the life cycle. It's a good spot to be in, not ideal but it's a good spot to be in."

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Douglas K. Maxeiner
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Quad City Times (IA)
September 23, 2021

East Moline gets downgraded credit rating

Author: Sarah Watson

East Moline's credit rating was downgraded this week in a credit report as the city is preparing to take on debt to reduce long-term costs in paying pensions owed to East Moline public safety employees. The new credit rating means the city will likely need to pay higher interest rates in paying back a planned \$41 million in pension-obligation bonds, effectively lower-interest loans, the city council approved unanimously Monday.

The expected pension-obligation bonds are not the driving factor of the rating downgrade, an analyst with the rating agency Moody's Investor Service, said. East Moline is preparing to close on the sale of \$41 million in pension obligation bonds next week, the reason for the credit rating report. City officials have pitched the bonds as the most efficient option to pay for the city's promised police and fire pensions. The strategy relies on returns from investment in the market being greater than fixed interest rates paying back the bonds. In a report before the credit rating, city staff said the strategy could save the city \$30 million over the course of two decades.

Moody's Investor Service, a credit rating agency that government agencies submit reports to when they are planning to take on debt, rated East Moline at a Baa2, considered a moderate credit risk that "may possess speculative characteristics" and is several notches lower than Moody's median rating for cities in the U.S. The rating was revised downward from the city's previous A3, which is considered low credit risk, but is still below the Aa3 median.

According to the report, East Moline's credit challenges are "elevated leverage with high fixed costs" and "limited revenue raising ability." "The downgrade was driven by the city's substantial leverage from debt, pensions and other post-employment benefits (OPEB) with high fixed costs," Ryan Patton, a Moody's analyst, wrote in an emailed statement. "We also evaluate the city's local economy and financial operations in determining the rating.

"The planned issuance of pension bonds was not the driver of the downgrade," Patton continued. "The city's rating had previously carried a negative outlook due to its substantial leverage and high fixed costs. In this most recent review, we noted that, when compared to operating revenue, the city's total leverage from debt, pensions and OPEB is among the highest of any municipality rated by Moody's."

According to Moody's analysis, East Moline's fixed costs, including debt service and retirement plan contributions make up 25% of operating revenue.

More positively, the credit-rating agency changed the city's outlook from "negative" to "stable" after the city cut or paused expenses, including freezing fire and police hires to shore up deficits. The rating from Moody's, which is a downgrade of two ratings, means the city will likely have to

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Douglas K. Maxeiner
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

pay higher interest rates, City Administrator **Doug Maxeiner** said. "If we go to a bank and we ask to borrow money to buy a new car, they look at our credit score and base the cost of what our borrowing is based on our credit worthiness," **Maxeiner** said. "Bond rating is very similar to that."

Maxeiner said rating wouldn't affect the decision by city staff to recommend the city issue the bonds, and said in fact the weaknesses pointed out in the report, including high pension liability, reinforced to the staff the city's pension-bond strategy. "It's still a worthy strategy in our opinion," **Maxeiner** said. "And in some ways it actually sort of solidifies our strategy, meaning that we need to take additional action to stabilize those long-term costs, to be able to address some of those positions that they point out, weaknesses for us."

In 2015, the Government Finance Officers Association cautioned against using bonds to pay for pension liability, warning of risks of added debt that relies on market performance. Of the concerns laid out, **Maxeiner** previously said, the one that pertains to East Moline is the risk that the investments won't earn more than the interest rate over the course of the bonds, a risk the city undertakes with pension contributions every year. The greater risk for East Moline, according to **Maxeiner**, is allowing the pension burdens to divert more tax revenues that could go toward city services like street repairs.

According to a fact sheet by Moody's, pension obligation bonds are "neutral at best and usually negative for a government's credit quality." "The currently low market interest rates and the prospect of investing after a stock market correction may increase the appeal of POBs, but governments must accept higher exposure to investment market volatility," the fact sheet said. Patton noted that East Moline's pension bonds do not include deficit financing or a lengthy or backloaded debt service schedule, features that would be credit negative.

Maxeiner said the city was disappointed in the rating but wouldn't dispute it. He said the city was anticipating a potential downgrade of one classification, not two. "We know that our cash reserves are probably not in position that we would like them to be. We have taken steps to correct that. The pension obligation bonds — we're doing that to address the unfunded pension liability which they had mentioned as a reason for downgrading, and we've taken steps in some collective bargaining agreements to curb retiree benefits, which is another issue that they (Moody's) pointed to, so we don't feel that they took into account all of those factors."

Maxeiner said with the investment strategy East Moline was taking, the city was expected to be rated more favorably the next time the city took out loans. He added that the city doesn't plan to issue additional debt. "I think if we come back in two years and we get rated again, we expect to recapture that ground and be in a better position," **Maxeiner** said.

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Douglas K. Maxeiner
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Dispatch-Argus, The (Moline, IL)
August 24, 2021

East Moline considering \$49 million in bonds to pay down pension liability

Author/Byline: Sarah Watson

East Moline is considering issuing \$49 million in general obligation bonds, effectively a low-interest loan, to more efficiently pay pensions already promised to the city's retired firefighters and police officers. City Administrator **Doug Maxeiner** said the new strategy could save the city \$30 million over the next two decades and residents' taxes would not be affected. The city will hold a public hearing to hear residents' comments on the proposal at 6:30 p.m. Sept. 7 at City Hall.

City employees in Illinois, including firefighters and police officers, are paid a pension after they retire. What makes up their retirement fund is a "three-legged stool" **Maxeiner** said: a slice from the employee's paycheck, interest accrued from the employee contributions and the city's contribution as an employer.

What has been underfunded for years is the city's portion, like many cities across the state. East Moline has about \$18.3 million in unfunded pension liability for its firefighters and \$22 million in unfunded pension liability for its police officers. That means the pension liability, or the amount that has already been promised in benefits to retired police and fire employees, is about 55% funded as of Jan. 1 of this year. To compare, Rock Island's funding level is 40.2% for police and 31.8% for firefighters.

State reforms to the pension system in 2011 require municipalities to fund 90% of pension liabilities by 2040. To meet that requirement, an East Moline actuarial report reviewed by the East Moline city council last week recommended the city pay about \$3.8 million every year just for the unfunded portion of the police and fire pension funds. That payment every year is expected to more than double by 2039. That wouldn't leave much flexibility in the city budget for regular operations. **Maxeiner** said this year, a starting \$2 million budget deficit forced the city of East Moline to cut costs, including delaying hiring new police officers and firefighters, and still needs to be balanced with reserve funds.

With interest rates low during the pandemic, **Maxeiner** said city staff saw an opportunity to pay back bonds at a much lower rate than the annual increase in pension payments. Investing \$49 million from selling general obligation bonds at 3.54% interest rate, as city staff is proposing, instead of contributing smaller, increasing annual amounts to the pension investment fund, could save the city \$30 million over the next two decades, according to city staff. That's because up-front investment of the larger amount into the funds could grow more quickly than smaller payments would allow, **Maxeiner** said. "It'll go into an investment pool. And it earns money on those investments, hopefully. Occasionally they have a very bad year — sometimes the pension fund will lose some money — but typically it generates somewhere between 5% and 10% return on a normal basis," he said. "This gives us flexibility in year three, four, five, six, and beyond to

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Douglas K. Maxeiner
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

divert some of those funds that we would have had to pay for pensions into operations, which is really the goal of this." **Maxeiner** said the city was expecting a 5-10% return on the investment, but that some years would be better or worse than expectations.

Once the city receives the funds from the bond sale, the money is required to be transferred to the Police Pension and Fire Pension Boards, which control the pension funds and investments, **Maxeiner** wrote in an email. Under recent pension reform, 641 Illinois police and fire pension funds outside of Chicago are being consolidated into one centralized statewide investment pool for fire and one for police. The process for that consolidation is ongoing.

Maxeiner said the city would transfer the fire pension funds to the aggregated fire fund "in the near future" as that board was farther along than the statewide police fund. The police pensions, on the other hand, will be managed by the local East Moline Police Pension Board until the statewide board is up and running.

The proposal could face a voter referendum in June 2022 if within 30 days more than 841 East Moline voters (7.5%) sign a petition and submit it to the city clerk objecting to the \$49 million bond proposal. If the city doesn't receive a petition, according to council documents, the bonds can be authorized.

The East Moline Police Department has 35 active-duty officers and 47 current pension beneficiaries. Of the 47 pension beneficiaries, 32 are retired members of the force, four are receiving a disability pension, and 11 are other beneficiaries, which typically are dependents of deceased pension plan members, according to the recent actuarial report for the police pension plan.

In the fire department, according to the actuarial report for the fire pension plan, there are 33 active firefighters and 50 current pension beneficiaries. Of the 50, 30 are retired members, eight are receiving a disability pension and 12 are other beneficiaries.

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Douglas K. Maxeiner
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Quad City Times (IA)
June 21, 2021

A 'miserable mess': East Moline overspends to stop spree of water main breaks

Author: Sarah Watson

East Moline is planning road improvements at 1st and 2nd street courts for more than \$250,000 over budget because of high construction material prices nationwide. The East Moline City Council on Monday approved unanimously a bid for \$762,338.25 to Valley Construction Co. for the project.

Despite the added costs, City Administrator **Doug Maxeiner** said the city needs to move quickly to stop continuing water main breaks in the area. "We are chasing water main breaks all over this city," **Maxeiner** told the city council. "We're seeing multiple water main breaks in a week and that takes away from other duties." Alderperson Larry Topert said because of the pipe breaks, the area was gravelly and a "miserable mess."

The original budget for the project was roughly half a million dollars, said East Moline Director of Engineering Tim Kammler. That estimate for the project had to increase "significantly" because of higher prices of construction materials. Kammler said recently steel and pipe materials, such as PVC, iron, and copper, have been hard to come by, which raised the cost estimate for the 1st and 2nd street courts project. Nationwide steel prices have reached uncommon highs and inventory lows. "You can't get it or if you can get it, it costs a fortune," Kammler said.

The city council approved an additional \$33,000 for the company to use concrete instead of asphalt to reconstruct the roadway once the water main pipes are replaced. Kammler told council members the concrete could last as long as 50 years, whereas the asphalt could last 20-25 years before needing to be replaced. "For an additional \$33,000, we recommend the concrete," **Maxeiner** said.

The project would likely be completed by Thanksgiving, Kammler told members of the council. The Valley Construction Co. bid is about \$25,000 less than the East Moline city engineer's revised estimate of \$787,554.50, and was the lowest bid among five construction companies vying for the city project.

Another East Moline project earlier this year, a development on Grand Illinois Trail, also came in well above budgeted costs because of expensive construction materials. The \$3.62 million project was \$516,533.48 over budgeted costs. According to an email from Kammler to city council members and city staff, \$413,227 was made up from funds from the Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program. The cities of East Moline and Silvis split the remaining costs.

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Douglas K. Maxeiner
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Quad City Times (IA)
February 10, 2021

Moline alderman issues public apology on behalf of city for attacks on former staff

Author: Sarah Hayden

A Moline city council member has issued a public apology after city officials alleged recently that former senior staff members were unprofessional, incompetent or destroyed work documents during their employment with the city. Alderman Dick Potter, Ward 4, apologized Tuesday on behalf of the city to the former employees after Mayor Stephanie Acri, City Attorney Derke Price and Alderman Mike Wendt, Ward 3, alleged in a Feb. 7 Dispatch-Argus and Quad-City Times article that the employees resigned rather than answer questions regarding tax-increment-finance (TIF) district revenue and development projects.

Former Finance Director Kathy Carr, former City Administrator **Doug Maxeiner**, former City Administrator Lew Steinbrecher and former Planning and Development Director Ray Forsythe were among those named by Wendt, Acri and Price. They've denied wrongdoing. "I'd like to address comments made recently in committee of the whole (meetings) and articles I've seen in the paper regarding some issues with former staff and other issues with TIF (districts) and 'Project Colossus,' or whatever we're calling it," Potter said. "And I want to publicly let everyone know that I'm distancing myself from this — whatever this program is — the ability to go after former staff and those sorts of things.

"I want to begin by offering a public apology to Kathy Carr for any personal or professional slight she may have felt by comments that have been made or inferences that have been made that she somehow did something wrong. She served this community for a number of years and was a diligent employee above reproach," Potter said. "(Carr) brought us accounting awards on an annual basis. I'm willing to bet it happened every year she was finance officer."

Wendt alleged in January that Carr mishandled documents prior to her resignation in 2019. As a result of that allegation, Wendt asked the city to update its document-protection policy. Carr firmly denied any allegations of wrongdoing and stood by her decades of service to the city.

Potter accused fellow council members of political motives, drumming up the accusations just before an election, and he said the "willingness" by some council members "to vilify and demean members of our staff is just not healthy. It's going to continue make it difficult for us to attract additional talent, and I want no part of it."

Turnover has been swift in Moline in the past two years, with eight high-level staff departures and numerous other less-senior employees leaving the city. When **Maxeiner** abruptly resigned in January 2019, Potter attributed his departure to a "near-poisonous atmosphere" between senior staff and some elected officials.

Wendt reacted to Potter's apology after the meeting: "I do not think anything nefarious happened

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Douglas K. Maxeiner
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

with the destruction of documents," Wendt said, in part, in a text to the newspaper. "But the fact remains, documents that were needed for us to better understand our TIF, working documents, were deleted. ... That is why this body voted unanimously to implement a document-retention ordinance, or ensure that public documents are protected, and to ensure that documents are not destroyed or deleted from the working drives by staff in the future."

Carr said she has not heard from Wendt. She said Wednesday she has always had respect for Potter and appreciated the apology. "While I wasn't surprised he spoke out on the recent treatment of former employees, I did not expect for Alderman Potter to be the one to issue an apology," Carr said. "His message is sincerely appreciated as I am very proud of my past service to the city."

Carr said the allegations made by Wendt last week were a "painful experience" but "turned out to be an astonishing one due to the dozens of phone calls and text messages I received from current and former employees, friends, neighbors and leaders in the community. It all validates my performance as the former finance director for the city."

Carr retired in May 2019 — four years earlier than she planned — after more than 35 years with the city and 26 years as finance director. She had hoped to retire at the age of 62, with 40 years of service to the city. "I was not pressured to leave," she said. "After seeing how **Doug (Maxeiner)**, Ray (Forsythe) and (former City Attorney) Maureen (Riggs) were treated, I no longer enjoyed going to work, and life is too short to not enjoy it."

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Douglas K. Maxeiner
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Quad City Times (IA)
January 20, 2021

East Moline approves resolution for purchasing water, wastewater chemicals

Author: Jim Meenan

East Moline is joining with other area communities to tap into the cost savings that comes from bulk buying. The city council unanimously accepted Tuesday the bid received by the joint purchasing council of the Bi-State Regional Commission for chemicals for water and wastewater facilities.

"Every year the city of East Moline participates with the Bi-State Regional Planning Commission on the purchasing of chemicals for water and wastewater treatment," explained city administrator **Doug Maxeiner**. "They (join) with Moline, Rock Island, Silvis, Milan and we get a better price by buying it in bulk in that joint effort. That's what this is — just for purchasing chemicals we need for the year. It locks in the price. We save money by doing this."

In other business, the Committee of the Whole, after lengthy discussion, also voted 5-1 to place on the next city council meeting's agenda, a motion that would give the city council the option in the future of having a member sit in on negotiations between the city and various unions such as police and fire.

Maxeiner also said that potential budget cuts will be presented to the City Council by the end of March. "We are still working on it, working on a number of things right now," he said. "I told them I would have some options in front of them by the end of the first quarter, which would be the end of March."

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Douglas K. Maxeiner
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Dispatch Argus (IL)
December 17, 2020

With a projected \$1 million deficit, budget decisions loom for East Moline

Author: Jim Meenan

The showdown on the East Moline city budget won't take place Dec. 21 as some may have originally thought. What will take place is just the beginning of some cutbacks, City Administrator **Doug Maxeiner** explained. But more will be coming in the weeks ahead.

East Moline needs to shave about \$1.5 million in budget deficits for the 2021 fiscal year. As for monies affected by the coronavirus and the resulting shortfalls it caused, that is being covered by reserve funds. But **Maxeiner** has said at several city council meetings the city needs to improve its structural costs to eliminate the budget problem.

At the council's budget workshop meeting Nov. 30, about 24 items were identified that should be implemented that would save the city \$522,000 in expenses or bring in additional revenues "to lessen the general fund deficit," **Maxeiner** said.

They included things like \$250,000 expected to be generated with a new internet sales tax, and \$100,000 saved by not paying a retainer for corporate council. "So we are left with just a little over a \$1 million deficit in that general fund," **Maxeiner** explained. "We have another \$800,000 or so that we are evaluating and implementing over the next few weeks here."

Among the possibilities are deferring hiring four replacement firefighters and two police officers, eliminating the animal control position by paying another city with the position a lesser amount than what's budgeted in East Moline and having that person handle it.

The changes won't all happen right away. "We are in the middle of collective bargaining with both police and fire," **Maxeiner** said where the city is considering deferring the hiring of all four retiring positions in the fire department and two in the police department. "Fire in particular will have an impact on how much we can save on that list of things on the budget. So there's a number of things, it's going to take some time to fully develop over the next few weeks. "A lot of this stuff is going to take some additional time to really flesh out here," he said.

So what **Maxeiner** believes will happen on Dec. 21 is the council will approve the status-quo budget with the \$522,000 worth of adjustments identified, leading to a deficit of about \$1 million. "Then they will direct me to come up with a plan with adjustments (amendments) to that budget within the first quarter that will get that to balance," he said.

So everything won't be done by the Dec. 21 meeting, **Maxeiner** said. "We have definite plans on how to get there, but there's going to be some additional actions that are going to be needed to be taken to get that to balance," **Maxeiner** said. It will be an interesting exercise to come up with the cuts. "It's certainly not a pleasant task. It's one of those things where you start evaluating

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Douglas K. Maxeiner
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services," he said. "Does this service meet the priorities of the city council and the community as a whole? If it doesn't, then we need to evaluate: 'Is there a better way to do that? Can we reduce that service? Can we eliminate that service? Can we save some costs by eliminating that service?' That's kind of the exercise we have to run through."

Personnel is the most costly item in the budget, **Maxeiner** said. So naturally there could be some changes coming there. "We are going to be evaluating an early-retirement plan," he said. "Can we get some of the high-cost employees out the door and replace them with low-cost employees? There might be furloughs involved. There might be some situations where we have to look at eliminating some positions. But right now we are kind of evaluating those services and working our way into the first and the last thing. "I have to come back with some lists of options or some recommendations to the city council by the end of the first quarter."

Alderman Larry Toppert believes budget alterations could take longer than the first quarter to be solved. "It's my understanding that we are going to be amending this budget throughout the coming year," Toppert said. He wonders if union negotiations will end up in a third-party's hands. "We just don't know," he said. "There's too many unknowns. All we have right now is a commitment to do the right thing. "Everybody wants to do the right thing, but the problem is we have too many variables, too many unknowns," Toppert said. "We can't do anything right now other than being prepared to amend the budget. That's what we have to do. "It's going to be a mess this whole year."

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Douglas K. Maxeiner
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Quad City Times (IA)
October 22, 2020

East Moline council approves contractor policy

Author: Jim Meenan

The East Moline City Council passed a resolution Monday approving its policy and procedures for qualification-based selection of architects, engineers and land surveyors. The move was required by the state.

"If we are using federal or state money on a project, we have to follow specific standards for the selection of contractors basically for the projects," city Administrator **Doug Maxeiner** said. "By approving that we can show federal and state governments that we are following those standards when we use their money moving forward. This just puts it on paper and follows the standards set by the state."

In a fairly quick meeting, it was also announced that the city's fire department had sold an old fire truck to a small volunteer department in upstate New York for \$35,500. The fire department here is no longer using the truck.

