



Elburn weighs financial hiring

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ELBURN – The village is poised to hire a financial director, a move Village President Dave Anderson said would allow Village Administrator Erin Willrett to focus more on economic development.

The move was discussed at Monday night's Village Board meeting, during which board members continued to address the village's budget.

Also, the board approved an update of the village's comprehensive land-use plan. It had been more than 20 years since the village last updated the plan.

Willrett said it's likely the village will review the plan every four to five years. She noted the importance of the approval of the update, which was a work in progress from Images Inc., with a grant from the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning.

"We just updated a 23-year-old document," Willrett said. "That's huge."

The budget process is continuing. Among the noteworthy items would be a 3 percent "across-the-board" raise for workers in the village.

Regarding the financial director position, Anderson has made a push for such a director, and he said he intends to appoint one at a meeting in May. The position would be salaried, at a rate of \$79,000 a year, based on a 32-hour work week.

Anderson said the move also addresses economic development, as it would free up time for Willrett to address the subject, which, he said, "is her forte."

Trustee Jerry Schmidt, who is not running for re-election Tuesday, has urged the board to focus on economic development. Anderson said it would be an opportunity to "give Erin the ball."

Anderson also brought back an issue that was addressed at last week's Committee of the Whole meeting, when discussion focused on the hiring of a full-time police officer.

Anderson had said he was against adding a full-time officer, but he said Monday he had misunderstood the discussion, which actually was on replacing an existing position.

He said he would support eventually replacing an officer who currently is on leave. He would not be in support of adding a ninth full-time officer, he said.

"We have eight full-time officers, and by law, we cannot replace one of the eight full-time officers with a part-time officer," he said, adding, "I was wrong in the way I presented it."

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The budget process will continue. A Committee of the Whole meeting is set for Monday, and the next Elburn Village Board meeting will be April 15.