

Village sets cost of capital projects at \$18 million

Written by STEVE OSTERMANN
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Downtown redevelopment, utility upgrades among top ticket items in five-year plan

Downtown redevelopment projects, utility upgrades and public safety equipment purchases are among the major expenditures in an \$18.3 million, 5-year capital improvement program approved last week by the Grafton Village Board.

The program, which is adopted annually by the village, calls for a variety of projects to be undertaken from 2013 through 2017.

Next year, the village plans to spend \$3.8 million on improvements, topped by \$1.4 million for the wastewater utility. The work includes \$888,000 for a new storage building at 1900 Ninth Ave. and \$524,000 for a septage-receiving station.

Other 2013 projects in the program are:

\$744,000 for downtown redevelopment, including \$620,000 for a Seventh Avenue stormwater relay system and \$124,000 for work on a 13th Avenue parking lot.

\$523,100 for public works expenditures, including \$309,600 for street overlay projects of Highland Drive and Maple Street and \$213,000 for equipment purchases.

\$418,000 for sewer and water main replacements on Highland Drive.

\$350,000 to replace the Ninth Avenue lift station.

During the next five years, the village plans to undertake downtown redevelopment projects that will cost \$2 million. In addition to the parking lot, the expenditures include \$205,000 for street overlay work on 13th Avenue in 2014.

For 2017, the village has earmarked \$2 million for nine downtown projects, including stormwater and street upgrades, pedestrian walkways and work in the Chair Factory Park and Veterans Memorial Park.

Another focal point of redevelopment is the south commercial district, where \$2.3 million is earmarked for road and streetscape projects during the next five years.

The five-year program calls for \$2.1 million for water and sewer main replacements, including \$944,525 in 2014.

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During the next five years, the village also plans to spend \$570,000 for parks and recreation projects, including \$210,000 for upgrades to the Grafton Family Aquatic Center, and \$503,100 for public safety equipment purchases, including \$250,000 for unmarked police squads.

Village Administrator Darrell Hofland said all but one of the projects was reviewed and recommended by department heads. The only exception is an addition to the Lime Kiln Park parking lot in 2017.