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Douglas K. Maxeiner
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Dispatch-Argus (IL)
August 18, 2020

East Moline City Council deeds new library to library board of trustees

Author: Jim Meenan

The East Moline City Council passed two resolutions and one ordinance Monday, all by 6-0 votes — in a short meeting that was followed by its committee of the whole meeting. Ordinance 20-15 just clarified an existing practice regarding new water meters, that when a new 2-inch water meter is purchased, the customer is responsible for its cost.

"That has been the practice all along," City Administrator **Doug Maxeiner** said. "This just clarifies that and puts it in the coding of the ordinance." The first resolution was that the city council accept the actuarial valuation reports submitted by Lauterbach & Amen LLP regarding the city's police and firefighter's pension fund.

An actuarial study is required by the state. "This is approving the actuarial studies for the private actuary that we hired to evaluate our pension plan to see what our contributions need to be to reach the 90% funding level in the 2040 period as required by statute," **Maxeiner** said. Resolution 20-22 deeds the new library to the library board, including responsibility for maintenance.

The previous development agreement with TBK Bank said the library would be deeded to the city (TBK Bank donated building and property to the city for a new library along 16th Ave). "The library board, even though they are a wing of the city, they would like to have the library deeded to the library board of trustees, thinking that they could then use that for funding, for bonding, they could borrow for the project because they have controlling interest in the project ... anything under the statutory power," explained **Maxeiner**. "They can do that (now with this resolution) — without city council approval of that. And there will be no obligations of the city to back up any of that funding.

"So we agreed to do that. We are not going to be responsible for any maintenance of it. So this is kind of washing our hands of that building and giving it to the library board of trustees." "They are responsible for their own property and this gives them the opportunity to borrow and finance that project for that property," **Maxeiner** said. "This just puts the power of control of that property under them. And puts that responsibility back in their court."

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Douglas K. Maxeiner
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Quad City Times (IA)
July 22, 2020

East Moline gives liquor, gaming, restaurants license fees a break due to COVID-19

Author: Jim Meenan

On paper, the East Moline City Council passed two ordinances that seem pretty ho-hum Monday night. But a closer look reveals both could cost the city some money while also benefiting it in the long run. The first provides an economic incentive agreement with Mutual Wheel Co. of Moline, which is adding a facility in East Moline on the western-most edge of the McLaughlin property along 3rd Street and 12th Avenue, adjacent to The Bend's east side.

According to its website, Mutual Wheel is a warehouse distributor of truck parts, accessories and tools. It is headquartered in Moline with additional facilities in Davenport and Milan. "Mutual Wheel is purchasing that (property) for a warehousing and logistics operation with the potential for an internet sales location," City Administrator **Doug Maxeiner** said. "So what this incentive agreement does is it provides a rebate or incentive back to Mutual Wheel on the growth of the assessed value of the property," **Maxeiner** said. "So if the property taxes grow \$10,000, Mutual Wheel gets \$8,000 of that back through the (tax-increment-financing) agreement to pay for this \$775,000 in improvements that they have.

"If they do become a sales tax generator, this agreement would give them half of the sales tax back to help pay for that \$775,000 in improvements, and the city would get the other half." The company does get a break, but the agreement benefits East Moline as well, **Maxeiner** said. "The break we gave them is really having an adaptive use to an old eyesore," he said. "The old McLaughlin property, the old Bud McLaughlin Body Shop, that's got the potential to sit there or just continuing to deteriorate over a period of time if we don't do something creative to get some business in there. This was a way to get a legitimate business in there that could use it for their logistics, warehousing and potentially internet sales."

The second ordinance amends Title 3 of the existing code and sets the annual renewal date and fees for restaurants, liquor and gaming places. Typically gaming fees are \$25 annually and liquor \$1,000, while restaurants license fees are based on several factors including square footage. The change decreases the fees and gives the businesses longer to pay for their licenses, after they were closed for nearly three months by coronavirus restrictions, starting in mid-March.

"Previously, liquor licenses, restaurant licenses and video gaming were all due on May 1. Because of COVID-19, a lot of our businesses have been closed since mid-March," **Maxeiner** said. "Many of them did not have the cash flow to be able to pay for those licenses May 1. So this got pushed out. We extended the licenses that they currently have until the end of June. We made the renewal period from July 1 until the end of the year. And we cut the renewal fee in half since it is now a six-month period instead of a full year.

It does mean, there was technically no fee for January and February. "Some will argue that they were unable to use those entirely," **Maxeiner** said. "We feel that making them pay for that period

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Douglas K. Maxeiner
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

when business is down and when there are some restrictions in place, it's probably not the best business practices in the world. So we thought moving it to July 1 and having a six-month renewal period, cutting that fee in half because it's a six-month renewal period, they would be able to handle that fee or tolerate that fee a little more easily and have a little more time to gather that money together."

The city council also voted to accept the audit of Carpentier Mitchell Goddard of Moline. **Maxeiner** admitted there were a few concerns, as were cited by the firm, though it did not state any grave concerns. "When we approved our budget for 2020, that continued a practice of having deficit budgets approved here," **Maxeiner** said.

East Moline has a \$3.6 million deficit for this coming year but does have a fund balance to cover it. "The general fund showed a fund balance of \$6,256,970 as of Jan. 1, 2019," **Maxeiner** noted. "As of Dec. 31, 2019, the fund balance had fallen to \$4,357,347, a reduction of \$1,899,623 during the year. The year-end fund balance represents approximately 17% of the overall budget. "Our target would be 25%. Fund balance is used for cash flow throughout the year, as some revenues are cyclical, to allow us to borrow funds at more attractive rates if needed, and for rainy day emergency funding in the event of a catastrophic circumstance," he said, citing last year's flood and the overtime work because of it as an example of the latter. "But we can't continue to have these deficit budgets, and it's eroding our fund reserve. At some point, that fund balance is going to run out."

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Douglas K. Maxeiner
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Quad City Times (IA)
July 1, 2020

East Moline approves settlement with Great River Property over tax, sewer issues at The Bend

Author: Jim Meenan

The East Moline City Council approved a settlement with Great River Property, developer of The Bend, Tuesday night after a closed session. The vote was 6-1 in favor, with Alderman J.R. Rico voting against. There were two items in question. The first involved payment for a storm sewer project at The Bend. The second involved sales tax Great River Property paid in what they believed to be an Enterprise Zone based on their first agreement with the city to build The Bend in March 2014.

"As the developer got into the construction process, the storm sewer was in such poor condition that the whole thing needed to be replaced," explained city administrator **Doug Maxeiner**. "Then it became a point with the city directing them to replace that storm sewer and then the dispute became about the cost of it: Who was going to pay for the overage of the budget for that? Great River Property, now owned by a group that includes Larry Anderson, Aaron Tennant, Thad Denhartog and Dan Palmer, also owns The Bend. Great River Property will pay a portion, \$52,240. The city will pay \$268,090 by deferring storm water fees paid by The Bend to the city.

The second dispute came because Great River Property believed the original agreement called for The Bend to be in an enterprise zone, where they would not pay sales tax on construction materials. But four years into the agreement, the enterprise zone expired. "One of the benefits of the enterprise zone is that they get a sales tax exemption on materials that they buy for the construction project," **Maxeiner** said. "So there was a nine-month period that they did not get that sales tax exemption.

"They paid sales tax on those materials to the tune of about \$144,000. They asked the city to pick that up because in our development agreement the comment was that the city has represented to the developer that the development project area is in an Illinois Enterprise Zone and that the developer and the sub developer won't have to pay any sales tax for any building materials. "When the enterprise zone expired, they had to pay sales tax," **Maxeiner** said. "Our development agreement says they won't have to pay sales tax. They came after us trying to get us to pay those sales taxes."

The solution again is that it will be added to drainage fees, **Maxeiner** said. "We are going to let them defer payment until that whole debt is paid off," he said. "And then we are going to use the (tax increment financing district covering The Bend) to repay ourselves for those drainage fees." The end result of the solution, which **Maxeiner** believes Great River Property, or its representatives, will agree to because of their stance in negotiations, will take about five years. Great River Property officials could not be reached for comment.

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Douglas K. Maxeiner
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Factoring into everything **Maxeiner** said was that the city has changed mayors and city administrators since the original agreement. And The Bend had one of its owners (Dan Murphy) sell his portion. Also, the city engineer was on sick leave at the time of the agreements and there was not much of a paper trail.

A little under \$216,000 is left to be deferred. Still, **Maxeiner** thinks it's very important for the city to put the episode behind it. "It's in our best interest to make sure the Hyatt is successful," he said of the Hyatt Place and Hyatt House, which Great River Property owns. "If the Hyatt is not successful, the overall development is not successful, and we are going to struggle to make our debt service payments on that \$10.2 million (in the development agreement for infrastructure at The Bend). "We have to have them be successful."

The project is paying for itself, **Maxeiner** said, including the debt service and the two settlement issues approved Tuesday night.

Alderman Larry Toppert said he plans to do more research but voted for the agreement because East Moline has to follow through. "There is a definite lack of transparency (in the deal)," he said. "I am a supporter of the project, but I want to know who the players are."

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Douglas K. Maxeiner
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Quad City Times (IA)
April 18, 2020

Municipal matters: COVID-19 will affect Quad-City municipal budgets. East Moline anticipates a \$1.5 million hit

Author: Jim Meenan

East Moline City Administrator **Doug Maxeiner** says his city could lose as much as \$1.5 million in revenue to the COVID-19 pandemic. "In a worst case scenario, we are probably talking a \$1 million to \$1.5 million overall," **Maxeiner** said. "We don't really know what to expect, how quickly this thing is going to subside, when are we going to get back to normal? Is it going to be a 3-year recovery? Is it going to be a 6-month recovery? What are we talking about? "So right now, it's just kind of shooting darts at the wall," **Maxeiner** said.

Silvis seems to be shooting pretty good darts. But even it has some concerns. "I don't know if it's affected us a huge amount because we've got four anchor grocery stores in our town (Walmart, ALDI, Jewel and Hy-Vee) that are doing very well," said Jim Grafton, Silvis city administrator. But he has major concerns, even so. "We are concerned about our small businesses and those folks that have zero source of income (right now)," Grafton said. "We worry about them. It's not necessarily a financial impact. It's about retaining our businesses. That's what it's all about for us right now." Silvis is not as concerned about its financial future. Its fiscal year begins in May, and it allowed for the possibility of a problem in its budget. "We anticipated some," Grafton said. "We had some carryover and we built some money into our budget for next year, which starts May 1. We built \$100,000 into that, just in case something cracked."

What's going to happen in the next few quarters is of quite a concern in East Moline, whose fiscal year is in its second quarter. **Maxeiner** is trying to put some possible projections together. "It looks pretty significant," he said. "We don't really have anything to base our assumptions on at this point, but we are just kind of anticipating what's going to happen. "We know that sales tax is going to drop through the floor in the second quarter here. It kind of depends on what's going to happen in the third and fourth quarter."

The only good thing is it really is too early to tell, so things may not be as bad as **Maxeiner** fears. "At this point, we are just kind of throwing stuff on paper, saying 'this is kind of the low end. This is the high end,'" **Maxeiner** said. "With the income tax we know that the state is not collecting income tax. They are deferring it for an extra three months. The distributions for us are going to be delayed. So we know that that's going to be down. We know that the impact on income tax is going to be impacted on subsequent years like 2021, 2022, those type of things." There are simply many questions with answers yet to be known. "Some of the other stuff we are doing like hotel-motel tax, general operations, property tax might be affected," **Maxeiner** said. "The collectable rate might go up a little bit." "At this point, we are just kind of trying to get our arms around it," **Maxeiner** said. "And figure out what assumptions to use. That's kind of a slippery animal to get a hold of."

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Douglas K. Maxeiner
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)**

[CB&A Note: Only the information relevant to **Douglas K. Maxeiner** is listed below.]

Quad City Times (IA)
March 30, 2020

Out of work because of COVID-19? Here's what Quad-City municipalities are doing to help

Author: Sarah Hayden

East Moline

City Administrator **Doug Maxeiner** said the city will not shut off water service for non-payment. "It is vitally important that we continue to provide public safety, utility, storm water and public health services for our residents through this difficult time," **Maxeiner** said. "Over the next few weeks, we will be examining and defining our role in the recovery process for our local business community."

To help businesses, **Maxeiner** said East Moline has postponed liquor license renewals and fees will be not due until after businesses are on more solid footing. "With passage of the federal stimulus bill, we will be examining what we can do to assist our community in applying for and receiving benefits under the legislation," he said. "We will also work with the Quad Cities Chamber of Commerce to help our businesses leverage resources for economic recovery. I think it is safe to say that we will be exploring other ways to assist our business community as the extent of the economic situation unfolds."

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Douglas K. Maxeiner
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Dispatch-Argus (IL)
January 30, 2020

Resource X could help East Moline solve budget woes

Author: Jim Meenan

With a \$3.6 million deficit in the current budget, city of East Moline officials knew they would have to take some strong action to get future budgets under control. New city administrator **Doug Maxeiner**, the former Moline city administrator, went through some old notes and believes he has come up with a winner.

Maxeiner pitched a resolution Jan. 21 at the committee of the whole meeting for East Moline to enter into a professional services agreement with Resource X, a Denver-based center for priority-based budgeting. "There are no easy answers at this point," **Maxeiner** said. "It took us awhile to get into that position. It's going to take us a little while to get out." The board can give its approval Monday night.

Maxeiner believes a good way to possibly begin getting out of the budget problem is to enter into a professional services agreement with Resource X. The cost is \$60,000 the first year and \$20,000 a year after that for use of its software. East Moline can opt out after one year, he said, if it does not like the program. In the committee of the whole meeting, the resolution passed by a 7-0 vote. It will move on to the city council's Feb. 3 agenda, where based on the Jan. 21 vote, it would appear to have a pretty good chance of passing, even if this is the first time this company has been used in Illinois.

Maxeiner strongly believes it is the way to go. "I am optimistic," he said. "We've got to do an organizational review to make sure that we are sized appropriately and providing the services that we need to be providing and no more." They need a methodology to give them the data, he said. "That's what priority-based budgeting is going to do for us."

From his research, **Maxeiner** believes the Resource X program works. "I've really kind of dove into documents and talked with people that have utilized this," he explained. "I flew out to Denver in mid-December, spent some time with the people at the Center for Priority Based Budgeting, dove into the software that we were going to be using for this, asked a whole bunch of questions. And I am convinced between Annaka (Whiting, finance director) and myself we can make this work here."

How will it work? "We will basically take all of our spending and break it into four quartiles," he said. "The top quartile will be the top priority; the fourth quartile will be the lowest priority. "Then we will see where that money, where the spending aligns with that. Are we spending most of our money in our low priorities? If so, let's reallocate that to the top priorities and make sure we are getting services that need to be done."

Maxeiner gave the police department as an example of how the program can work. The police

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Douglas K. Maxeiner
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

department has one budget, a line-item budget, he said. "But they may offer 15 programs or services. What this will do is it will break down what the cost of each of those services is to the program cost, and then we can turn it around and we can evaluate is that program in alignment with what our priorities are for this community? And if so, are we spending that money on a high priority, a low priority? Is there opportunity to reallocate that money for a different service? It gives us the data we need to make those decisions," he said.

For example, he added, East Moline Police have an evidence room. Through this study it could learn that by sharing that room with either the county or another nearby city, it could cut costs. Each department will also have one person, known as a super user who will spearhead things and get data assigned to programs within that department accurately, **Maxeiner** said. "This is not necessarily a budgeting tool," he added. "This is a management decision-making tool."

It will be time consuming, but **Maxeiner** expects to have all the information in by December. Then decisions can be made. "We will reallocate and make sure we are spending on those high priorities and perhaps eliminate some of those other ones," he said.

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Douglas K. Maxeiner
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)**

[CB&A Note: Only the information relevant to **Douglas K. Maxeiner** is listed below.]

Dispatch-Argus, The (Moline, IL)
September 3, 2019

Here's what your leaders are saying about population loss

Author/Byline: Graham Ambrose

Population loss has devastated Midwestern communities for decades. Is it inevitable? What can be done to stop the hemorrhaging? As already reported in an ongoing series, residents are worried about the myriad problems caused by population loss, ranging from reduced city services to higher tax bills. So what's the plan? What are leaders and institutions in the community actually doing — if anything? To find out, we reached out to municipal, county and state leaders with three sets of questions. The responses — which are excerpted below — varied in urgency and vision.

1. *Is population loss a problem? If it is, why does it seem that no one is talking about it?"*

Douglas Maxeiner, city administrator, East Moline: "Population loss is a problem in that the State of Illinois distributes many revenues to municipalities on a per capita basis. The Local Government Distributive Fund (income tax and use taxes) are provided to municipalities based on the most recent Census numbers. If population counts decrease, a municipality receives less funding for services, which will increase reliance on property taxes. Increasing property taxes are frequently used as a reason why population is leaving Illinois, so this becomes a declining spiral." In addition, population loss is indicative of larger issues in the community. Growing communities showing signs of investment are healthy. Shrinking communities with little or no new investment are less so."

2. *"Can population loss be reversed in our area? Should our communities fight depopulation, or accept it as inevitable and plan accordingly?"*

Maxeiner, East Moline administrator: "We are attempting to reverse negative growth with new public and private investment in East Moline. The redevelopment of The Bend and Rust Belt are examples of private development reversing course. The new apartments at The Bend will add 70 to 80 households to East Moline."

3. *"What practical, actionable things are you working on to address population loss?"*

Maxeiner, East Moline administrator: "As previously mentioned, The Bend and Rust Belt are examples of the city getting aggressive in our economic development efforts. We have partnered with private developers to spur new development and redevelopment in our community. Public investment spurring private investment is critical to our success. ... Another example of our efforts is in eliminating blight and dilapidated housing stock and raising the bar on property

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Douglas K. Maxeiner
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

standards. ... These efforts don't pay off overnight, but we feel we're headed in the right direction and are optimistic for the future of East Moline."

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Douglas K. Maxeiner
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Dispatch-Argus (IL)
June 3, 2019

The Bend developer pulls deal for sale of park

Author: Gerald Shelton

Developers of The Bend have rescinded their offer to sell the city of East Moline 3 acres of land at The Bend on the Mighty Mississippi. At the last council meeting, aldermen voted to approve purchase of the parcel, known as Murphy Park, for \$1. The site includes an outdoor amphitheater. "That was the initial discussion," **Doug Maxeiner**, city administrator, said at Monday night's East Moline council meeting. "That got approved at the COW (committee-of-the-whole) and was going to move forward to the city council meeting, but the developer changed his mind. They found something in the tax code that they could keep their exemption, and they are retaining that." **Maxeiner** said the purchase agreement that was discussed at the last meeting no longer was being considered. Council members made no comment regarding the situation during the council meeting.

Plans to bring the Mississippi Valley Blues Festival to the Bend will take a lot of work and need to be done in a short window of time, **Maxeiner** said. He said the city had less than 30 days to get everything organized, including coordinating with other police departments in order to get the needed protection for the events going on in town that weekend. "The police department got a call Friday, I got a call today; it completely caught me off guard, so I didn't know anything about it until today," **Maxeiner** said. "They are advertising that it has been approved and it's going forward, and we haven't had any discussions yet so." He said the hours of the event would need to be condensed and a noise ordinance would need to be put in place. **Maxeiner** said since it was a major event, it might have to come in front of the city council for a vote.

In other business:

The "interim" tag has been removed from **Maxeiner's** title, as he was officially hired by the city of East Moline following a closed session at the last city council meeting. His agreement took affect on May 26. His employment contract states he will make \$150,000 annually, and will receive 17 days of paid vacation. Starting Jan. 1, 2020, he will receive 20 vacation days annually. His contract runs through April 30, 2021.

