



The Village of Glenview -

ONE COMMUNITY'S STRATEGY TO REDUCE COSTS

GLENVIEW, ILLINOIS

Challenging economic times require resourceful strategies to meet the various needs of a community. In 2009, the Village of Glenview began exploring alternatives to reduce Village costs without jeopardizing the high level of service that the residents are accustomed to receiving. Rather than rely on familiar tools such as freezing expenditures, suspending non-critical programs, and initiating temporary layoffs, Village staff proposed a unique solution for municipal operations; the consolidation of multiple contracts. Glenview officials supported the idea and were eager to see if costs could be decreased, without sacrificing the quality of service.

The Village of Glenview administers municipal services through a mix of public employees and outsourced contracts. Eight municipal departments (Development, Finance, Fire, Capital Projects, Manager's Office, Police, Public Works, and Support Services) negotiate contracts and subsequently manage a variety of vendors that serve the Village. In an effort to more efficiently manage these programs and services, and also to potentially reduce costs, Glenview staff suggested providing a single point of contact for management of many of these services.

After a comprehensive proposal and interview process, the Glenview Village Board unanimously approved Baxter & Woodman's contract to provide Engineering and Inspection Services, Natural Area and Landscape Maintenance, Water System Operations, and other service assistance for the next five years. The new contracting structure will consolidate twenty contracts the Village previously had in place. For example, where the Village had five or six landscaping contractors, the new structure includes three landscapers under a single contract.

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Supporting the Baxter & Woodman team are eight consultants who are directed by Baxter & Woodman Program Manager Kevin W. Sutherland, PE. The firms include:

- ME Simpson – water meter testing;
- Backflow Solutions – water system cross connection control management;
- ILT Vignocchi – landscaping;
- Aquatic Ecological – water quality;
- Tall Grass Restoration – natural areas;
- Rickman Contract Services - water meter reading;
- Lyons-Pinner Electric – traffic signal maintenance;
- JAS Pacific – inspection management.

The Village's strategy of saving money was immediately realized during contract negotiation. By eliminating administrative overlap and obtaining a more competitive pricing structure, the Village will save approximately \$600,000 during 2010. The new consolidated contract was significantly less than what was budgeted under the Village's original contract structure.

The new contracting structure has been in place for over two months, and to date has been functioning efficiently and meeting the goals established by the Village.

A developing trend toward municipal privatization is being considered by many public agencies. Consolidation, cooperation, and joint service delivery across municipalities is not a new concept. However, few municipalities have been able to overcome perceived obstacles. Recession battered budgets for governments nationwide have prompted a new willingness to talk about privatization and reach beyond political boundaries to share resources and services. Glenview officials are demonstrating this concept as they continue to grow, prosper, and look for innovative ways to serve the needs of their community.

