

Darwin McClary

From: Eric Papacek
Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2026 2:03 PM
To: Darwin McClary
Subject: Agenda Item - Request

Hi Darwin,

Given the recent DPW staff departures, I would like to request that Council discuss the future structure of the Village's public works operations at the next Village Council meeting. It seems like an appropriate time for Council to direct staff to evaluate available options before we automatically move forward with rebuilding the same department structure.

Specifically, I would like the agenda item to focus on whether the Village should study potential shared-service or intergovernmental options with Orion Township, along with any other viable alternatives, including:

- Rebuilding the Village DPW department under the current model;
- Exploring a full or partial shared-services arrangement with Orion Township;
- Considering a hybrid model where the Village retains limited local staffing but relies on Township or contracted support for certain functions;
- Identifying which DPW functions should remain local, which could be shared, and which are already contracted out. Water, sewer, snow removal, roads, sidewalks, parks/grounds, cemeteries, stormwater, leaf pickup, buildings/facilities, lake level/dam responsibilities, etc.

I'd suggest considering a motion along these lines:

"I move to direct the Village Manager (and Village Attorney) to begin preliminary discussions with Orion Township regarding a potential intergovernmental/shared-services arrangement for Village public works operations; to compare that option against rebuilding the Village DPW department and other hybrid or contracted models; and to return to Council within 60 days with a cost comparison, service-level analysis, legal structure, employee/equipment transition considerations, and recommended next steps."

Public works services are important and it seems like this is a good time to explore options for the best path forward. Hopefully this can be added to the July 13 agenda.

Eric