The contract also states that because **Maxeiner** lives less than one mile outside of the corporate limits of the city, he would be allowed to remain living there for the duration of this contract. However, if he were to sell his residence, he would be required to move into city limits within six months of selling his residence. If **Maxeiner** were to be terminated from his contract early, he would receive 20 weeks of compensation, so as he is not terminated for misconduct.

Previously, **Maxeiner** had served as the city administrator for the city of Moline. When he first started in May 2017, his salary was \$157,500. According to Moline's 2019 budget, **Maxeiner's** salary had risen to \$162,515, including benefits and an annual automobile allowance of \$4,800. **Maxeiner's** departure from Moline netted him severance pay of about \$62,505, and payout for

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(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

unused and accrued vacation time. His departure was mutually agreed upon between the city of Moline and **Maxeiner**.

Following Monday's closed session, council members voted 7-0 to pursue the purchase of property at 3936 4th St. The property, if purchased, would be used to help with drainage issues in the area. Currently, the property is in foreclosure with the bank, **Maxeiner** said.

Results of a \$44,000 study conducted by IMEG of Rock Island to look at ways to alleviate flooding is slated to be on the next city council agenda, according to Tim Kammler, director of engineering services. Kammler said it looked as if making the needed updates to alleviate flooding could cost nearly \$2 million.

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Douglas K. Maxeiner
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Quad City Times (IA)
February 23, 2019

East Moline hires Maxeiner

Author: Sarah Hayden

Former Moline City Administrator **Doug Maxeiner** has been hired as interim city administrator for East Moline. **Maxeiner's** employment was approved following closed session during the Feb. 4 city council meeting. He begins work on Monday.

Maxeiner will replace former East Moline City Administrator Darin Girdler, who resigned Jan. 22 after city officials asked for his resignation. **Maxeiner** also resigned suddenly Jan. 22, although Moline city leaders said his departure was a "mutual separation."

East Moline Mayor Reggie Freeman said he is looking forward to working with **Maxeiner**. "I've been on a couple of committees with him; I've seen how he works," Freeman said. "We've been in administrator and mayors' meetings together. "I think he'll do a good job for the city while we search for a new administrator; I trust him," Freeman said. "I'm looking forward to working with him."

According to the six-month employment agreement, **Maxeiner** will be paid \$62 an hour with three paid personal days and paid holidays. **Maxeiner** has agreed to waive health, dental and vision insurance, but the city will pay his share of FICA and Medicare taxes, and make contributions to the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund. **Maxeiner** will receive a cellphone allowance of \$50 per month and a city-issued laptop for business use. In the event **Maxeiner** is hired as the permanent city administrator, a new agreement will be entered into.

Maxeiner was hired by the city of Moline in May 2017 at a salary of \$157,500. At the time of his departure, **Maxeiner's** salary had risen to \$162,515, including benefits and an annual automobile allowance of \$4,800, according to the 2019 budget. **Maxeiner** entered into a separation agreement that paid him 20 weeks of severance pay of about \$62,505, to be paid in one lump sum in addition to any unused and accrued vacation time.

As part of the agreement, **Maxeiner** agreed not to seek court action against Moline and must refrain from making public comments on the matter. In January, Alderman Dick Potter, 4th Ward, had attributed **Maxeiner's** departure to "the culmination of a near-poisonous atmosphere that exists between some aldermen and some senior staff."

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Douglas K. Maxeiner
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)**

Dispatch-Argus, The (Moline, IL)
February 1, 2019

MOLINE OKS SEVERANCE AGREEMENT

Author/Byline: Staff Writer

Former City Administrator **Doug Maxeiner** will receive 20 weeks of severance pay as part of a separation agreement for his resignation from the city Jan. 22.

City council members passed a resolution Tuesday night advancing the agreement for approval at the Feb. 5 meeting, assuming **Maxeiner** signs off on the document.

Maxeiner was hired in May 2017 at a salary of \$157,500. According to the 2019 budget, **Maxeiner's** salary had risen to \$182,585, including benefits and an annual automobile allowance of \$4,800.

According to the agreement, **Maxeiner's** severance pay of about \$70,225 will be paid in one lump sum in addition to any unused and accrued vacation time.

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Douglas K. Maxeiner
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Dispatch-Argus (IL)
January 23, 2019

Moline administrator's resignation blamed on 'near-poisonous atmosphere'

Author: Sarah Hayden

One Moline alderman is blaming City Administrator **Doug Maxeiner's** abrupt resignation Tuesday on a "near-poisonous atmosphere" between city officials. In a press release Tuesday night, Mayor Stephanie Acri said the decision was mutually agreed upon by city council members and **Maxeiner**.

Acri said Wednesday **Maxeiner's** departure took place during open session at Tuesday's city council meeting, although it was not on the agenda. "It's a personnel matter; I don't have a lot of details," Acri said. "It is a mutual separation, and the council is wishing **Doug** the very best moving forward. I'm grateful for all of (**Maxeiner's**) good efforts in making Moline a success." Acri said Public Works Director J.D. Schulte will serve as interim city administrator until a permanent replacement is found.

Ald. Dick Potter, 4th Ward, said a separation agreement already had been drafted before Tuesday's meeting, and all it needed was approval. "I think its the culmination of a near-poisonous atmosphere that exists between some aldermen and some senior staff," Potter said.

Potter said he is not among the aldermen causing the near-poisonous atmosphere. "I can sense an unhealthy distrust between some aldermen and some senior staff," Potter said. "I think it's unhealthy for the community. We have so many positives; if we can't establish a better relationship, we're not going to be able to attract or retain the skilled, experienced staff we need to run our community."

Ald. David Parker, Ward 2, disagreed with Potter's assessment of the atmosphere at city hall. "I would say that's Dick's opinion and not mine," Parker said. "**(Maxeiner)** is moving on and so are we; we decided to part ways," Parker said. "I certainly like **Doug** and wish him the very best in his career. He did great work for the city."

"It wasn't even a resignation -- we mutually agreed to separate and sever ties," Ald. Sonia Berg, at large, said.

In October, city council members rejected a 2019 budget from **Maxeiner** that included a 2.5 percent property tax increase. **Maxeiner** said the increase was needed to offset the .3 percent "anemic growth" of the city's revenues in 2018 and stated it likely wasn't what city council members wanted to hear. Council members eventually approved a 2019 budget without a property tax increase that instead focused on spending cuts. Aids. Lori Turner, Michael Waldron, Quentin Rodriguez, Kevin Schoonmaker and Mike Wendt could not be reached for comment.

In a release, **Maxeiner** said he was grateful for the opportunity in Moline and will miss the daily

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(Articles are in reverse chronological order)**

interaction and professional relationships he built with staff, elected officials, governmental and nonprofit partners, and the residents of Moline.

Maxeiner was hired in May 2017 at a salary of \$157,500. According to the 2019 budget, **Maxeiner's** salary had risen to \$162,515 and included an annual automobile allowance of \$4,800. At the time of his hiring, **Maxeiner** had more than 25 years of experience in municipal government. He previously served as village administrator for Wauconda and Hampshire, and as city administrator in McHenry, in addition to holding several support staff positions in Rockford.

Maxeiner's departure follows a tumultuous two years of turnover in the city, beginning with the controversial firing of longtime City Clerk Tracy Koranda in April 2017 after she was placed on administrative leave in January 2017. Brandy Blackburn was hired as city clerk in October 2017 and quit after one week on the job. Janine Hollembaek Parr was hired as clerk in February 2018, and she remains in the position.

Police Chief John Hitchcock was placed on administrative leave following his arrest for driving under the influence Sept. 7, 2018. Hitchcock resigned in October after pleading guilty to operating a vehicle while intoxicated. The city is currently interviewing for a new police chief. Acri said the city will work with Gov HR in the search for a new administrator.

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Douglas K. Maxeiner
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Dispatch-Argus (IL)
December 19, 2018

Area cities get \$2.4M grant for lead reduction

Author: Sarah Hayden

Area cities soon will receive \$2.4 million from the federal government to help pay for removing lead from older homes. The Department of Housing and Urban Development has awarded Moline, on behalf of the Illinois Quad Cities Healthy Homes Coalition, the \$2.4 million Lead Based Paint Hazard Reduction (LHR) grant.

Moline will lead the coalition of grant recipients, which include the cities of East Moline, Rock Island and Silvis, in partnership with Project NOW of Rock Island, the Rock Island County Health Department, some faith-based institutions, and schools and child-care facilities. "We have a pretty significant housing stock that we found in which there was lead-based paint in those houses," City Administrator **Doug Maxeiner** said. "This will allow us to make a dent in getting it removed. "(Lead) has proven to be highly detrimental to children living in lead-based homes. Whether it's the dust they are inhaling or if they are eating it, it is a health hazard as a whole," he said. As the lead applicant for the LHR grant, Moline will be responsible for ensuring program compliance among the coalition. Similar grants were awarded in 2009-2012 and 2013-2016. The grant will go into effect in 2019, and it will cover lead abatement through 2022.

Most of the money — \$2.24 million — will be used to remove lead hazards in the homes of low-income families with children, and \$160,000 will pay for the promotion and development of healthy housing. According to the Illinois Department of Public Health, the state has one of the highest rates in the nation for the number of children with elevated levels of lead in their blood. An IDPH release said the most common exposure to lead for children "is through the ingestion of paint chips and contaminated dust from deteriorated or disturbed lead-based paint in homes built before 1978." HUD said there are 36,720 homes built before 1978 in the cities of Moline, East Moline, Rock Island and Silvis that contain some lead-based paint that could pose a risk to children under the age of 6.

Maxeiner said the staff in the Moline's planning and development department wrote the grant. "We were hopeful we would get the grant, but we were very happy we got the amount that we did," he said. "This allows us to get in and remediate some of the lead issues in our community. The (company) has to be a certified lead-removal specialist, and they have to contain the lead during removal. It's a very involved process."

Moline Planning and Development Director Ray Forsythe said it took members of the consortium three months to write the grant. He said Moline will start the program immediately in January. "It's really exciting because it's a great opportunity for individuals who have lead in their home, especially families with children," Forsythe said. "The majority of our housing stock was built before 1978 and those homes have a greater danger for lead."

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Douglas K. Maxeiner
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Dispatch-Argus (IL)
June 25, 2018

Moline awarded third place for best water

Author: Sarah Hayden

It's a tall drink of water to compete against major metropolitan areas and finish in the top 10 for the best tap water in all of North America. But that's exactly what happened when Moline took third place for best tasting water at the American Water Works Association (AWWA) national conference. The 13th annual Best of the Best Tap Water Taste Test contest was open to Canada, the United States and Mexico.

Water treatment plant manager Dave Owens and water lab chemist Bob Bohannon attended the conference, held June 13 in Las Vegas this year. "It's exciting," Bohannon said. "To be able to compete against 27 other utilities across North America is an honor and coming in third for best tasting — I feel like we were at the Olympics. We got the bronze. It proves it wasn't just a fluke, but we are doing a great job." Bohannon said it was the second time in the last three years the city competed at the international level. To qualify for the AWWA contest, a water utility must win its division first and then its overall state title. Illinois has six contest districts. In addition to 2018, Moline also won best drinking water in Illinois in 2016.

First place at the AWWA contest went to the Alderwood Water and Wastewater District of Lynnwood, Washington; second place went to the city of Sherbrooke, Quebec.

Public works director J.D. Schulte noted the water source for Lynnwood comes from an artesian well. Sherbrooke's water source comes from Memphremagog Lake, one of the clearest lakes in Canada. "And we have the Mississippi River, so when you think about where we placed in comparison to all the others, the Mississippi River continues to give us wonder and amazement," Schulte said. "To even participate in the taste competition, participants must have an impeccable compliance record with the (Environmental Protection Agency.) We are truthfully the only ones doing surface water treatment." Schulte said he and city employees were "all on pins and needles waiting to hear the results." There was no worry about sneaking bottles of water through airport security on the way to the competition. Water samples for the contest had to be submitted in one-liter glass bottles — six total — and mailed via FedEx to Las Vegas ahead of time, Bohannon said. "Glass is the most impervious for water," Bohannon said. "Dave (Owens) and I taste the water every day to see if we can pick up any differences. I'm really proud of the group we're in. There was a lot of really great tasting water."

Owens said he and Bohannon watched the judges conduct the taste tests. Blind samples were given to a panel of three judges, who looked for clarity, smoothness, and overall good taste. "They're looking for a clean, crisp taste; something that finishes well" Owens said. "(Judges) would take a saltine cracker between sips and start again. Taste is so subjective. If there is someone who grew up on well water, they tend to like well water. It was special to have three judges who were not from our area to pick our water." Owens said things got exciting after the

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Douglas K. Maxeiner
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top five cities were announced. "I can tell you the adrenaline was running when they announced we were in the top five," Owens said. "We were very surprised because there are some big players — New York, L.A., Boston. We are little Moline. We thought we had a quality product, I've felt that way for a long time. We were extremely happy we made it in the top five. It was a good feeling to find out we were ranked third." Owens said he and Bohannon were brought up on the stage and handed a trophy cup as their prize.

City administrator **Doug Maxeiner** said he was pleased to hear Moline captured third place internationally. "It's big business; it's bragging rights for us," **Maxeiner** said. "It reinforces for us that we're doing something right in our water processes. We take great pride in getting the product to our residents that we do. It confirms our thought that the product we put on the table for people is top notch."

Owens has been with the water department for 26 years, and its manager for 16 years. Bohannon has been the chemist for 11 years. Owens said it's a 24-hour process from the moment the water is pulled from the river until it pours out from a faucet. The water treatment plant, 30 18th St., uses line softening, Owens said. The purification process begins with coagulation. "Making smaller particles of dirt into larger particles of dirt so they settle out of the water," Owens said. "We raise the PH level up to around 11 and that precipitates our magnesium and calcium hardness out of the water. Then we bring the PH back down to a 9 and run it through our filters to capture anything that might be left. Then we disinfect using chloramines; it's a blend of chlorine and ammonia. We further disinfect using (ultraviolet) light. Then it sits in our finished water basin until we pump it out into the city. It's an art based in science. "We've settled upon a mineral content that people really seem to like," Owens said. "Since we've done that, that's when the awards started rolling in." "The water plant is such a wonderful representation of the investment our city has made in our utilities," Schulte said.

Schulte said some may wonder how construction of the new Interstate 74 bridge in the river affects water quality, especially with the placement of drill rigs. He said the bridge contractor, Lunda Construction Co., has been great partners with the city. "They understand how any raw water intake impacts our product," Schulte said. "If they see anything coming down the river, like a sheen of any kind, they notify us right away. They are using biodegradable fuels when possible. I'm sure folks wonder if all this (construction) has had an impact, but it's all positive. "I couldn't be more proud of team, they work so hard. They're doing it because they're committed to producing a high quality product everyday for our customers."

Owens also gives credit to water department employees. "I'm very proud of what we do and I'm very proud of our team," Owens said. "The water operators—we're making water 24 hours a day 365 days a year. The operators spend the most time with the water; they are a very dedicated group of people. They were very excited."

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Douglas K. Maxeiner
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Dispatch-Argus (IL)
June 22, 2018

Moline pays out more than \$7M in tax incentives in 2017

Author: Sarah Hayden

The city paid out more than \$7 million in incentive money to developers through TIF (tax increment financing) districts in 2017. City officials of the joint review board met for their annual TIF meeting Friday afternoon, reporting 2017 as an active year for development. City Administrator **Doug Maxeiner** said TIF districts are created as a way to offer incentives to developers. The city helps fund certain projects with the expectation that revenue will be generated after projects are completed in the form of sales or property taxes. "It's an investment in areas that are not going to have development in them without some assistance or some incentive from the city to get that development going," **Maxeiner** said.

Director of Planning and Development Ray Forsythe said property values increased in almost every TIF district last year. "It's a good sign the economy has stabilized and property values are going up and development has occurred within those TIF districts to help bring in more positive cash flow," Forsythe said. "Our forecasts show all of our TIF (districts) will end up in the black when they expire. Our long-term outlook is really positive." Of the 13 TIF districts, the EAV (equalized assessed value) increased in eight of them, according to the city's 2017 economic development report. The most dramatic increase in EAV occurred in the SouthPark Mall TIF district, with an increase of \$441,770, bringing the current EAV to \$14.2 million. The city paid out the most incentive money — \$3.1 million — to the downtown TIF district, which is the city's largest. Created in 1986, the TIF will expire in 2021. It has included projects such as the TaxSlayer Center, John Deere Commons, Bass Street Landing and Stoney Creek Inn. The second highest payout — more than \$2 million — went to the Multi-Modal Area TIF district. Created in 2013, the redevelopment plan includes the Quad-Cities Multi-Modal Station, which will be located at 12th Street and 4th Avenue. The station will provide Amtrak passenger rail service to Chicago.

Maxeiner said the city's general fund borrowed about \$4.3 million prior to 2018 and borrowed another \$2 million from the general fund this year to help pay for the rail service project. "That TIF is on the books as owing the general fund \$6.3 million," **Maxeiner** said. "Over the next few years, it will start reimbursing the general fund over time. It may take 10 or 15 years, but it will get there." **Maxeiner** said the TIF district for Autumn Trails residential development has been closed out, bringing the city down to 12 TIF districts. Autumn Trails, an independent-living community for senior citizens, sits on the former Bethany Home for Children site, west of 3rd Street between 11th and 12th avenues, Moline. **Maxeiner** said the TIF district sunset came 10 years ahead of schedule. "This was a very highly successful TIF and we paid off the incentives for the developer a little bit early, so we closed out the TIF and distributed the proceeds to the taxing districts." **Maxeiner** said. "From this point forward, all that new assessed value from that project will go directly on the tax rolls for them." Forsythe said the city has no plans to create any new TIF districts at this time.

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Douglas K. Maxeiner
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Dispatch-Argus (IL)
March 23, 2018

Moline parking ticket revenues drop due to new policy

Author: Sarah Hayden

Drivers may be happier, but changes to the city's parking ticket policy are costing thousands of dollars each month in lost revenue and additional expenses. Due to a rise in complaints from the number of parking tickets being issued and the impact on businesses, city council members took action and changed the parking ordinance in September 2017. Three changes were made: Drivers will now receive one courtesy notice per year before a ticket is issued; a 15-minute grace period has been added; and space jumping has been eliminated as a parking violation. "When I became mayor, I spent half an hour on the phone each day with frustrated parkers," Mayor Stephanie Acri said during the state of the city address on Monday.

The more lenient parking rules will result in the city losing more than \$50,000 each year in parking ticket revenues. Since council members approved the new parking ordinance, the city has lost more than \$4,000 each month. "We knew we were going to take a hit when (council members) initiated it," finance director Keith Verbeke said. "Hopefully in return, we'll get more visitors willing to come to downtown Moline, which will generate more sales tax revenue."

In February 2017, a total of 286 tickets were issued, bringing in \$5,720. Fast forward one year later to February 2018, when 45 tickets and 82 courtesy notices were issued, bringing in \$1,560; a loss of \$4,160. In January 2017, a total of 358 parking tickets were issued, bringing in \$7,160. In January 2018, a total of 58 parking tickets and 172 courtesy notices were issued, resulting in \$2,480; a loss of \$4,680. In December 2016, the city gave out 311 tickets, bringing in \$6,550. In December 2017, a total of 63 courtesy notices and 105 tickets were given, resulting in \$2,490; a loss of \$4,060.

The city still pays \$3,276 per month to its parking enforcement contractor, Per Mar. Mr. Verbeke said the city has saved money by contracting with Per Mar by eliminating the full-time city position used for monitoring parking in August 2016. "There were quite a few complaints about the inflexibility with our regulations," City Administrator **Doug Maxeiner** said. "We were prohibiting space jumping to extend the time frame. People would come to a beauty shop, run long, and come out to find a ticket. "It was changed to promote the welcoming business climate we wanted in the city," Mr. **Maxeiner** said. "We want to be more customer-friendly in the downtown. We're paying more in (parking) enforcement; if that's a benefit, maybe it's the cost of doing that. It's no longer a revenue situation; now it's an expense situation. The question becomes, is it worth it to the city council or do we need to revisit it? Everything is looking promising at the moment."

