

## Trustee hopefuls discuss the issues Four running for three open seats on the Hinsdale Village Board



Where do the candidates stand on the issues?

Ken Knutson compiled these responses from personal interviews and questionnaires.

### Fiscal management



**Scott Banke**

Village has managed its finances well, but pensions pose the biggest challenge going forward. The village's strong credit rating puts it in a good position to continue to make vital infrastructure improvements as well as maintain them.



**Bill Cotter**

Try to reduce the burden on taxpayers as much as possible by taking a disciplined, forward-thinking approach in budgeting and capital improvement planning. Healthy reserves should be maintained to guard against revenue fluctuations and potential cost overruns on projects.



**Laurel Haarlow**

Decisions should be made based both on today's reality and future considerations so resources are sustained for the next generation. Village needs to be very careful with its pension obligations as one of it's largest financial issues going forward.



**Luke Stifflear**

Board should set policies to guide staff's budgeting but not micromanage by scrutinizing every item. Threats exist to village revenue streams, and staff should be directed to regularly seek efficiencies, realizing that cuts could impact an employee's job status.

### Commercial development

Conversion of old GM training site into dealership was a positive move for village's tax base. A study should be conducted to determine ways to attract more tax-generating enterprises to balance the number of service businesses.

Concepts for potential commercial development sites should be sought to gain a broad vision of possibilities for those properties. The character of the village should be considered when vetting proposed projects, as should their tax revenue-generating prospects.

Another car dealership in the eastern part of the Ogden corridor would be welcome. The potential redevelopment of the Institute in Basic Life Principles site should be carefully considered, ideally for park land or a commercial project with some open space.

The wear and tear on infrastructure and traffic impact need to be considered when assessing projects. Expect another luxury car dealer to open on Ogden after Land Rover moves to former GM training site, which together would significantly boost revenue.

### Historic preservation

Attention must be given to preserving the village's historic assets. The village has limited resources and the historic preservation commission should be given deference on how to best handle preservation matters.

Removing a home's historic landmark status should be challenging in order to protect the village's historic character, but it's important that a property owner requesting modifications has a meaningful opportunity to have his or her case heard.

History bring a sense of place to the community and should be protected. New businesses can fit well in the historic downtown, and preserving historic homes is not incompatible with new construction. Landmarking should be handled on case-by-case basis.

Offer relief to homeowners who renovate historic homes, such as increased floor-area ratio and reduced side yard and backyard setbacks. Landmarking status should encumber a home for a specific time period and be augmented with zoning relief.

### Most important step

Aims to be a participant in good decisions that continue to make Hinsdale a desirable place to live with nice amenities and good public safety.

While the I-294 expansion project will impact the village and its residents, efforts must be made to minimize that impact by being an advocate for Hinsdale in dealings with the Tollway Authority through the duration of the construction.

Responsible budgeting for and maintenance of village services that contribute to a vibrant downtown and strong property values, which will also ensure stability for future generations of residents.

Help steer the redevelopment of the Institute in Basic Life Principles, implement a long-term plan for leadership transition in the fire department and develop a policy governing installation of small cell towers.

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