

4. How should the Village address road maintenance, infrastructure needs, and rising construction costs?

Dennis Faber's Response

I strongly believe a consortium of partnering municipalities will result in reducing paving, road maintenance, and construction costs. Economy of scale results in lower costs. This should be an immediate priority.

Another priority is the State of Wisconsin "Innovation Grant" program. If successful in obtaining this grant, our Village could receive a minimum of approximately \$250,000 annually for up to five years - and that is just for the road-paving portion of the grant.

Steve Dunn's Response

We need to work with other communities to combine services. We need to work with developers who are willing to help put in infrastructure. We need to stop outsourcing so many of our services. For example, the lawn mowing - why not hire retirees or high school kids to do these tasks in the summer? The Village already has a surplus of mowers, trailers, and pickup trucks.

Adam Miller's Response

I believe the regional road consortium is an effective way to address all three challenges. Working together with neighboring communities allows us to share resources, reduce costs, and complete more infrastructure work than we could on our own.

Kerry Verenski's Response

I support exploring partnerships with neighboring communities. Sharing resources and collaborating regionally can reduce costs while maintaining strong standards for road maintenance and infrastructure. Regional collaboration helps us address rising costs more efficiently and ensures long-term sustainability.

James Woodke's Response

The Capital Improvement Plan tries to consider all capital expenses that the Village expects over a 30-year period and tries to spread the expenses out at a more even rate. Expenses like buildings, equipment, vehicles, and more are included. It is to be used as a guide for capital spending.

The Village of Salem Lakes needs to repave about 4 miles of roadway per year based on a 20-year replacement plan, at a current cost of 1 million dollars per mile (\$4 million per year). The cost of replacing capital and roads has been increasing in recent years.

If the Village Board could find a way to reduce the cost per mile of road repairs and/or receive grants, that would go a long way in improving our financial situation. There is a possibility that a "consortium" could be used to reduce road costs per mile and be a source of grant money.