Mr. Maxeiner said the city has a surplus of more than \$500,000. Mr. Verbeke said he is not aware of any cuts the city has had to make as a result of the loss in revenue, which has been absorbed into the budget. "We support what the mayor and council wants," Mr. Verbeke said.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Douglas K. Maxeiner
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

"Of course, it's going to bring in less revenue, but it will entice more people to come to the downtown area. It's meant to be more business and customer friendly." All-day downtown parking permits are available for \$3 per day that allows for parking in any three-hour space. There were 841 permits sold in 2017, compared with 619 permits sold in 2016.

The city also sells residential downtown parking permits for \$30 per month that allows downtown residents to park in any three-hour space in excess of posted time limits. To qualify for a residential permit, drivers need to prove they are living downtown and provide the license plate of their vehicle. There were 117 permits sold in 2017, and 98 permits sold in 2016. "We knew we were going to take a hit when (council members) initiated it. Hopefully in return, we'll get more visitors willing to come to downtown Moline, which will generate more sales tax revenue." Keith Verbeke, Moline finance director

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Douglas K. Maxeiner
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Dispatch-Argus (IL)
March 14, 2018

Moline reverses course, approves Midland contract

Author: Gerald Shelton

A \$6.2 million contract with Midland Davis for recycling services took three tries, but finally passed on a 6-2 vote a Tuesday's city council meeting. Ald. Lori Turner, Sonia Berg, Quentin Rodriguez, David Parker, Mike Wendt and Dick Potter voted in favor of the contract, while Ald. Kevin Schoonmaker and Mike Waldron voted against it. This was the third time in the last three weeks that the contract had been discussed. The current contract was set to expire at the end of the month. According to the contract, recycling services will cost \$2.93 per month in the first year, increasing incrementally to \$3.65 per month by year 10. The contract appeared on the committee-of-the-whole agenda, where it met a 5-3 approval. Ald. Waldron and Ald. Schoonmaker voted no, along with Ald. Rodriguez. Ald. Rodriguez said he voted against the contract due to language in it that could potentially have allowed Midland Davis to subcontract all of the services to a third party.

Martin Davis, president of Midland Davis, told the council that the company is asked "a lot about glass." He praised Moline residents for their recycling habits. "To be honest with you, the Moline residents recycle," Mr. Davis said. "You drive around and it's a 90-plus percent participation rate. I mean everybody is doing it. Every house has their container out. The Moline residents took to this like ducks to water."

Mayor Stephanie Acri asked City Administrator **Doug Maxeiner** for his opinion on proceeding with the contract. **Mr. Maxeiner** said that, after reviewing all the assumptions, it would be close to the original projected cost of \$405,690 more, or \$6.6 million, to move the service in-house versus going with the contract. "In my opinion, a spike in fuel costs would be a significant issue for us," **Mr. Maxeiner** said. "I prefer to actually have a contract that locks in that risk with our contractor, so that we have a set 10 year contract here for the curbside recycling moving forward. We have had a good partnership with them, and I think we have a good product on the table and we should reconsider that contract."

After the meeting, Mayor Acri said that the city will apply for a special closed loop grant that would allow the purchase new 95-gallon recycling containers that will be used to collect glass and plastic milk cartons. If approved, the city would be able to borrow the money for the carts at zero percent interest at \$842,000. Otherwise, it will cost \$978,220 at a 3.055 percent interest. At the meeting on Feb. 27, council voted to table the decision until city staff could provide a clearer picture of the cost differences between signing the contract and moving the service in-house. Council members were confused with the report provided by municipal services general manager Rodd Schick. Last week, the contract appeared on the committee-of-the-whole agenda and failed on a 5-2 vote. Ald. Waldron presented the council with information on how much money Davenport and Bettendorf made from recycling.

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Douglas K. Maxeiner
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Dispatch-Argus, The (Moline, IL)
December 12, 2017

Attorneys say suit filed by former Moline city clerk is settled

Author/Byline: Anthony Watt

A lawsuit initially filed against the city of Moline by its former city clerk has concluded. The suit was filed in January in Rock Island County by Tracy Koranda, who was attempting to return to work after she was placed on paid administrative leave. The suit named the city and J.D. Schulte, who was interim city manager at the time, as defendants. Mr. Schulte is the Moline's public works director.

In April, John F. Doak, Ms. Koranda's attorney, and Moline city attorney Maureen Riggs confirmed Ms. Koranda no longer worked for the city, but did not provide details as to when or in what way she left its employ. The case was later transferred to federal court, but further details about the federal filing were not immediately available Monday.

The two attorneys separately confirmed on Monday that the parties in the suit had reached a solution, but did not provide many details. "This matter has been settled, and the lawsuit has been dismissed," Ms. Riggs said in response to an email query. Mr. Doak said the matter had been resolved but that he was not at liberty to discuss it further.

The suit as it was filed in Rock Island County contended her leave was retaliation for requesting an investigation into alleged wrongdoing by the city council or some of its members. Ms. Koranda's suit stated she sought the investigation on Jan. 23 after learning she was under investigation for several things, including her testimony at candidates' petitions hearings for the April election and for a recommendation provided by a committee on which she sat.

The city's clerk's seat remained empty as of Monday, City Administrator **Doug Maxeiner** said. Moline was reviewing applications it has received in recent weeks. The position was filled briefly in October, but Brandy Blackburn, the person who was hired, left after her initial training period. Mr. **Maxeiner** said at the time that she had decided the position was not a good fit for her.

Asked Monday for a comment on the resolution of the suit, Moline Mayor Stephanie Acri said the city is in a great place — on the cusp of wonderful prosperity. She also said that Moline has the best employees that anyone could hope for and that she is grateful for it.

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Douglas K. Maxeiner
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Dispatch-Argus, The (Moline, IL)
November 7, 2017

Council talks budgets, approves rezoning for future Starbucks

Author/Byline: Gerold Shelton

MOLINE -- Going into the night, the 2018 fiscal budget included \$764,405 in deficit spending, **Doug Maxeiner**, city administrator, told the council. He said the efforts to get the budget in line was a team effort, with the city staff stepping up to the plate. Several staff positions will go unfilled when the people currently serving in those positions retire. Also cuts will be made to the "Why Moline?" marketing program and the facade improvement program.

Ald. Kevin Schoonmaker said the facade program has been gaining momentum and that cutting funding "worries me." Mr. **Maxeiner** responded to the comment. "Quite honestly, there are a number of things in here that should worry all of you," Mr. **Maxeiner** said. "We are cutting a significant amount out of this budget, including some personnel impacts. None of this should be taken lightly."

Council members haggled over elimination of executive training sessions, delaying of hiring of police officers until October 2018, not hiring a permanent police chief until later in the year and cutting \$2,500 for the Touch-A-Truck program for nearly two hours. Ald. Dick Potter said many of the operational issues being faced in this budget will be back again next year. He said it was important to keep those issues in mind when putting together the budget. "We are not going to deal with this problem cutting \$2,500 bucks here and \$5,000 here," Ald. Potter said. "We have a systemic problem and we need to get our hands around it."

Mr. **Maxeiner** also told the council that the 2017 capital improvement program has a deficit of \$750,000, mostly due to unexpected payments associated with the I-74 Bridge project. Work on the budget continues and will be brought back for a vote later this month.

Two residents came forward to voice their displeasure with the deer hunting ordinance. They asked the council to rescind the ordinance. Ald. Sonia Berg made a motion during the public comments portion of the meeting to place a moratorium on the deer hunting licenses for three weeks until it could be discussed further at an upcoming council meeting. The motion failed on a 5-3 vote.

The council voted unanimously to approve rezoning a portion of a parking lot at 600 John Deere Road that will allow for a Starbucks to be built there. UnityPoint Health-Trinity is looking to sell a part of their parking lot. Plans for the lot include a Starbucks with a drive-thru, to be developed by Dan Dolan. The parking lot had been used to house farmer's markets on the weekends.

An ordinance that would limit the number of video gaming licenses to 30 was given special consideration and approved on a 7-1 vote. Ald. Quentin Rodriguez cast the lone no vote. According to Maureen Riggs, City Attorney, there are currently 33 licensed and five or six more

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applications awaiting approval. The ordinance allows those who have already submitted applications to be considered, but no more applications will be accepted.

At 8:25 p.m., Ald. Schoonmaker made a motion to alter the meeting start times to 6 p.m. He said when he ran for election, the start times were later and that allowed him the opportunity to work at his private-sector job. The times were recently changed from 6:30 p.m. to a 5:30 p.m. start time, due in part to the length of the meetings. The proposed change will appear on an upcoming council agenda and would potentially start in 2018.

At deadline, the council had convened into an executive session to discuss price setting for a property for sale.

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Douglas K. Maxeiner
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)**

[CB&A Note: Only the information relevant to **Douglas K. Maxeiner** is listed below.]

Quad-City Times, The (IA)
October 10, 2017

Acri begins work on budget, I-74 'footprint'

Author: Alma Gaul

Coming up on her schedule today will be a city council work session to discuss City Administrator **Douglas Maxeiner's** budget proposal for 2018, his first since beginning his job in June.

The city is "revenue challenged" because of a downturn in receipts that might be attributed to construction of John Deere Road that made access to businesses difficult, **Maxeiner** said. "We're hoping it's a one time blip," he said. To cover a shortfall, he is suggesting a transfer of \$400,000 from the city's reserves to the general fund. He proposes repaying the money by selling excess property. "The city owns quite a few parcels," he said, adding that some were purchased to facilitate the John Deere Road project and will no longer be needed.

Maxeiner is not recommending any tax rate increases, but is suggesting a new fee - adding a monthly charge of \$1.93 to residents' garbage bills to pay for leaf collection/processing that now is subsidized by income and sales taxes.

Among Acri's campaign issues was maintaining the quality of roads, so she'll have a keen eye out for that portion of the budget. Overall, she doesn't expect the budget process to be too painful. "Moline is in very good shape," she said. "We have resources."

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Douglas K. Maxeiner
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Dispatch-Argus (IL)
July 12, 2017

Moline to split fire, police chief jobs

Author: Anthony Watt

The city plans to again have separate leadership for its police and fire departments when Moline Police Chief and Public Safety Director Kim Hankins retires Friday. On Nov. 10, 2011, Mr. Hankins -- the police chief for Moline -- was appointed interim public safety director for the city. In 2012, city leaders decided to have Mr. Hankins continue to lead both the police and fire departments.

In light of his retirement, Moline City Administrator **Doug Maxeiner** has appointed separate interim chiefs for the two departments. Capt. John Hitchcock will lead the police department, while Battalion Chief Jeff Snyder will be responsible for the fire department. Both are expected to start Friday.

On Wednesday, **Mr. Maxeiner** said the city plans to hire a police chief and a fire chief instead of retaining the combined public safety director position. Mr. Hankins has done a nice job of splitting his time and effort between the two departments, **Mr. Maxeiner** said, but -- long term -- the fire and police departments probably would like to have their own leadership. He added that, for optimal performance, it probably is the way to go. "I think each department deserves their own leadership, their own leadership structure," **Mr. Maxeiner** said.

At Tuesday night's committee of the whole meeting, aldermen gave initial approval to paying GovHR USA, of Northbrook -- the same firm that found **Mr. Maxeiner** -- about \$40,000 to conduct a search for Mr. Hankins' replacements. Final action on the GovHR USA contract is expected at next week's city council meeting.

If approved, both internal and external candidates will be considered -- similar to the search for city administrator, **Mr. Maxeiner** said. Mr. Hankins was being paid about \$175,000 annually; the two chiefs could potentially make up to \$150,000 each.

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Douglas K. Maxeiner
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Dispatch-Argus, The (Moline, IL)
June 16, 2017

'What you see is what you get' with new Moline administrator

Author/Byline: Anthony Watt

Doug Maxeiner, the new city administrator, describes his function in city government in terms of an hourglass. One portion of the hourglass represents the city's elected officials, and the other is the staff, said Mr. **Maxeiner**, whose first day on the job was Monday, June 12. For an hourglass to work, there needs to be a way for the sand to flow between the two containers, and that's his role — to ensure the two halves are communicating. "I'm that little piece in the middle," he said. Since starting, he has been meeting with department heads and elected officials, learning their priorities, Mr. **Maxeiner** said. The city has a strategic plan, but he also wants to make sure there is a focus on the city council's key concerns and goals. The biggest challenge he sees at the moment in Moline is making sure everyone is working toward the same goals and using resources effectively, Mr. **Maxeiner** said.

Mr. **Maxeiner** was hired in May to replace Lewis J. Steinbrecher, who retired in November. Before taking the job in Moline, Mr. **Maxeiner** was the village administrator of Wauconda, a position he had held since 2013. He has about 12 years of experience as a city or village administrator for three other Illinois communities, according to his resume. These were Hampshire, McHenry and Marengo. Mr. **Maxeiner** was also McHenry's assistant city administrator earlier in his career. He has a master's degree in public administration from Northern Illinois University, with an emphasis on urban management, according to his profile in LinkedIn. He also has a master's degree in political science and government from Eastern Illinois University. As an undergraduate at Eastern, he majored in political science and minored in economics, the profile states. Among his accomplishments, Mr. **Maxeiner** lists helping bring about a riverfront recreational path in McHenry, as well as a project in Wauconda that allowed the city to set up a new water system drawing from Lake Michigan.

Mr. **Maxeiner** said two major influences in his youth led him to a career in public administration: his father and an internship at the Decatur City Hall while an undergraduate. His father was a Decatur firefighter, he said. "I was very close to him and felt like I owed him a great deal," Mr. **Maxeiner** said. The internship, in the Decatur city manager's office, was suggested by one of his professors, Mr. **Maxeiner** said. While there, he was given a project and had to present his findings to a committee. He remembers feeling very at home during the give-and-take of the committee discussions. "I was hooked from that point forward," he said. In Moline, his work is going to include a focus on improvements in city infrastructure, he said. This is a goal that has been championed by Mayor Stephanie Acri. "We're going to try and find a way to lessen our reliance on debt and commit more resources to infrastructure," he said. Asked about what residents should know about him, Mr. **Maxeiner** said he doesn't talk much, but when he does speak to them, he will be open and honest. Mr. **Maxeiner** said if information is not restricted by proprietary or strategic reasons, he will release it. "Pretty much what you see is what you get," he said.

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Douglas K. Maxeiner
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Daily Herald (IL)
May 9, 2017

Wauconda’s administrator resigns to take job in Moline

Author: Russel Lissau

Wauconda Village Administrator **Doug Maxeiner** is resigning to take a similar post in another Illinois community. **Maxeiner** is set to become the city administrator in Moline, one of the Quad Cities on the Illinois-Iowa border. The Moline City Council is expected to approve hiring **Maxeiner** tonight. **Maxeiner’s** resignation is effective June 9. **Maxeiner** earns a \$142,500 salary in Wauconda and is set to make \$157,500 a year in Moline, a much larger city with approximately 44,000 residents and more than 400 employees. But **Maxeiner** has more than financial reasons for moving to Moline. His wife has been working as vice president for instruction and student services at Blackhawk College in Moline since July.

"We have been living apart during the week and trying to catch up on the weekends these past 10 months," said **Maxeiner**, 54, of McHenry. "The arrangement was more difficult than either of us thought when we initially considered the move." He insisted the pending move wasn't politically motivated or a reaction to the election of new Mayor Lincoln Knight, who was sworn in last week. "Nothing could be further from the truth," **Maxeiner** said. "Lincoln is an honorable man and will be a terrific mayor."

Maxeiner was hired by Wauconda’s village board in November 2013. He previously had been the village administrator in Hampshire. His tenure in Wauconda has been tumultuous because of political disagreements between then-Mayor Frank Bart and the village board over a plan to bring Lake Michigan drinking water to town, the closure of Wauconda’s 911 center, plans for the Heroes of Freedom Memorial and other issues.

Maxeiner stayed out of the fray, never publicly taking sides in the arguments but instead focusing on financial efficiency at village hall and improving the local economy. "It wasn't particularly difficult staying out of the political stuff because that is my nature and I'm pretty focused on the end goal," **Maxeiner** said. Knight said he's known for a few months that **Maxeiner** was pursuing the Moline job, and why. He praised **Maxeiner** "for bringing a sense of calmness and professionalism to Wauconda." "I have the utmost respect for **Doug** and his professionalism and abilities," Knight said.

Maxeiner also earned plaudits from trustees, including Tim Howe. "There aren't many people who could have navigated the last few years as well as he did," Howe said. "I have to take my hat off and thank him for a great job." Knight intends to name Public Works Director Brad Fink the interim village administrator until a full-time replacement is hired. Knight also plans to ask the board to hire a Northbrook recruiting firm called GovHR USA to oversee the search for a new administrator. GovHR USA brought **Maxeiner** and Police Chief David Wermes to town.

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Douglas K. Maxeiner
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Lake County News-Sun (IL)
November 19, 2016

Anti-tax plans gain momentum - Advisories pass overwhelmingly on Election Day

Author: Luke Hammill

Voters in two Lake County villages and across the state spoke loudly and clearly on Election Day, saying in no uncertain terms to be given a say on future increases to property taxes. Advisory referendum questions in Wauconda and Fox River Grove asked residents if they'd prefer to vote on the matter whenever a taxing body wishes to increase property taxes by any amount. The measures, backed by the conservative, anti-tax advocacy group Americans for Prosperity, passed overwhelmingly: 90 percent of Wauconda voters approved it and 91 percent of Fox River Grove voters did the same. "People are tired of being taxed," said Andrew Gasser, a McHenry County board member and the chairman of the Algonquin Township Republican Party.

Gasser helped get the measure on the ballot in Fox River Grove, which spans parts of Lake and McHenry counties. He also pushed similar initiatives in the McHenry County villages of Cary and Lakewood, where residents voted "yes" by similarly lopsided margins. The measures are advisory, meaning they are non-binding and don't force local governments to do anything. But backers of the initiatives say they send a message. "Every time the people get a chance to say, 'Look, we're over-taxed,' they say it, and then the elected officials don't do anything about it," Gasser said. "And it's my hope that this tool will be used as kind of like a bellwether."

Elsewhere in Illinois, voters in Troy, O'Fallon and Glendale Heights passed the Americans for Prosperity-backed referendum questions, as well, and last spring, the question sailed to victory in Will County's Homer Township, according to Andrew Nelms, deputy state director for the Illinois chapter of Americans for Prosperity. Nelms said his group plans to keep pushing the idea in other communities across the state. "We're going to continue to do everything we can to raise awareness about the plight of beleaguered Illinois taxpayers," he said. An analysis published earlier this year by the California data firm CoreLogic found that Illinois has the highest median property tax rate in the United States, a statistic Nelms pointed to as evidence of out-of-control government spending. Nelms said Illinois, which is also the state with the most units of government in the nation, would do well to consolidate agencies to save property owners money.

Property taxes in Lake County already are constrained by state law. Unless voters approve a larger hike, elected officials are limited to increasing property tax bills by 5 percent or the rate of inflation, whichever is less. The Lake County Board last week took that opportunity, slightly raising its portion of the tax levy to hedge against uncertainty stemming from the budget stalemate in Springfield. Meanwhile in Waukegan, Mayor Wayne Motley is trying to keep the tax levy flat in the face of anticipated budget deficits and requests from the public library for more funding.

Doug Maxeiner, village administrator in Wauconda, said the village is planning to mostly comply with voters' wishes, holding the property tax levy flat for all but one of the eight line

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Douglas K. Maxeiner
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

items on Wauconda's next budget - the police pension fund. He said the village is required by state statute to comply with an actuary's recommendation for funding the police pension system. Wauconda needs to raise an additional \$69,000 in its next budget to satisfy that requirement, **Maxeiner** said.

