

Saukville extends its inspection agreement

Written by MARK JAEGER
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Village officials cite work with Grafton as model of collaboration

Village of Saukville officials saw no reason to tinker with a good thing, approving a new two-year agreement with the Village of Grafton for inspection services.

The village began contracting with Grafton for building inspections and the issuing of building permits two years ago following a staff reduction.

Under the agreement, local property owners are referred to Grafton Village Hall at 860 Badger Cir. when building, plumbing, electrical or HVAC inspections are needed.

Grafton officials also issue those related permits on behalf of the village.

In exchange for those services, Saukville pays Grafton \$500 a month. Grafton also retains 60% of the fees collected.

"I think it has been a great partnership. This is a perfect example of how intergovernmental cooperation should work," Village Administrator Dawn Wagner told the Village Board's Finance Committee last week.

Saukville is so pleased with the arrangements, the village intends to extend the service agreement through the end of 2015.

The new agreement clarifies Grafton's building inspector may be requested to attend special meetings and court proceedings at the request of the village administrator to offer testimony.

Those appearances will be at a charge of \$60 an hour.

Wagner said such appearances are rare, but can occur when an inspector's ruling is challenged by a property owner.

The extended agreement was unanimously approved by the board. It still needs final approval from Grafton.

Saukville trustees also approved a 10-year contract for trash and recyclable collections with Advanced Disposal, the business successor of Veolia Environmental Services.

Under the agreement, which runs through 2023, the company will make no price adjustments for the first five years. Following that period, rate increases will be based on the consumer-price index and limited to 3% per year.

The cost of the waste recycling is \$166 per home per year.

Advanced Disposal agreed to waive any fuel surcharge for the first five years of the contract. Waste collection at six village buildings will be provided at no charge.

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The village action follows a pattern of neighboring communities, with Port Washington and Grafton recently approving 10-year contract extensions with Advanced.