

Thank you for reaching out and for providing the opportunity to address questions regarding the Village's finances. I appreciate the opportunity to provide factual information and context as the Village works through its annual budget process.

As part of Monday's budget workshop, the Village Council will be conducting a detailed review of the General Fund budget, commonly referred to as the "101 Fund." Based on current budget projections, General Fund expenditures are projected to exceed revenues by approximately \$347,596 for the upcoming fiscal year. The Police Department currently accounts for just over 55% of General Fund expenditures.

It is important to note that the budget remains a working document and will continue to be reviewed and adjusted as Council discussions progress. The current budget does not include funding for major capital improvement projects such as road reconstruction, building improvements, sewer infrastructure upgrades, or water system improvements.

The Village has utilized portions of its General Fund reserves in recent years to balance budgets and maintain services. While those reserves have provided flexibility and helped maintain service levels, they are not intended to serve as a permanent source of operating revenue. The purpose of the current budget process is to identify responsible, sustainable solutions that will allow the Village to continue providing essential services while maintaining long-term fiscal stability.

Additionally, Village representatives are evaluating a variety of public safety service models, including discussions with Putnam Township regarding potential shared-service opportunities and cost efficiencies. I have a meeting scheduled with Township representatives to discuss potential alternatives for police service delivery and opportunities to share public safety costs. Information from those discussions will be presented to the Village Council for consideration and discussed publicly. No decisions have been made regarding changes to police services.

Following the General Fund review, the Village will begin evaluating several enterprise funds that are also experiencing financial pressures. Current working projections indicate:

- Sewer Fund: approximately \$26,378 deficit
- Water Fund: approximately \$112,143 deficit
- Refuse, Leaf & Brush Fund: approximately \$64,515 deficit

As part of those discussions, Council will evaluate a variety of options, including potential adjustments to utility rates and alternative service delivery methods that may improve efficiency and reduce costs.

While I am aware that various concerns, allegations, and rumors have circulated within the community, I believe it is important that discussions remain focused on verifiable facts, public records, audited financial statements, and information presented during open meetings. The budget process is ongoing, and I would caution against drawing conclusions before the Council has completed its review and deliberations.

To date, I have not been presented with evidence supporting many of the claims that have circulated, and I believe the best course is to rely on public records, documented financial information, and the public budget process rather than speculation or secondhand information.

All budget discussions are being conducted during public meetings, and residents are encouraged to attend, review budget materials, and participate in the process. Transparency remains a priority, and the Village will continue to keep residents informed as the budget process moves forward.

There are many moving parts to this year's budget, and our goal is to carefully evaluate all available options before making any decisions. While the challenges are significant, I am confident that through thoughtful planning, collaboration, and responsible fiscal management, we can develop a sustainable path forward for the Village.

Please feel free to attend Monday's meeting, and don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Jeff Buerman
Village President
Village of Pinckney