Reacting to the anti-tax ballot measure, **Maxeiner** said he understands voters' frustrations with property taxes - "I pay them myself," he said - but added it would be unwieldy to have residents vote every time the village wants or needs to raise the levy. He said in a representative democracy, voters elect representatives who have the time to research the implications of such decisions, removing them from office if they do an unsatisfactory job. "The problem is, most of the voters don't have the time to commit to educate themselves on these issues at hand," **Maxeiner** said. "So if we took, for instance, a question to the voters to say, 'Do you want to increase the property taxes by 2 percent to pay for this contract increase for the (public) employees?' most voters would vote by their gut reaction, and that would be, 'No.' "

Maxeiner said the village would have to have its budget proposal finished "a year in advance" to have time to get a property tax increase on the ballot before election deadlines. "To present each individual question to the electorate in a community is not really practical," he said.

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Douglas K. Maxeiner
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Daily Herald (IL)
August 11, 2016

Wauconda, police union agree to contract terms

Author: Russell Lissau

Wauconda's police officers will receive annual pay raises ranging from 2 percent to 2.75 percent as part of a new, four-year labor contract. The town's 17 officers also will pay a greater portion of their medical and dental insurance premiums, starting immediately, officials revealed. The village board approved the deal with the Fraternal Order of Police union Tuesday.

Officers had been working without a contract since May 2015. The new pact came after multiple negotiation meetings, arbitration and sessions with a mediator, Village Administrator **Doug Maxeiner** said. The contract calls for a 2.75 percent pay raise for hours worked during the 2016 fiscal year, which ended April 30. It's retroactive for hours worked, **Maxeiner** said. A 2 percent raise was approved for the current fiscal year. It will result in extra pay for hours already worked since May 1, he said. Officers will receive a 2 percent pay raise in the 2018 fiscal year and a 2.5 percent raise the following year.

Under the deal, starting base salary for a police officer increases from \$61,314 annually to \$64,260 immediately. The officers' health insurance premiums are rising, too. Patrol officers had been paying 10 percent of their medical and dental premiums. Officers enrolled in the department's Health Maintenance Organization plan will pay 12.5 percent of their premiums in the 2018 fiscal year and 15 percent the following year. Officers enrolled in the department's Preferred Provider Organization plan will pay 13.5 percent of their premiums in the 2018 fiscal year and 17.5 percent the following year.

During the four-year contract, the pay raises are expected to cost the village an additional \$138,000, **Maxeiner** said. But the insurance concessions will save the village about \$24,000 during the same period, he said, reducing the net increase to about \$114,000. "We wanted to gain concessions on benefits and keep wage adjustments to a sustainable level," **Maxeiner** said.

The contract also calls for a change to shift schedules. Instead of working five consecutive days followed by two- or three-day breaks, all officers will work five days straight, then get three days off. Additionally, a single shift will last nine hours rather than 8.25 hours. The department has been testing that schedule this year and it seems to work, **Maxeiner** said. "The patrol officers and sergeants liked it and the chief has been able to curtail some overtime with this schedule," he said. A union representative couldn't be reached for comment.

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Douglas K. Maxeiner
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Lake Zurich Courier (IL)
April 21, 2016

Lake Zurich to take over 911 dispatch services for Wauconda

Author: Phil Rockrohr

Wauconda plans to save more than \$700,000 a year by closing its dispatch center and hiring Lake Zurich to handle police calls and overnight detainees, Wauconda Village Administrator **Doug Maxeiner** said. Meanwhile, the Wauconda Fire District will pay slightly more each year for Lake Zurich to handle its dispatch, but expected those costs to rise anyway, Fire District Chief Mike Wahl said. The Lake Zurich Village Board voted unanimously earlier this month to provide police dispatch to Wauconda for an estimated \$222,000 a year, to house overnight arrestees for \$75 each per night and to provide dispatch to the Fire District for an estimated \$122,000 a year. Wauconda Village Board and the Fire District Board approved the contracts earlier this year. The fees are based on the estimated number of calls Wauconda police and fire departments handle each year and could rise based on increases in Lake Zurich police and fire salaries, officials said.

For Wauconda, closing its dispatch center made perfect financial sense, **Maxeiner** said. The village's net cost to operate the center each year was more than \$700,000, he said. With dispatch and overnight detainee costs, Wauconda will pay Lake Zurich just \$225,000 a year, **Maxeiner** said. "In my opinion, it was a fairly easy decision," he said. Nonetheless, Wauconda residents needed a little convincing that Lake Zurich dispatchers would know their community well enough to dispatch emergency calls, **Maxeiner** said. "The technology is such that you do not have to know the community," he said. "The technology tells you where the calls are originating and exactly how to get there."

Lake Zurich plans to begin offering dispatch services and overnight accommodations for detainees on May 11, after the new StarCom21 radio system is installed in the village's dispatch center and Lake Zurich and Wauconda fire departments are linked technologically, Lake Zurich Police Chief Steve Husak said. StarCom21 is a new radio system undergoing the final phases of installation in the Lake Zurich area, Husak said. "We are getting the radios programmed and encrypted," he said. "Hopefully, by May 11 we will have them up and running in Lake Zurich. Then we would be able to take on dispatch for them from here." Wahl said technology available at the Lake Zurich dispatch center is three times as great as the GPS technology available on most cellphones. "Today, the technology is much more superior than homegrown technology," he said. Our [current] dispatchers don't necessarily live in Wauconda either. They get to know things the average person doesn't know, but I suspect after time the Lake Zurich dispatchers will get the same comfort level." The Fire District had to choose another dispatcher when Wauconda chose to close its center, Wahl said. Given that the village would have increased its fees eventually anyway, Lake Zurich fees will be about the same, he said. "It's probably a break-even for us overall," Wahl said. "It costs a little extra, but we have not had a cost increase from the village for a couple of years. If we had stayed, there most likely would have been a slight increase, for which it would have been a wash."

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Douglas K. Maxeiner
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Daily Herald (IL)
April 20, 2016

Wauconda adopts a leaner budget

Author: Russell Lissau

Wauconda trustees on Tuesday approved an estimated \$21.7 budget for the 2017 fiscal year. The spending plan is about \$1 million leaner than the budget for the current fiscal year, which ends April 30. The pending closure of the village's 911 center and planning reductions in capital improvements contributed to the decrease, Village Administrator **Doug Maxeiner** said. That change is expected to reduce expenses by about \$583,000 next year, he said. Wauconda officials voted last year to outsource the 911 service to save money. Starting May 11, Lake Zurich's 911 center will handle emergency calls for Wauconda police and the fire district.

The budget includes money for a variety of municipal projects and purchases, such as:

- * The second phase of the effort to connect to a Lake Michigan water system, at an estimated cost of \$4.4 million.
- * A new paint job for the water tower in the downtown area, which could cost \$468,500.
- * Four new police patrol cars, which could cost \$164,000.
- * The replacement of police officer sidearms, at a cost of \$17,000.

Those handguns are being replaced "for the first time in about two decades," **Maxeiner** said. Wauconda's projected revenue is expected to decrease from the current fiscal year's total, but not as significantly as spending. Officials predict village hall will collect nearly \$22 million in property taxes, fees and other income over the next year. That sum is down from about \$22.2 million.

The 911 center's mothballing contributed to the decrease, **Maxeiner** said. The Wauconda Fire Protection District and the police departments in Tower Lakes and Lakemoor paid the village to handle their 911 calls. The center's closure means the village will lose about \$270,000 in potential revenue, **Maxeiner** said. Additionally, the village's utility tax revenue is expected to decrease about \$52,000, **Maxeiner** said.

Conversely, property-tax revenue is expected to increase by nearly \$32,000 and revenue from sales tax, income tax and video gaming are expected to jump nearly \$399,000, he said. Before Tuesday's unanimous vote, Trustee Tim Howe thanked **Maxeiner** and his staff for crafting a "financially responsible" budget. Trustee John Barbini said he was proud to support the plan. "Bottom line? We're living within our means," Barbini said.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Douglas K. Maxeiner
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Daily Herald (IL)
November 3, 2015

Hacker takes over Wauconda website

Author: Russell Lissau

Wauconda's official website was hacked over the weekend, and the municipal information it usually features was replaced by anti-American and anti-Israeli photographs and pro-Islam messages. Until the site was disabled late Monday morning, the images at wauconda-il.gov included a shot of a crowd watching the U.S. and Israeli flags burning. Another photograph appeared to depict the late Iranian Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, who led that nation's Islamic Revolution in 1979. The site's usual content returned Monday afternoon.

Village Administrator **Doug Maxeiner** said he was offended by the image of the burning U.S. flag "as most any American would be." From a professional perspective, I'm angry that criminals have used the village property to further a political message," he added.

Trustee John Barbini called the images "very disturbing." "I was shocked," Barbini said. Officials discovered the site had been hacked Friday. "This is a constant threat," Mayor Frank Bart said. "It also happened to the Wauconda police website when I first took office. That was also a radical Islamist group."

After spending the weekend trying to address the problem, officials regained control of the website and shut it down shortly before noon Monday. **Maxeiner** believes the hackers accessed the website through the site's host, a company in Charleston, South Carolina, called 2gi Web Solutions.

The situation took so long to resolve because it happened on a weekend and village officials had trouble getting help from the right people at the company, **Maxeiner** said. "As a small operation, we depend heavily on our contracted help," he said. "Unfortunately, the timing on this complicated getting in touch with the appropriate contractors to address the situation."

A company representative couldn't be reached for comment. The hackers took over other websites this past weekend, too, Bart said. He didn't know which ones. "This is not uncommon," he said. Village officials have been developing a new website with a new company, a Kansas outfit called CivicPlus, for months. "Security is one reason we are switching to a new provider," Bart said. "These groups target less secure governmental systems."

The new site scheduled to go live a few weeks ago, but the debut has been delayed because of technical issues, **Maxeiner** said. The hacking will be "a focal point of discussion" with the new company, he said. Wauconda police are aware of the hacking. **Maxeiner** said he asked police to notify the FBI of the incident.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Douglas K. Maxeiner
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Daily Herald (IL)
October 21, 2015

Wauconda garbage rates to increase; all will get wheeled carts

Author: Russell Lissau

Wauconda garbage rates to increase; all will get wheeled carts Wauconda homeowners will pay a little more for garbage pickup under a newly approved village contract with Waste Management. They'll also have to bring their trash to the curb in wheeled carts provided by the company. Those carts previously had been optional and available for a rental fee. Residents no longer will be charged separately for carts.

The village board approved the pact with Waste Management on Tuesday night. Waste Management has had the exclusive garbage-hauling contract in Wauconda since 2005. This deal extends that arrangement until Aug. 31, 2020. The fee for garbage service with a 96-gallon cart will be \$19.23 per month for the first year. To save a little money, people can request a 64-gallon cart and pay \$18.63 per month.

Rates will increase slightly in the years to come based on inflation, officials said. Built into the rates are fees for two new services: the removal of unwanted electronics and other household items, and curbside leaf collection. "Just rake them out to the curb ... and Waste Management will collect those," Village Administrator **Doug Maxeiner** said. The fees for those two services will represent \$1.88 of the monthly bill, officials said. Garbage service had cost \$16.63 per month under the previous contract. It was \$18.04 per month for people who rented trash carts.

For the first time, senior citizens will pay less than other people for garbage service. Their rate will be \$17.44 per month for the 96-gallon cart or \$16.77 for the smaller container. That's a 10 percent savings. The new rates will appear on December bills, Public Works Director Brad Fink said. New trash carts will be delivered in January. The board agreed to extend the village's contract with Waste Management in August, but the terms of the pact hadn't yet been finalized.

Village officials considered offers from a few garbage haulers, Trustee Tim Howe said, and Waste Management's proposal was the best for the town, "It was head and shoulders above everything else we had to choose from," Howe said. In addition to setting rates for basic garbage collection, the contract includes other services and fees. For example:

- * Seasonal yard waste removal will cost homeowners \$90 per year.
- * Yard waste stickers will cost \$2.25 each.
- * Waste Management will serve village facilities and festivals for free.
- * Recycling carts can be upgraded annually for free.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Douglas K. Maxeiner
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Daily Herald (Arlington Heights, IL)
May 7, 2015

A new plan to draw them in
Author/Byline: Russell Lissau

For the first time, Wauconda officials have created a formal strategy to spur economic development in town. The plan calls for simplifying zoning and building codes, creating a business listing on the village's website, business alliance programs and other tactics. The objective isn't just to help existing businesses succeed, but to attract new businesses that will bolster the local economy, Village Administrator **Doug Maxeiner** said. "(It's) all really related to growth and maintaining economic vitality in the community," **Maxeiner** said.

Trustees adopted the four-page plan Tuesday night after months of committee and staff work. The objectives were unveiled by Trustee John Barbini, who leads the board's development committee and oversaw the project. Barbini called economic development one of the village's top strategic priorities. "Economic development brings jobs to our community," Barbini told the Daily Herald. "Economic development also brings new revenues to the village, in both sales tax and property tax."

The new plan reflects what officials want to happen in town "in the next three to five years," he said.

The plan sets five targets:

- * Strengthen and maintain relationships with the existing business community.
- * Promote Wauconda.
- * Encourage and facilitate development and redevelopment of vacant and underused properties.
- * Improve infrastructure.
- * Update codes and policies to simplify compliance.

The plan identifies possible "action steps" for each goal. For example, the document suggests officials can strengthen relationships with business owners by teaming with the chamber of commerce or other groups to create a business seminar program, maintaining a list of properties for sale or rent on the village website and conducting annual business surveys. The goal of simplifying business-related codes and policies addresses concerns raised during the spring election when some trustee candidates complained village policies aren't friendly enough toward businesses. But Barbini said the goal wasn't included as a direct response to those complaints. Officials have been talking about making the codes easier to understand and follow for about three years, he said. The plan suggests tackling the problem in several ways, including: amending ordinances to reduce potential barriers to development; re-evaluating development-related fees; and using the village website to improve public access to the town's codes, ordinances and related information. It's up to village employees and administrators to develop specific tasks to accomplish the strategies in the plan, Barbini said. The development committee could review options at its June 9 meeting.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Douglas K. Maxeiner
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Daily Herald (IL)
April 24, 2015

Wauconda agrees to share tax, but business owner isn't happy

Author: Russell Lissau

A Wauconda business planning a significant expansion has struck an unusual tax-sharing deal with village officials to help pay for a new fire sprinkler system. Monster Powersports, a motor-vehicle retailer at 315 N. Rand Road, is expanding from its current 8,000-square-foot space into the rest of the building.

By law, owner Scott Cook needs to add a sprinkler system that could cost between \$80,000 and \$100,000, Village Administrator **Doug Maxeiner** said. The tax-sharing deal will help Cook defray those costs. It also gives him 10 years to install the equipment, even though local regulations require sprinklers to be in place before occupancy.

Even so, Cook isn't happy with the deal. He's frustrated village officials are forcing him to install sprinklers. Agreeing to the deal will cost less than fighting the village in court, he said. "I have no other choice," Cook said. Without the tax-sharing deal, Cook said he either wouldn't expand or would move the business to another town. But he also acknowledged he'll be safer with sprinklers in the building.

The expansion already has begun, Cook said, and it could conclude this summer. The village board approved the deal Tuesday night. Under the agreement, the village will continue to collect all of the local sales tax generated by Monster Powersports until that total reaches \$16,000 annually. Once that threshold is crossed, the village and the business will split the tax revenue equally. Monster Powersports' share of the cash will go into an escrow account controlled by the village. The business will get the money in the account once the sprinklers are installed, **Maxeiner** said.

The pact assumes sales — and thus sales-tax revenue — will increase once the business has more space for more inventory, **Maxeiner** said. "By limiting the shared revenues to the new sales-tax revenues, the village is not losing any existing sales-tax revenues and we get an expanded business in the community," **Maxeiner** said.

According to the deal, the tax sharing will stop by May 1, 2025, or once the money in the account reaches \$50,000. "The sales-tax sharing with the owner will not exceed the cost of the sprinkler system and will likely be considerably less," **Maxeiner** said.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Douglas K. Maxeiner
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Daily Herald (IL)
October 8, 2014

Wauconda board approves deals for drinking water

Author: Russell Lissau

Wauconda officials took another important step toward bringing Lake Michigan drinking water to town Tuesday by approving a pair of agreements needed for the plan. The deals are with neighboring Volo, which is partnering with Wauconda on a new drinking-water system, and the Central Lake County Joint Action Water Agency, which is the group that will provide water to the villages if plans progress. Volo trustees and the CLCJAWA board must approve the contracts, too, as well as the municipal boards the CLCJAWA members represent. Those votes are expected by early December.

Wauconda Village Administrator **Doug Maxeiner** explained the contracts to trustees before the vote. They cover payments, fees and other costs of elements of the project, he said. The board approved the deals with one unanimous vote. "This is a historic night in Wauconda," Trustee Linda Starkey said.

Wauconda voters in 2012 approved a \$50 million plan to connect to a Lake Michigan water system, and CLCJAWA was the town's preferred provider from the start. But two years of negotiations slowed down after Mayor Frank Bart was elected in April 2013. He said he wanted to investigate all of the town's options, including joining a different water group or even sticking with the existing well system.

That hesitation and other factors led the Lake County Joint Action Water Agency board to temporarily stop negotiating with Wauconda in September 2013; talks resumed this spring. If Wauconda joins the water agency, construction could begin in 2016 and be completed in summer 2018, officials have said. Water bills for typical homeowners will increase by about \$43 a month, officials have said.

The scope and magnitude of the project "are unprecedented for the village," **Maxeiner** said Tuesday. During the meeting's public comment section, Wauconda resident Tim Howe thanked the board for their work on the project. "We as a community ... are very grateful for that," he said.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Douglas K. Maxeiner
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Daily Herald (IL)
September 4, 2014

Wauconda could limit public comment, impose penalties

Author: Russell Lissau

Wauconda residents could soon face new rules for public comment at village board meetings. A three-minute time limit has been proposed. So have procedures for dealing with unruly audience members, including their removal from meetings. During the past year, audience members have used the public comment section of meetings to criticize Mayor Frank Bart and other officials on a variety of issues, including the dismissal of a police chief, a proposal to outsource 911 services and the delayed plans to bring Lake Michigan drinking water to town. Some speakers have expressed their opinions courteously. Others have not been as polite. "In my opinion, the back and forth has degenerated to an inappropriate level, and I think it got to point where we needed to implement these measures to get back to a productive, professional atmosphere during our meetings," Village Administrator **Doug Maxeiner** told the Daily Herald in an email Wednesday.

Earlier this year, public comment was moved to the start of meetings. Some comments and questions have been allowed during meetings as interesting subjects arose. The latest rules were proposed at Tuesday night's board meeting. They could be approved at the board's next scheduled meeting Sept. 16. A sample document called "Citizens' Guide to Village Meetings" that enumerates the proposed rules was created for Bart and the trustees. The document says, in part:

* Anyone who disrupts meetings by being "discourteous, belligerent, impertinent, threatening, disparaging or otherwise uncivil" may be prevented from speaking publicly for the rest of the meeting or "evicted from the premises."

* Speakers are not entitled to responses during public comment time.

* Public comment shall be limited to three minutes per person unless the mayor allows more or less time.

The time limit was proposed to prevent one person from monopolizing the conversation, **Maxeiner** said. "We've all seen someone, sometimes multiple persons, come into meetings with a laundry list of grievances, complaints and questions," he said. "Hopefully, someone with that much to talk about will take the mayor or trustees up on their offer to meet and discuss their concerns rather than spend time during a business meeting to hold an interrogation session." If approved, a brochure with the rules could be available online and at village hall, **Maxeiner** said. Wauconda resident Jason Laureys, a regular audience member at board meetings, doesn't think the plan's timing is right. "I just think limiting public comment now, with all that has been going on, will exacerbate the current problems and issues," Laureys said in an email to the Daily Herald. "I think it will add to the distrust many currently feel toward the mayor and current administration." Kelly Kledzik, the daughter of former mayor Mark Knigge, is among the more outspoken residents at meetings. She criticized the proposed rules in a long letter posted to Facebook. "All it does is further alienate the residents and give more power to the mayor," Kledzik wrote.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Douglas K. Maxeiner
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Daily Herald (IL)
February 27, 2014

Administrator earns praise for presentation

Author: Russell Lissau

Wauconda Village Administrator **Doug Maxeiner's** detailed public presentation about the possible outsourcing of 911 services earned praise Wednesday from some of the town's elected officials. "No stone was left unturned," Trustee Chuck Black told the Daily Herald, one day after **Maxeiner's** two-hour talk to the board and the public at Wauconda High School. "He answered all my questions." Trustee John Barbini called **Maxeiner's** remarks rational, logical and thorough. "Boards can't make good decisions without good information," he said. Mayor Frank Bart had high marks for **Maxeiner**, too. Bart wanted an objective presentation of the data that led to the outsourcing recommendation, and he said that's what **Maxeiner** delivered.

Maxeiner wasn't exactly speaking to a friendly audience Tuesday night. The Wauconda High cafeteria was filled with more than 200 people, and the vast majority opposed outsourcing. Many wore red to show solidarity with the 12 dispatchers who would lose their jobs if the center at the Wauconda police station is shut down. But folks were generally respectful, even if they disagreed with **Maxeiner's** plan to hire Lake Zurich's dispatchers to handle Wauconda's 911 calls. Several thanked **Maxeiner** for the presentation during public remarks. On Wednesday, **Maxeiner** said he appreciated the civil interaction with the crowd, and called it "fantastic." During his presentation, **Maxeiner** spent a lot of time delving into the financial factors that prompted a look at outsourcing, particularly the need to save money to avoid deficit spending within the next two years. The Wauconda Fire Protection District and the Tower Lakes and Lakemoor police departments pay Wauconda to handle their 911 calls, but that revenue doesn't cover the center's expenses. Closing the center and contracting with Lake Zurich could save Wauconda \$2.1 million over five years, **Maxeiner** said.

The three agencies that use Wauconda's dispatchers would need to find a new service. He said he would prefer fire and police calls be handled by the same center. Bart echoed that sentiment Wednesday. "If we both go to the same center, (outsourcing) makes sense for us," he said. "In general, it makes a lot of sense. It's a regional asset, not a village asset." If the financial need is there, officials now need to decide if outsourcing to Lake Zurich or a different 911 center is the right thing to do. That evaluation is what **Maxeiner** called "Phase II" of the presentation, and that's where Bart said he and other officials still have questions. "The key aspects that have to be (addressed) are the Phase II aspects," Bart said. **Maxeiner** said he will meet individually with the trustees to see what questions or concerns still remain. "There are still a number of outstanding issues that we need to resolve," he said. Tuesday's meeting was a committee-of-the-whole session for the village board, so the panel didn't vote on the matter. Black said he and the other board members need time to digest everything **Maxeiner** threw at them Tuesday, and more public debate will be needed before a vote. "There will be at least one more committee-of-the-whole (meeting) to further discuss this," he said.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Douglas K. Maxeiner
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Daily Herald (Arlington Heights, IL)
December 18, 2013

Special tax district will be created in Wauconda

Author/Byline: Russell Lissau

After months of public discussions, Wauconda trustees on Tuesday agreed to create a special taxing district to raise revenue for public projects. A trio of ordinances needed to legally form the tax-increment financing district, or TIF district, were approved unanimously. The outcome wasn't a surprise; board members had voiced informal support for the proposal at earlier meetings. Under the law, tax revenue generated by a property's increasing value or new development is diverted to a special fund that pays for land purchases, construction efforts and other projects.

Wauconda officials have repeatedly said they'll only spend TIF revenue on projects that have been completed by developers or property owners. Additionally, the board won't borrow money to spend on projects and then use TIF funding to pay back the loans. "They do not want to issue bonds or borrow funds for public improvements on a speculative basis," Village Administrator **Doug Maxeiner** told the Daily Herald before Tuesday's meeting.

Wauconda's wedge-shaped zone is bounded by Route 176 on the north and Barrington Road on the east. It stretches west past Route 12. Officials hope the district will help lure developers and business owners to the area. "This is really a tool for economic development," Mayor Frank Bart said before the votes.

The downtown business district along Main Street is not included in the zone, nor is Bangs Lake or the businesses on its shoreline. But Trustee Linda Starkey said she expects developments in the TIF district to have a peripheral impact on the downtown area. "I think that will help spur growth on Main Street," she said before the votes. No projects have been formally proposed or approved yet, **Maxeiner** said.

Some residents and merchants have expressed concern about the impact on businesses and whether the effort will be successful. Starkey said the trustees would be "good stewards" of the money to be raised.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Douglas K. Maxeiner
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Courier News (IL)
November 10, 2013

Hampshire says farewell to village administrator

Author: Denise Moran

Doug Maxeiner finished his last day of work as Hampshire village administrator last week before leaving for his new post as village administrator in Wauconda. **Maxeiner** started working for Hampshire on Jan. 10, 2011. “It’s been my privilege to work with you,” Village President Jeffrey Magnussen told **Maxeiner**. “Our search is underway for a new candidate. You set a high bar for the next person. You are a hard act to follow.”

Hampshire’s first village administrator, Eric Palm, held the post from May 2007 to October 2010. He left Hampshire to become the village administrator of River Forest in November 2010. **Maxeiner** started working in Hampshire on an interim, part-time basis that later became a full-time position. “Thank you for the opportunity to work with you,” **Maxeiner** told the Hampshire Village Board Thursday night. “I’m grateful for the extraordinary support I’ve received. In leaving, I feel the organization is in better shape than when I walked in.” When asked about what he accomplished in Hampshire, **Maxeiner** said: “The financial house is in order. The budgets are now in order. We put money back into reserve instead of pulling it out of reserve. In working with the village board and village attorney, we got the Lakewood development back on track. The village is also close to getting the Tuscany Woods development back on track.”

The board presented **Maxeiner** with a plaque in gratitude for his service to the village. One of the last projects that **Maxeiner** worked on in Hampshire was the 2013 tax levy. “The 2013 levy request is \$788,116, which is an increase of 4.9 percent over the prior year’s extension of \$751,232.63,” **Maxeiner** said. “However, the actual levy extension will be less after the county clerk applies the property tax extension limitation. In March of 2014, the county clerk will provide the limiting tax extension and, if the village’s request has exceeded the tax extension limitation, the levy amount will be reduced accordingly.

“If, on the other hand, our request is underestimated and we do not meet the limitation figure, the village will not have the ability to increase the levy to make up the difference. Therefore, it is critical that the original request is higher than the anticipated levy in order to capture all the new growth in the community and the property tax revenue that the village is authorized to receive under tax caps.” “Since the tax levy request does not show an increase of more than 5 percent when compared to the previous extension,” **Maxeiner** added, “a public hearing is not required for the 2013 tax levy request. Consideration of the tax levy ordinance is scheduled for Dec. 5 during the regular village board meeting.”

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Douglas K. Maxeiner
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Daily Herald (Arlington Heights, IL)
October 16, 2013

Wauconda names new village administrator

Author/Byline: Russell Lissau

Wauconda trustees on Tuesday agreed to hire **Doug Maxeiner** as the town's newest village administrator. **Maxeiner**, who's served as Hampshire's top administrator since 2011, will switch villages Nov. 11. The Wauconda village board approved **Maxeiner**'s two-year contract without objection. He'll be paid \$120,000 annually, Mayor Frank Bart said.

Before he started working in Hampshire, **Maxeiner** held administrative posts dating back to the 1990s in McHenry, Marengo and Rockford. "He has the experience that we need," Bart said. Bart introduced **Maxeiner** to the audience and the board following the vote. **Maxeiner** thanked the trustees for the opportunity and received a round of applause from the crowd.

Wauconda Public Works Director Brad Fink has been serving double duty as interim administrator since early August. Fink's predecessor, Zaida Torres, left village hall July 30 a few hours after a meeting with Mayor Frank Bart and never returned. Torres now works as the finance director for the Central Lake County Joint Action Water Agency, a group that provides Lake Michigan drinking water to a dozen communities. Wauconda had sought to join the agency but the agency broke off talks a few weeks ago, citing mistrust and other concerns.

One of the new administrator's top tasks will be resuscitating the village's plans to connect to a Lake Michigan water supply. **Maxeiner** will be assigned to lead the village committee that's overseen the \$50 million water project, which was approved by voters in 2012. Bart had been the point man on the effort, but that changed after the CLCJAWA board shocked officials and residents by turning its back on Wauconda. **Maxeiner** has been kept abreast of the water issue, Trustee Ken Arnswald said.

Maxeiner also will help village leaders develop a strategic plan for Wauconda, a task that was delayed until a new administrator was aboard, Trustee John Barbini said. With more than 20 years of municipal experience, **Maxeiner** "can bring a lot of things to the table" for the strategic planning process, Barbini said.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Douglas K. Maxeiner
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Courier News: Web Edition Articles (Elgin, IL)
October 5, 2013

Hampshire takes steps to delay financial impact of ACA

Author/Byline: Denise Moran

The village board has switched the renewal date for its employee health insurance in a move officials said would delay the impact of federal Affordable Care Act on the village. The board unanimously approved an option provided by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois to move the renewal date to Dec. 1, 2013.

In recent years, the health insurance plan was renewed every year in March. If the board had not approved going with the option, the renewal date would have been March 1, 2014. According to Village Administrator **Doug Maxeiner**, moving the renewal date would decrease the village's overall cost by 1.2 percent, or approximately \$4,000. The impacts of the Affordable Care Act would be delayed until Dec. 1, 2014.

In looking at the new requirements of the mandated ACA, **Maxeiner** stated, "There is considerable uncertainty on how the 2014 renewal will affect the village's health insurance plan. For example, the ACA requires new deductible and co-pay benefits for employees which are significantly higher than what our plan participants have historically experienced. In addition, the federal legislation requires insurers to implement an age-rated premium structure per plan participant."

Under the current rate structure, Blue Cross Blue Shield premiums for family coverage were the same regardless of the number of family members. The ACA decreases the premiums for smaller families and increases it for larger families.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Douglas K. Maxeiner
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Courier News (Elgin, IL)
June 9, 2013

Hampshire votes to keep water flowing with system projects

Author/Byline: Denise Moran

A number of water system projects are in the works for the village. The village board Thursday night unanimously approved an engineering services agreement with Engineering Enterprises Inc. for rehabilitation of Well No. 9 in the amount of \$28,000.

“Well No. 9 is one of three deep wells providing water supply to the main water system in the village,” said village Administrator **Doug Maxeiner**. “It was constructed and made operational in 2004. Production capacity on the well when new was 960 gallons per minute. Currently, the well is capable of producing 830 gpm, representing a decline of nearly 14 percent. Significant sand content in the well, in addition to normal wear and tear of the equipment, is accounting for this deterioration.”

The project is included in the fiscal year 2013-14 budget in the amount of \$115,000. More recent project estimates show a total project cost of approximately \$153,000, including \$28,000 for engineering design and construction observation services. “Repairing the equipment will be more cost effective than replacing the components,” **Maxeiner** said. “A \$100,000 grant from the state of Illinois has been earmarked for this project. We’re confident it will be released shortly.”

The bid process is expected to take place in September. Completion of the project is expected in December. The board also approved another engineering services agreement with Engineering Enterprises for the Route 20 system connection water main improvements in the amount of \$97,670.

“The village is served by two separate municipal water systems,” **Maxeiner** said. “The northern system primarily serves the commercial accounts around the [Route] 20 and I-90 tollway exit. The system consists of one deep well and a treatment plant capable of producing approximately 435,000 gallons per day. Storage for the northern system consists of one 500,000-gallon elevated storage tank. A significant portion of the sales tax revenue generated within the village is produced by the restaurants and businesses operating on the northern water system. There is no backup well, treatment or storage facility serving this system.”

“The main water system which serves the remainder of water customers,” **Maxeiner** continued, “consists of three deep wells and two treatment plants capable of producing 4.3 million gallons per day. Storage for the main system is provided by three elevated storage tanks providing 3.5 million gallons of capacity. The connection of the two systems will provide some production redundancy. It has been identified as a strategic goal of both staff and the public works committee.”

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Douglas K. Maxeiner
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

[CB&A Note: Only the information relevant to **Douglas K. Maxeiner** is listed below.]

Courier News (IL)
April 21, 2013

Hampshire OKs balanced budget

Author: Denis Moran

The village board unanimously approved a balanced budget for the fiscal year beginning May 1 that will be partly funded by a proposed water and sewer rate hike. “During the last few years, we were just able to keep the doors open for business,” said Village Administrator **Doug Maxeiner**. “This year, there was good news in revenue. Our goals were to maintain existing service levels, increase the general fund reserve, provide modest salary adjustments for non-contractual employees, and continue to replace capital equipment on a timely basis. We believe we have accomplished all of these goals for the first time in four years.”

According to village officials, the general fund budget shows revenues of just under \$2.99 million and expenditures of just under \$2.94 million, allowing for an addition to reserves of \$50,000. The village’s other main operating fund is the water and sewer fund. In total, the expenditure budget for water and sewer amounts to \$2.1 million offset by revenues of \$1.5 million and reserves.

Village President Jeffrey Magnussen thanked **Maxeiner** and the village finance committee for their work on the budget “The committee suggested a 3 percent increase in salaries for employees that are not covered by collective bargaining agreements with the exception of the police chief and village administrator, who will be handled separately through an evaluation process,” said **Maxeiner**. “The committee also recommended a line item within the general fund for village-owned park development. A park development line item has been added to administration with a budget of \$21,850 funded by park impact fees on new development and used oil recycling funds.”

Magnussen said that the additional park funds might be used for building shelters and a gazebo. “Rates for water and sewer service have not been adjusted since 2009,” **Maxeiner** noted. “The budget request includes an adjustment of 7 percent for both water and sewer in order to address increased electricity, treatment chemicals, and mandated employee benefits in addition to ongoing infrastructure maintenance concerns. When considering the four years since the last rate adjustment, the increase amounts to a 1.75 percent annualized adjustment.”

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Douglas K. Maxeiner
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Courier News (IL)
February 8, 2013

Hampshire OKs pact with tollway on moving sewer line

Author: Denis Moran

As part of the Interstate 90 widening and improvement project, an agreement between the village and the Illinois State Toll Highway Authority was approved by the village board so that a sewer main can be relocated.

Several weeks ago, the toll authority notified the village that village-owned utility mains running under the Interstate 90 bridge at Route 20 were in conflict with the tollway's plans to widen and improve the highway. The village was allowed to place the utility mains in the right of way with the permission of the toll authority as long as the village agreed to relocate or move the mains as needed. After all of the mains were inspected, it was determined that only the sewer main needs to be relocated.

Since the actual relocation project will be part of the bridge widening contract, the village will need to reimburse the tollway for the costs associated with the sewer main relocation.

“The tollway authority will be assessing a construction engineering fee of 16 percent of the actual relocation costs, estimated at \$154,250, resulting in an additional charge to the village of \$24,680,” said Village Administrator **Doug Maxeiner**. “The tollway authority will require the village to pay 80 percent of the bid amount attributable to the relocation at the time of the bid award. The remainder will be required upon contract close.”

Maxeiner said that the relocation of the main will not interrupt services to businesses at the Hampshire truck stop.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Douglas K. Maxeiner
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Courier News (IL)
January 27, 2013

Hampshire lowers land values for impact fees

Author: Denis Moran

The village board has lowered the value of improved, residential property to \$60,000 per acre for purposes of figuring impact fees — less than half the land previously had been valued. An ordinance approved last week also states that the board should determine every February whether to adjust the value by the rate of inflation. An updated appraisal report is required every three years.

The board previously accepted an appraisal report prepared by Jacobson and Associates of Sycamore which placed the current value at \$60,000 per acre. That is significantly lower than the \$131,034 per acre figure the village was using in arriving at impact fee amounts.

The amended ordinance was approved on a 3-2 vote. Trustees Martin Ebert, Jerry Shepherdson, and Jan Kraus voted in favor of the ordinance. Trustees George Brust and Orris Ruth voted against it. Trustee Rob Whaley was absent from the meeting. “If you don’t reduce impact fees, you won’t be as competitive (with other communities) and you won’t issue as many permits,” said Village Administrator **Doug Maxeiner**.

Fire, library, transportation, and cemetery fees are flat values that are not derived from the value of an acre of land. Hampshire had been receiving a \$1,519.48 impact fee for a three-bedroom, single-family home. Under the amended ordinance, it will get \$695.76 for the same home.

The school district impact fee for the same home goes from \$2,874.39 to \$1,316.17. Park impact fees for the same home go from \$3,798.69 to \$1,739.40. The total amount of impact fees from a three-bedroom, single-family home drops from \$10,658.56 to \$6,217.33.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Douglas K. Maxeiner
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Courier News (Elgin, IL)
December 23, 2012

Hampshire officials sign on to anti-gun violence statement

Author/Byline: Denise Moran

Village President Jeffrey Magnussen and Village Administrator **Doug Maxeiner** have signed a letter calling for an end to gun violence across America. “The initiative is to outlaw assault weapons and illegal weapons,” said Magnussen. “Our signed letter is being sent to Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel and Gov. Pat Quinn. Twenty-two other mayors have signed on. I’m throwing my support behind it.” The coalition promoting this effort is known as Mayors Against Illegal Guns. Local members of the coalition include Elgin Mayor Dave Kaptain and Pingree Grove Village President Greg Marston.

The letter follows the Dec. 14 killings by a lone gunman of 20 children and six educators at a grade school in Newtown, Conn. In the statement of principles that Magnussen and **Maxeiner** signed, it states: “30,000 Americans across the country are killed every year as a result of gun violence, destroying families and communities in big cities and small towns. As mayors, we are duty bound to do everything in our power to protect our residents, especially our children, from harm. There is no greater threat to public safety than the threat of illegal guns.”

The statement goes on to say that people should work together to find innovative ways to advance the following principles:

“Punish, to the maximum extent of the law, criminals who possess, use, and traffic in illegal guns.

“Target and hold accountable irresponsible gun dealers who break the law by knowingly selling guns to straw purchasers.

“Oppose all federal efforts to restrict cities’ rights to access, use and share trace data that is so essential to effective enforcement, or to interfere with the ability of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms to combat illegal gun trafficking.

“Work to develop and use technologies that aid in the detection and tracing of illegal guns.

“Support all local, state and federal legislation that targets illegal guns; coordinate legislative, enforcement, and litigation strategies; and share information and best practices.

“Invite other cities to join us in this new national effort.”

**Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Douglas K. Maxeiner
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)**

Courier News (IL)
December 9, 2012

Hampshire eyes lower borrowing costs; repayment due over next 11 years

Author: Denise Moran

The village is jumping on the bandwagon, along with other local area municipalities and school districts, in trying to lower interest costs on money it has borrowed through bonds. “Village staff has been working with Speer Financial Inc. (financial advisor) and Bernardi Securities (bond underwriter) on the proposed issuance of up to \$2.75 million in refunding bonds to refund a number of outstanding debt instruments held by the village,” said village Administrator **Doug Maxeiner**. “The purpose of the refunding is to capture savings from lower interest rates offered in the current bond market.”

The board this week looked at refunding three sets of bonds that were purchased from 2003 to 2006. Interest rates at that time ranged from 4.5 to 5 percent, according to Daniel Forbes, vice president of Speer Financial. Current interest rates range from 2 to 2.75 percent. “After the payment of all costs of issuance, the sale will result in a nominal debt service savings of \$176,517.60 worth \$167,364.48 on a present value basis or 6.96 percent of refunded principal,” Forbes said.

The new bonds are scheduled to be paid back over the next 11 years. “We hope this meets the village’s goals,” said Forbes. “The village administrator went through 10 times what a normal village administrator goes through with this work, and the village attorney had to review many documents.”

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Douglas K. Maxeiner
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Courier News (Elgin, IL)
November 18, 2012

Hampshire board approves property tax levy for 2012

Author/Byline: Denise Moran

The village board unanimously approved the 2012 tax levy ordinance in the amount of \$837,888. The request for property tax dollars is up about 15 percent from last year, but it's unlikely the village will get that much when the money actually comes in.

Village Administrator **Doug Maxeiner** told the board Thursday night that the 2012 tax levy is a "balloon levy." "Each year, corporate authorities for the village are required to estimate the revenues required to operate the various functions of the village," said **Maxeiner**. "Included in the revenues are those amounts funded through the property tax. The village board must estimate the amounts required for the property tax levy so that the funds generated through this revenue instrument will become available during the 2013-14 fiscal year. The tax levy ordinance must be approved by the village board and submitted to the county by the last Tuesday in December."

Maxeiner said the levy request is \$836,813, an increase of 15 percent over the prior year's extension of \$727,363.24. Most local governments request more money in property tax levies than they realistically expect to receive in order to take advantage of any unforeseen development in the next year. Property taxes from one year are collected and distributed the following year. "The actual levy extension will likely be considerably less after the county clerk has applied the property tax extension limitation," **Maxeiner** said. "In March of 2013, the county clerk will provide the limiting tax extension and, if the village's request has exceeded the tax extension limitation, the levy amount will be reduced accordingly. If, on the other hand, our estimate of the levy extension is underestimated and we do not meet the limitation figure, the village will not have the ability to levy more to make up the difference. It is critical that the original request is considerably higher than the actual anticipated levy in order to capture all new growth in the community." **Maxeiner** said that the tax levy increase was less than 2 percent last year. The tax levy hike for this year is expected to end up at 2.5 to 3 percent.

Impact fees to FPD

In addition to approving the 2012 tax levy, the board approved releasing new construction impact fees of \$28,495.65 to the Hampshire Fire Protection District, which will use the money to purchase a generator. Hampshire Fire Chief Bill Robinson described the generator that the district will purchase as "a new 60 kW generator complete with automatic transfer switch. "The unit will run on natural gas and also be able to adapt to liquid propane in the event our natural gas supply is interrupted. With the recent events involving weather conditions and other events, this would allow our Emergency Operations Center to continue operations as we have in the past. Our center has been activated in the past and used by both the fire service and the village to coordinate efforts."

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Douglas K. Maxeiner
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Daily Herald (IL)
June 23, 2012

Hampshire ratifies police contract

Author: Lenore T. Adkins

In a nod to the dire economic straits Hampshire is facing, its patrol officers have agreed to a contract that includes modest raises but forces some to pay more into their health care plans. The Hampshire village board ratified the 3-year contract Thursday night; the previous one expired April 30 of this year.

Under the deal, the seven officers it covers will receive a 2.5-percent pay bump retroactive to May 1; a 1-percent pay increase on May 1, 2013; a 1.5-percent increase on both Nov. 1, 2013, and May 1, 2014, and a 1.25-percent raise effective Nov. 1, 2014. "We split it up so that there's less impact on the fiscal year," Village Administrator **Doug Maxeiner** said.

A first-year officer who was hired at \$46,566 will make \$47,730 the first year of the contract, \$48,930 the second year and \$50,285 the final year. The three-year cost of the salary adjustments will be about \$29,000, **Maxeiner** said.

As well, the four officers enrolled in the PPO health care plan will be paying more of their premium costs. They previously were paying 5 percent for single coverage, but next year they'll pay 7.5 percent; 10 percent the following year.

Coverage for dependents on the PPO plan also went up. Instead of paying 15 percent, officers will pay 20 percent in the second and third years of the contract. "I think that's indicative of the economy and lack of funds from the village to be able to pay them any more," **Maxeiner** said. But as an added benefit, if officers use four sick days or fewer in a year, they're allowed to convert one into a personal day.

Officer Ryan Edwardson was one of two police officers active in the contract negotiations, which lasted two months. He said Hampshire's contract is truly representative of the times. "Considering the economic times and our contract based on comparison contracts, I think we got a very fair deal," Edwardson said, adding that the union compared its police contract with others in Gilberts and Marengo.

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Douglas K. Maxeiner
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

[CB&A Note: Only the information relevant to **Douglas K. Maxeiner** is listed below.]

Courier News (Elgin, IL)
April 22, 2012

Hampshire OKs spending plan

Author/Byline: Denise Moran

The village board passed a deficit budget for the coming fiscal year, but with no tax or fee increases. The budget covers the fiscal year beginning May 1 and ending April 30, 2013. The projected revenue is about \$7.6 million for all funds, while the projected expenses are \$7.7 million for those funds. That leaves a projected negative fund balance of slightly less than \$77,000, according to village officials. The current year's budget pegged total revenue at just under \$6.3 million and expenses at a little under \$6.7 million.

“The water/sewer fund is operating at a \$142,000 deficit, but it should stabilize after this year,” said Village Administrator **Doug Maxeiner**. “Capital projects are very limited this year. They will include alley repaving in the downtown area, crack sealing to preserve pavement, and starting federally mandated sign replacement programs.” The projects’ estimated cost is \$62,000. They will be paid for with money from the state Motor Fuel Tax fund.

Maxeiner said the general fund shows a balanced budget when considering the planned use of reserve funds for police pension and rebate agreements totaling an estimated \$52,381. There have been no new personnel except for the hiring of a village hall janitor for three hours a week. The public works street technician has been reclassified to crew leader. A salary adjustment removes the interim tag for Police Chief Brian Thompson. Expenditures include replacing a patrol car, public works pickup, and six antiquated computers.

In other business:

The board approved an ordinance adopting an electric aggregation plan to seek lower electricity rates for village residents. Public hearings to discuss the plan were held April 5 and 19. The aggregation plan will be conducted on an opt-out basis, allowing residents and businesses to remove themselves from the aggregation group if so desired, according to village officials. **Maxeiner** said that when the question of whether to adopt an electric aggregation plan appeared on the March 20 local ballot, 60 percent of the voters were in favor of it.

The board also approved an agreement with the Illinois Department of Transportation for the installation and maintenance of traffic signals at the intersection of Route 72 and State Street/Getzelman Road. “The proposed agreement specifies that the village will be responsible for 10 percent of the total project cost estimated to be \$126,500,” **Maxeiner** said. “IDOT would like to start hanging the lights in three to four weeks.”

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Douglas K. Maxeiner
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Kane County Chronicle (Geneva, IL)
April 13, 2012

Impact fee pits roads against development

Author/Byline: Jonathon Bilyk

Like most people living in Kane County, Sean Michels will tell you he wants strong, well-maintained roads in and around his village. But like most in the county, Michels, who is village president of Sugar Grove, also will tell of his desire to do everything possible to bring more businesses – and the jobs that come with them – to his hometown and the rest of the county. With that in mind, Michels said he doesn't envy the tough spot in which Kane County's elected decision-makers now find themselves when it comes to road impact fees. "It's a dilemma, there's no doubt," Michels said. "We want to continue to keep up our roads and our infrastructure. But when you're talking about fees that can cost hundreds of thousands of dollars, paying those can really make or break a business, whether it's going to come to Kane County or go somewhere else."

For the past seven years, Kane County has charged fees to anyone building a new structure anywhere in the county. The so-called road impact fees arise from a basic premise that those who might gain from a new business or construction of new homes should pay to offset local taxpayers' costs to maintain or improve roads that are stressed under the weight of new customers, workers and residents. Kane County transportation officials believe the fees have been a success, raising \$22 million in the past seven years to improve dozens of county highways, such as Kirk Road, Randall Road, Orchard Road and Stearns Road, among others. The county locally has plans to use the fees to pay for projects such as the extension of Anderson Road in Elburn, realignment of Plank Road in Burlington and work on Orchard Road.

How the money is collected and spent is governed by state law and county ordinance. The fees are based on a formula used to calculate how many trips on local roads might be generated by a certain type of new building. The impact fees must be spent on road projects in one of three sections of the county – north, central or south – in which the new structure is being built. "The idea is that the fee payer gets some benefit from the fees that they pay," said Carl Schoedel, director of the Kane County Division of Transportation.

The county also is required to spend the fees within five years of collection. At its peak, the program brought in \$5.4 million in a year. But as the economy crashed into recession and new development ground to a halt, the county's annual take from impact fees slipped to about \$700,000. Schoedel said the county expects to bring in about \$1 million in fees this year.

As the local economy has continued to spin its wheels, the fees have come under fire from local government leaders and some on the county board, who worry the fees are making it more difficult to draw in new development and jobs. In Hampshire, Village Administrator **Doug Maxeiner** sent a letter to Kane County in February complaining of the fees' impact on his village. He said the village was compelled to promise the developer of a new gas station and

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Douglas K. Maxeiner
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

convenience store a \$30,000 sales tax rebate to offset the county’s \$50,000 impact fee. If not for the tax rebate, **Maxeiner** said, the developers would have “pulled the plug on the project.”

And last year, a grocer interested in building in Hampshire backed away after discovering the county fee would cost \$156,000, **Maxeiner** said. “If a 50,000-square-foot grocer can locate in Genoa or Huntley and avoid the \$156,550 in road improvement impact fees assessed by Kane, why would they develop in Hampshire?” **Maxeiner** said.

McHenry, DeKalb and Kendall counties do not charge road impact fees. Such situations drove Hampshire to take up the issue with the county, Hampshire Trustee George Brust said. “Everybody cries and screams ‘jobs’ in this economy,” Brust said. “And the reality is, sooner or later, something’s got to be done.” For that reason, some have pushed the county to consider sharply decreasing the fees to stimulate the local economy. The county board is expected to take up that discussion later this month.

The leaders of communities not far from the DeKalb and Kendall county lines said the impact fees represent a difficult issue. Elburn Village President David Anderson said he recognizes the burden put upon businesses by the fees and would support adjusting them annually to “reflect the economy.” He noted that fees tied to the price of land, particularly, should be adjusted to reflect the depreciation in land prices in recent years. Michels indicated that he wouldn’t mind dialing back the fees.

As in Hampshire, Michels said Sugar Grove has been forced at times to work out deals with developers and use village money to offset the county impact fee cost. “The fees definitely prolong things and keep businesses guessing,” Michels said. But he said he also would not call for the fees to be eliminated or reduced too greatly. He noted that Sugar Grove is working with the county on some local transportation projects for which impact fee money could be used. “They have their down sides, but I can’t say impact fees are all bad,” Michels said.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Douglas K. Maxeiner
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Courier News (IL)
July 8, 2011

Hampshire moves ahead with Route 72-Romke work

Author: Denise Moran

The village is moving ahead with major planned improvements to the intersection of Route 72 and Romke Road. The village board has directed Interim Village Administrator **Doug Maxeiner** to notify the Illinois Department of Transportation of its intent to do the work.

According to **Maxeiner**, proposed improvements include eastbound and westbound turn lanes and deceleration lanes on Route 72. The westbound deceleration lane already has been installed. The improvements originally were to have been made by Pasquinelli Homes, developer of the Tuscany Woods subdivision. Pasquinelli Homes went bankrupt in 2008, however.

While IDOT issued a permit for the construction and holds a performance bond for the work worth \$100,000, the remaining intersection improvements are estimated to cost more than \$250,000. The village has been asked by IDOT to participate financially in the project over and above the bond amount. Another option offered by IDOT would be to use the bond money to install a right-in/right-out on Romke Road on the north side of the intersection.

According to **Maxeiner**, the village is holding approximately \$285,000 in public improvement bonds for the Tuscany Woods subdivision. Village Engineer Brad Sanderson has estimated that \$1.8 million worth of public improvements in the subdivision remain to be completed exclusive of the intersection work. Some of these proposed improvements include an offsite sanitary sewer, offsite water main, and sidewalks.

The board agreed that intersection improvements at Route 72 and Romke are needed. “It’s the main entrance to the subdivision,” Village President Jeffrey Magnussen said. “It will be difficult to sell the subdivision if you only have a right-in/right out intersection,” Trustee Orris Ruth said.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Douglas K. Maxeiner
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Courier News (Elgin, IL)
April 25, 2011

Hampshire budget balanced despite 25% fuel cost boost

Author/Byline: Denise Moran

The village board has approved a balanced budget for the coming fiscal year. The budget covers the fiscal year beginning May 1 and ending April 30, 2012. According to village officials, the projected revenue is \$2,632,223. Last year's revenue amount was \$2,425,292.

There is an increase in expected income primarily through higher per-capita revenues — such as the state motor fuel tax — based on the new, higher census numbers. There are no new taxes or any increase in fees in the new budget.

Overall expenditures showed no increase in personnel authorizations, a 2 percent general wage hike for all non-contract employees (except police department sergeants), no furlough days, 25 percent more than last year set aside for gasoline and diesel purchases, and a reserve ratio of 30 percent in the general fund. “The biggest adjustment was the 25 percent adjustment for gasoline and diesel purchases,” Interim Village Administrator **Doug Maxeiner** told the board Thursday.

A 10 percent salary hike for sergeants was made to maintain the salary gap with patrol officers.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Douglas K. Maxeiner
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Daily Herald (IL)
January 14, 2011

Hampshire hires interim administrator

Author: Tara Garcia Mathewson

The monthslong search for a new village administrator in Hampshire has been temporarily resolved. The village hired **Doug Maxeiner** as an interim administrator on a part-time basis. **Maxeiner's** contract dictates he stay at least through the duration of the April election cycle and will work Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays starting Jan. 17.

Three trustees and Village President Jeff Magnussen interviewed three final candidates in October, but the committee's top choice declined the job offer. **Maxeiner**, who is accustomed to a bigger paycheck as the former administrator for the City of McHenry, will fill in until he finds a full-time job or until the village finds someone to step into the position.

The Hampshire village board decided to pause the search for a permanent administrator until after the election to allow a new board to make the final decision. Until then, Magnussen said, budget restraints dictated the hire of a part-time rather than full-time employee. "Everyone is trying to do more with less and the Village of Hampshire is no different," Magnussen said.

While continuing his own job search, **Maxeiner**, 48, is glad for the flexibility of the Hampshire position. "It allows me to keep my fingers in the profession, make a little bit of money and still seek permanent, full-time employment," he said.

Maxeiner resigned from McHenry in July after almost eight years as the administrator. He said the board was moving in one direction and he was moving in another so he thought it best to leave. **Maxeiner** graduated from Northern Illinois University with a master's degree in public administration and has also worked in Rockford and Marengo as the top administrator.

Maxeiner still lives in McHenry with his wife and two children. Magnussen said **Maxeiner** was one of the original applicants for the Hampshire position but was taken out of the mix because of his previous salary. "Knowing how much he was making and how much we were offering, we were pretty confident if we offered him the job, it might be a short time before he moved on to someone who could pay what he is worth," Magnussen said.

Maxeiner will make \$48 an hour with a minimum of 24 hours per week. Magnussen said **Maxeiner** has excellent credentials and the village is lucky to have him, if only for a few months on an hourly basis. **Maxeiner** will relieve Magnussen of the duties he has covered since Eric Palm left the village administrator position at the end of October.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Douglas K. Maxeiner
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Northwest Herald, The (Crystal Lake, IL)
July 26, 2010

McHenry may owe \$63 K to former administrator

Author/Byline: Joseph Bustos

The city's former city administrator will continue to be paid, and his family will stay on the city health insurance program, for six more months even though his last day was July 13. According to **Doug Maxeiner's** last contract with McHenry, he receives severance pay if he is terminated by the City Council, or he departs following the "instructions or suggestions by the City Council he resign." City officials initially said earlier this month that **Maxeiner** had resigned over what **Maxeiner** said were "philosophical differences."

Maxeiner's annual salary was \$125,863. His six-month severance will be about \$63,000. **Maxeiner** and his family also will stay on the city health insurance program, which will cost about \$5,000 over the next six months. The only way taxpayers won't be on the hook for the severance payments to **Maxeiner** is if he finds another job. "I'm not speculating on what people will think," said Mayor Sue Low in response to a question about how taxpayers might react. "It is what it is. The council took action they deemed appropriate."

Low said she would not discuss what led to **Maxeiner's** resignation. The city did not receive a resignation letter from **Maxeiner**. Low said she and **Maxeiner** spoke on July 12, and they mutually decided he should leave. "He was offered the opportunity to resign," Low said. "He didn't do it. The City Council took action the following week." In a unanimous vote, the City Council last week formally terminated **Maxeiner's** contract. "It's a discussion that took place in executive session," Low said. "I'm not at liberty to talk about it. The action in open session speaks for itself." "I believe at this time it is in the best interest of the city moving forward, and I wish **Doug** the best," Low continued.

Maxeiner was named city administrator in 2002, and had worked for the city for 10 years. He has said "philosophical differences" between himself and the City Council led to his resignation. He first came to McHenry in April 1999, when he was hired as assistant city administrator. He spent two years in McHenry before leaving to accept a city administrator post in Marengo. **Maxeiner** returned to McHenry less than a year later as city administrator.

Over the past two years, the city has been criticized for letting developer John Curtis off the hook for a parking structure he pledged to build in the RiverWalk Center, near downtown McHenry. The city also voted this month to raise the sales tax to 7.5 percent, up a half percentage point, in attempts to close a looming budget deficit. "I want this to be put to rest," Low said. "There is no sinister plot, nothing is being withheld. It is what it is." After **Maxeiner's** resignation, City Finance Director Chris Black was named interim city administrator. As for a permanent replacement, Low said there has not been discussion on how **Maxeiner** will be replaced or how long before a replacement is named. "We're just in the beginning stages and working our way through it," Low said.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Douglas K. Maxeiner
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Northwest Herald (IL)
July 16, 2010

Frustration led to departure

Author: Diana Sroka

McHENRY – Longtime City Administrator **Doug Maxeiner** said “philosophical differences” with elected officials prompted him to resign. **Maxeiner** left the top administrative post Tuesday after working for the city for about 10 years. He said he became increasingly frustrated when he and council members butted heads. “There were some philosophical differences between myself and the City Council,” **Maxeiner** said. “When those differences [started] to affect the performance of the organization, it just became apparent it was time to move on.”

Maxeiner declined to elaborate on exactly what he and council members disagreed on, but said the impetus to quit had been building up for a while. He said he and city officials tried to work through their differences, but the efforts were fruitless. “At some point, clearly, the City Council is entitled to follow the philosophy they see fit,” **Maxeiner** said.

McHenry Mayor Sue Low said Wednesday that she could not discuss the specifics of **Maxeiner’s** resignation. She could not be reached for comment Thursday afternoon. **Maxeiner** said he was proud of his accomplishments as city administrator, namely turning over many responsibilities from elected officials to trained staff – which he described as shifting from political to merit-based appointments.

Maxeiner also was pleased with his efforts to redevelop the downtown area and the RiverWalk project and said he and mostly enjoyed his time working for the city. “I ... wish nothing but the best for the city,” he said.

Maxeiner did say that he and others within the city administration warned public officials about four or five years ago that they didn’t have the money to continue the police pension system. Many municipalities face the same crisis. **Maxeiner** said he and Chris Black, the city finance director who will serve as interim city administrator, had discussed an increase in the sales tax rate years ago. “We hadn’t suggested it but we had warned [the City Council] we would need to do something to address the funding of that,” he said.

Maxeiner said he had not submitted a letter of resignation but would do so at Low’s request. He doesn’t have another job lined up but is interested in continuing a career in public administration. “Hopefully there will be something that’s a good fit for me,” he said.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Douglas K. Maxeiner
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Northwest Herald (IL)
March 16, 2010

McHenry works to trim \$700K deficit

Author: Joseph Bustos

Budgeting for the city for the coming fiscal year will be difficult. The city is expecting a \$700,000 budget deficit in its general fund, which pays for police, public works, and administration among other things. That deficit could nearly double if proposed state budget cuts go through.

Gov. Pat Quinn has proposed reducing the amount of money that goes to cities from income taxes by 30 percent. "It would make long-term solutions more complicated," City Administrator **Doug Maxeiner** said.

The next fiscal year runs from May 1 through April 30, 2011. "At this point we can't say definitively about anything we're looking at," **Maxeiner** said. "We're evaluating all our options."

Maxeiner said 80 percent of the general fund is personnel expenses. There are 117 employees who are paid out of the \$16 million general fund budget. "Without being specific, you have to reduce personnel at some point to come up with that savings," **Maxeiner** said.

Much like every city in the state, McHenry's sales tax and income tax transfers from the state are down. "We're looking at significant cuts, but still working through that," City Finance Director Chris Black said.

The city has reduced staff by 15 positions since the 2008 fiscal year. Last year the city laid off a building inspector and a city planner. With a combination of three early retirements and not filling three vacant positions, the city saved about \$540,000. Even though the economy has shown some signs of recovering, it might take three to five years for a full recovery, Black said. "Even the small amount of growth we might see in sales tax, it is not much to help recover what we lost in the last several years," Black said.

City officials plan to recommend reductions to help balance the budget at a Finance Committee meeting at 7 p.m. March 22 at the McHenry Municipal Center, 333 S. Green St. The city already plans to hold off on capital purchases for this year. The last time the city made capital purchases was in the 2007-08 fiscal year, when it bought four police patrol vehicles and two dump trucks, Black said. "We'll certainly do our best to maintain our core services," Black said.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Douglas K. Maxeiner
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Northwest Herald, The (Crystal Lake, IL)
January 12, 2010

McHenry lowers letter of credit for Riverwalk project

Author/Byline: Crystal Lindell

The Riverwalk Center again was in the spotlight at McHenry's City Council meeting. Aldermen unanimously voted to lower the letter of credit that it holds on Curtis Commercial, the project's developers, to \$350,000 from \$1.5 million on Monday. A letter of credit is money set aside for the city in case a developer, in this case Curtis Commercial, couldn't finish promised public improvements. The public projects left for Curtis are a parking lot on the former Wahl Appliance lot and final landscaping, according to city documents.

The move comes weeks after aldermen voted to allow developers out of a commitment to build a multi-story parking garage next to its mixed-used building. The garage was slated to include public parking as well as spots for residents and business, but developers said they no longer could afford to build it. Instead, they will build a smaller lot on the site and a smaller public lot a few blocks away. "[This letter of credit reduction] did kind of bring up a red flag for some of my constituents," said Ward 1 Alderman Victor Santi, whose ward includes the Riverwalk Center.

However, city Administrator **Doug Maxeiner** – who took time before the vote to address concerns – said the parking garage couldn't have been funded with the letter of credit because the garage would have been privately owned. **Maxeiner** also said it was common to reduce a letter of credit as a development progresses. That's at least partly because the developer is charged 1 percent interest on it each year. This reduction will save Curtis Commercial \$11,500 in 2010, **Maxeiner** added. "This is our standard operating procedure," he said.

The item was slated to be on the Council's consent agenda – which usually has little to no debate – but was pulled for further discussion. **Maxeiner** said it was typical for a letter of credit reduction to be on consent agenda though. "We're not trying to hide anything, that's just how we always go about reducing a letter of credit," he said.

During the meeting, Ward 2 Alderman Andrew Glab also took time to address a possible conflict of interest that he was worried about having with the Riverwalk Center project. It was a worry that last month led him to withdraw from the controversial vote regarding the center's parking plans. At the time, Glab told city staff members that he worked for a company that supplied rubber pavers, which are being used for the project's construction.

That night, City Attorney David McArdle told Glab that he likely was all right, but Glab insisted on getting a formal opinion and recused himself from the vote. Glab said he since learned that he was clear to vote on issues related to the Riverwalk Center.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Douglas K. Maxeiner
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Northwest Herald (IL)
March 15, 2008

City prices possible projects

Author: Jillian Duchnowski

McHENRY - City officials' wish list includes \$1.9 million toward a main intersection improvement, \$1 million in renovations to a new public works garage, and \$2.05 million for a fifth water-treatment plant. McHenry aldermen will fold those and other major projects into the budget for the fiscal year that starts May 1 if there is enough money to pay for them, which isn't likely for projects that rely on the city's main operating fund, City Administrator **Doug Maxeiner** said. Leaders also are trying to whittle away a \$311,000 deficit in the proposed \$17.5 million budget for the city's main operating fund.

But the most expensive projects invest in infrastructure that will help sustain development and the local economy, Alderman Victor Santi said. "They're something that really needs to be completed in the foreseeable future," Santi said. "With the economy slowdown, there is the need to try to continue on key items to hopefully get the economy going a little bit more from the city standpoint." Officials plan to buy \$1.5 million in land needed to improve the intersection of Richmond Road and Route 120 and to widen Route 31, according to the city's capital improvement plan. Route 31 will be expanded from three to five lanes from Route 120 to Washington Street starting in 2010.

The city will use \$400,000 in grants to pay for engineering costs associated with the project. Illinois Department of Transportation officials have promised to reimburse McHenry for the land costs, which will come from the city's main operating fund, **Maxeiner** said. "That's just the process they use, particularly when you're looking at right-of-way acquisition," **Maxeiner** said, adding that the city also fronted money for land when upgrading Route 31 and McCullom Lake Road about four years ago.

That's the only proposed project more than \$1 million that would be paid out of the main operating fund. About \$3 million to build the next portion of the Riverwalk would come from private donations and bonds repaid through the tax-increment financing district. Money from the annexation and water-sewer funds would pay to renovate into a public works garage a \$3.2 million warehouse the city bought this fiscal year.

Bonds that would be repaid through capital development fees would cover the \$2.05 million water-treatment plant in the Legend Lakes subdivision. The plant would treat water from two wells, one of which presently serves as a backup well. The system would serve future development, **Maxeiner** said. "We have to be able to accommodate the growing need for water," he said. "We're planning for the future."

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Douglas K. Maxeiner
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Northwest Herald, The (Crystal Lake, IL)
March 4, 2008

McHenry draft budget shows deficit

Author/Byline: Jilliam Duchnowski

City leaders project that they will have a \$311,013 deficit in their main fund next year, leaving just more than \$3 million in the city's coffers in April 2009. The expected general fund deficit for the fiscal year that starts May 1 is fueled by plummeting building permit and interest revenue and increasing personnel costs, including health insurance, Financial Director Chris Black told aldermen Monday.

But the city has spent more than it brought in the past six fiscal years, with the last four indicating a structural deficit, Black said. A structural deficit is when regular planned expenses outpace revenue. "That's the issue we've got to look at this year and in the long term," Black said.

Black suggested that aldermen consider not replacing staff members as they left and reviewing program and user fees, as well as permit and license charges. Aldermen will review staff members' budget proposals in a series of committee meetings, starting with Finance and Personnel committee meetings Monday, March 10. The final budget could be approved April 28.

City staff members are proposing about \$17.2 million in revenue, which is up \$278,760 from this fiscal year, and \$17.5 million in expenses, which is a \$606,473 increase. That includes about a 30 percent, or \$175,000, drop in expected building permit fees and a 5.2 percent, or \$228,960, increase in property-tax revenue. "That 5.2 percent [increase is property-tax revenue] is less than what we've seen in the last two to three years," Black said. "We've been seeing 6 percent."

Staff also suggested planning for about \$95,800 more in police and street crew overtime, and eliminating a \$38,100 building maintenance position that has been vacant since October. Overall, salary costs are projected to jump by \$490,800. They also suggested spending about \$388,150 less than this year in vehicle and equipment purchases.

City Administrator **Doug Maxeiner** predicted that the city's finances would be strained over the next two to three years. "We have some difficult tasks, difficult questions to ask ourselves as we move forward," **Maxeiner** said.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Douglas K. Maxeiner
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Northwest Herald (IL)
August 15, 2006

Riverwalk funds gain approval

Author: Jocelyn Allison

Aldermen approved issuing \$2,995,000 in general obligation bonds Monday to fund construction of the first phase of the McHenry Riverwalk, a roughly 1,200-foot waterfront pathway already starting to take shape along the south side of Boone Creek. Daniel Forbes, vice president of Speer Financial Inc., recommended that the city award the bonds to Harris Bank of Chicago, which submitted an interest rate of 4.0684 percent, the lowest of nine bidders.

The lowest three interest rates submitted Monday were within one one-hundredth of a percent of one another, which Forbes said he considered remarkable. "So I think this tells you this was an extremely competitive sale today and speaks highly of the city's marketability and competitiveness," he said. Aldermen voted, 5-1, to approve the bond ordinance. Alderman Andy Glab opposed it, and Alderman Robert Peterson was absent.

The bonds, which are backed by the general fund, will be repaid with revenue from a tax increment financing district that includes the Riverwalk Place town homes and the demolished site of the former Medical Arts building at Green Street and Waukegan Road. With tax increment financing, local governments receive annual property-tax payments for up to 23 years based on property assessments established when the district is created. As the district's property value increases, the corresponding rise in taxes pays for improvements in the district.

City officials expect to pay off the bonds within the next six to seven years, though the schedule allows the city to take up to 2024. The McHenry TIF district has been producing revenue at a rate that should be more than enough to cover the bond repayments, though the city reserves the right to raise taxes should the TIF district increment fall short.

City Administrator **Doug Maxeiner** told the council that the TIF district generated about \$324,000 in tax increment in 2005, while the highest debt service payment in a single year on the bond repayment schedule is \$240,000. "So in our opinion, this is very safe and we're recommending we move forward," **Maxeiner** told the council.

The first phase of the Riverwalk is on schedule for its completion date in late November, said Bill Hobson, management assistant for community relations. Crews have laid concrete bands along the path from the Green Street bridge to the Riverwalk Place town homes and should be filling in the concrete today, he said.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Douglas K. Maxeiner
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Northwest Herald, The (Crystal Lake, IL)
April 26, 2005

McHenry council OKs \$36.2 million budget

Author/Byline: Jessica Personette

City council members approved a budget Monday night that allocates money to improve Whispering Oaks walking paths, start building the recreation center, and hire new city employees. The \$36.2 million budget for fiscal 2006 was adopted on a 7-0 vote. "A lot of projects are able to be done this year, and we're able to meet our goals of being responsible with taxpayers' dollars," Alderman Steve Murgatroyd said.

The total budget is \$22.5 million less than last year's \$58.7 million budget because there are fewer planned capital projects, such as last year's Route 120 reconstruction, City Administrator **Doug Maxeiner** said. But the city's main operating fund, the general fund, increased 3.5 percent over last year, to \$14.8 million.

Seven new positions are planned in the police, public works, and parks and recreation departments to meet the needs of the growing community, **Maxeiner** said.

The general fund also includes a proposal to refund two bonds, similar to refinancing a mortgage, for a savings of about \$500,000, which will improve cash flow over the next four years, **Maxeiner** said. The city has pledged to repay the bonds with sales tax.

Reserve money will be used to pay for \$50,000 to improve walking paths in the Whispering Oaks subdivision. The city still was able to meet its policy of leaving an amount equal to four months of the operating budget in reserves, or slightly less than \$5 million, **Maxeiner** said.

Not counting the one-time Whispering Oaks expense and interfund transfers, the general-fund budget is balanced, **Maxeiner** said. But if transfers are included, the deficit is \$300,000.

As in last year's budget, \$6.5 million is allocated to begin the Riverwalk and \$500,000 is set aside for city's portion of the recreation center. The budget also includes \$355,000 to extend Municipal Drive to the proposed rec center site.

The fiscal year begins May 1 and ends April 30, 2006.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Douglas K. Maxeiner
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Northwest Herald (IL)
March 15, 2005

McHenry health-insurance costs decrease

Author: Staff Writer

The city will pay less in fixed health-insurance costs for its employees this year.

The city council on Monday night approved a health-insurance plan with Majestic Standard Security, with a 5.2 percent decrease in fixed costs, from \$240,211 to \$227,629. "I consider this good news," City Administrator **Doug Maxeiner** told the council. "This represents a much better renewal. Fixed costs are actually declining, which is unheard of."

The maximum exposure cost the district could pay in the next year is \$1,472,503, up 3.8 percent from last year.

For employees, the news means stable or minor increases in monthly health-insurance costs. Health coverage for single employees, paid entirely by the city, will drop from \$441.90 a month to \$398.09 a month. Single employees with one dependent will pay \$56.42 a month, up about \$3 a month, with the city paying \$830.28 a month in coverage for each of those employees. And employees with family coverage also will pay about \$3 more each month, or \$84.27 monthly, with the city paying \$1,043.82 monthly for each of those employees.

"In terms of insurance, it's what you'd call good news," Alderman Steven Murgatroyd said of the new plan.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Douglas K. Maxeiner
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Northwest Herald, The (Crystal Lake, IL)
February 14, 2005

Aldermen might boost salaries for McHenry mid-managers

Author/Byline: Scott Herbstman

Aldermen will consider increasing the salaries for 14 middle management positions today.

City Administrator **Douglas Maxeiner** said labor contracts dictated salaries and raises for employees working under middle managers, while managerial salaries were not ruled by contracts. "We don't want to get to the point where a manager is making less than a subordinate makes," **Maxeiner** said.

If approved, the salaries for half the positions will increase about 4 percent, and they will rise about 8 percent for the other half. The raises would cost the city \$12,817 for the remainder of the fiscal year, which ends in April, and \$76,902 next fiscal year.

Mayor Susan Low said she was not concerned by the increase in expenses. "We're trying to keep things equitable for all levels," she said. "We have been very fiscally responsible, so I think we're in good shape financially."

Maxeiner said the salary review for noncontract employees was scheduled for this year, as part of the city's decision to review these salaries every three or four years since a 2001 compensation study. He said the city had not seen middle managers leave because of their salaries, but some have brought the narrowing gap to his attention.

Among those standing to benefit from the proposed salary increases are Brad Fink, assistant director of public works, whose salary would rise from \$67,561 to \$70,261; Jon Schmitt, water superintendent, who would earn \$74,724, up about 8 percent from \$69,084; and engineering inspector Gerry Johnson, whose salary would rise to \$49,645 from \$45,900.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Douglas K. Maxeiner
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Northwest Herald, The (Crystal Lake, IL)
January 5, 2005

McHenry fills positions by promoting 3

Author/Byline: Scott Herbstman

Instead of hiring a new assistant city administrator, aldermen decided this week to shift two current employees' responsibilities. Aldermen voted, 7-0, late Monday to promote three employees. Two will take over the responsibilities, but not the title, of the assistant city administrator, a position that has been open since August. "We didn't find anybody that was a good candidate," City Administrator **Douglas Maxeiner** said. "We did recognize that we had some strength within."

Douglas Martin, the city planner who began working for McHenry in September 2001, will become assistant to the city administrator by the end of January. His job will include overseeing new development and downtown redevelopment. Also, he will be acting city administrator when **Maxeiner** is absent. "He brings, obviously, a very strong development perspective to the city administrator's office," **Maxeiner** said. Martin's salary will increase from \$59,000 a year to \$62,461. **Maxeiner** said the city expects to hire a new city planner this month.

Bill Hobson, who became community projects coordinator in October 2003, will become management assistant for community relations next week. His work with community groups to manage events will continue, and he will oversee some special projects, including the new downtown Riverwalk. Hobson has taken over some Riverwalk responsibilities in the past few months. "I think he's performed very admirably in that position," **Maxeiner** said. "We kind of exceeded what his job description was." Hobson's yearly salary will increase from \$44,600 to \$48,276.

Maxeiner said there is the possibility that either Hobson or Martin - with additional education - could be promoted to assistant city administrator if that position is offered.

Aldermen also decided Monday to promote Kris Paprocki from human-resources specialist to the new position of human-resources manager because Paprocki completed her bachelor's degree. Her salary will increase from \$43,150 a year to \$46,681. Martin said the shifts make sense: "It's a great opportunity. It capitalizes on everybody's strength."

Maxeiner said Hobson and Martin were among about 75 applicants for the assistant city administrator position. Aldermen interviewed seven candidates. "The city is so fortunate to have such great employees to work with," Mayor Susan Low said.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Douglas K. Maxeiner
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Naperville Sun, The (includes 12 weeklies) (IL)
May 24, 2000

CAPITAL PROJECTS AT HEART OF MCHENRY BUDGET

Author/Byline: Tim Waldorf

The McHenry City Council has adopted an almost \$25.9 million budget for the upcoming fiscal year. City officials maintain the budget will allow McHenry to, among other things, maintain existing services and programs while undertaking "an aggressive capital improvements program for street, drainage and water and sewer infrastructure," according to a memo sent to the council by assistant city administrator **Doug Maxeiner**.

Though the approved budget totals \$25,875,700 for all funds, only \$21,261,541 of that figure will be spent outside the municipal loop. The \$4.6 million difference stems from interfund transfers in which money from one city fund is expended, but is spent on or distributed to another city fund. However, that nearly \$21.3 million figure is a \$3.5 million increase in proposed actual spending from the previous fiscal year's budget.

According to **Maxeiner's** memo, "large capital projects like the construction of a new water tower, the expansion of the central wastewater treatment plant, and a \$1.6 million road improvement program are primarily responsible for the increase."

The City Council approved the new budget with little fanfare last week, only commenting on how much they appreciated the hard work and professionalism of the finance committee, which was led by **Maxeiner** and Alderman Steve Murgatroyd, the committee's chairman.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Douglas K. Maxeiner
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Rockford Register Star (IL)
March 31, 1999

Some to pay more for trash collection

Author/Byline: Fred Tannenbaum

The same week Alliance Waste Services was underbid for the Rockford city garbage contract, customers in unincorporated areas were told to expect a rate increase. However, company officials deny any connection between the bids, being evaluated by city officials, and the increase that will take effect May 1. The company and its predecessor, Laidlaw Waste Systems, have collected Rockford trash for more than 20 years. Tim Lintner, Alliance municipal marketing manager for northern Illinois, said the increase was intended to standardize rates. It's also needed to make up for increased fuel and labor costs. Union truck drivers received a three-year contract last fall. The company also sought a rate increase at the beginning of 1998. "This is not to offset any lost revenue or perceived lost revenue," Lintner said, adding increases are coming to other northern Illinois areas. "It's a standard operating increase."

City residents are not affected, Public Works Director Bill Bittner said. City rates are locked in under Rockford's contract with Alliance, which expires Dec. 31. The owner of a \$100,000 home pays about \$152 a year for trash collection through their water bills and a property tax surcharge. The waste hauler sent letters late last week to customers living outside the city limits, saying monthly rates would increase "due to increasing costs beyond our control." Alliance officials were unable to say how much the company charges for residential pickup and how much the increase would be. Costs and the increase depend on location and services. An Alliance operator said the increase could mean about 90 cents more a month for a home outside the city limits.

Rockford opened bids for a five-year contract last Wednesday, a few days before the letters arrived. Rock River Disposal, which serves Loves Park and Machesney Park, offered a bid of \$21.6 million, while Alliance bid \$26.6 million. City finance officials are examining Rock River's bid to ensure it meets all specifications. **Doug Maxeiner**, Rockford's purchasing director, said there's no timetable for bringing the bids before the city council.

Several Winnebago County Board members and county Environmental Health Director Royal DeLegge said they were not aware of Alliance's proposed increase or had they received complaints. The county has little control over trash contracts because residents individually contract with haulers in communities where garbage pickup isn't provided.

Research Compiled by: Christopher Nestman
Colin Baenziger & Associates