



Trustee hopefuls offer views on the issues

Four candidates are vying for three seats on the Hinsdale Village Board

Where do the candidates stand on the issues?

Ken Knutson compiled these responses from personal interviews and questionnaires

Proposed parking deck utilization



Scott Banke

Employees of downtown businesses should park in the deck to keep street spaces open for shoppers. Protecting the most convenient parking spaces for visitors will promote the health of the central business district. Study whether to issue parking permits for deck.



Bill Cotter

Have employees of downtown businesses use the garage to free up on-street parking close to shops and restaurants. Pay stations should replace coin-operated meters, along with expanded use of the smartphone app currently available to pay for parking in certain locations.



Laurel Haarlow

Ideally employees of downtown businesses will park in the deck to open up street spots for shoppers. It should also be open to shoppers as well. Consider converting some spaces to permit spots for commuters only after understanding use patterns.



Luke Stifflear

Both deck and on-street parking should be free, with downtown business employees required to park in the deck and the two-hour on-street parking limit strictly enforced with human and technological tools. Revenue loss would be offset by an increased level of convenience.

Village's greatest strength/area of need

- greatest strength — dedication to responsible government: fixing the infrastructure, an improved credit rating and holding the line on expenses
- area of need — village's pension obligation could present a significant challenge in the event of a revenue shortfall.

- greatest strength — people, through the time and talent they invest in the village
- area of need — completing master infrastructure program, minimizing impact of the I-294 widening project and working with Metra to address service reliability issues

- greatest strength — sense of community, exemplified by residents' volunteerism and philanthropic spirit contributing to the numerous service agencies and nonprofits in town.
- area of need — village needs to maintain financial stability, particularly with regard to pension obligations

- greatest strength — character of the central business district, which is among the top reasons people settle in Hinsdale.
- area of need — human capital development, specifically ensuring people in No. 2 positions are trained to take over department leadership when necessary

Recent board decisions

Agreed with the approval of a new enterprise resource planning system to help optimize revenues, control expenses and improve overall service to residents. Opposed allowing the Hinsdale Meadows development to move forward as age-targeted housing rather than age-restricted.

Supported revisions to the proposed parking deck design to accommodate District 181's concerns about structural load-bearing capacity. Believes the board should collect data about the adverse economic and safety consequences for residents in the event the District 86 referendum fails.

Disappointed the parking deck construction plan had to go to arbitration and hopes that, with safety as the top priority, a deck can be successfully built that serves both the school and downtown.

Supported decision to implement Enterprise Resource Planning system to materially improve residents' level of service. Dissented in the 4-3 vote to permit yellow striped awnings outside Casa Margarita, a design he thought was inappropriate for the historic train station.

Top three priorities

- public safety
- maintenance of infrastructure and services
- fiscal responsibility

- ensure parking deck project is delivered on-time, under budget and with an acceptable level of quality
- secure the best possible outcome for the village from the I-294 widening project and minimize its impact on residents
- work with Metra to minimize BNSF service issues

- responsible and effective budgeting and maintenance of village services, all of which contribute to a vibrant downtown and, more broadly, to property values village-wide.
- effective planning for the future
- safeguard zoning code

- successful redevelopment of the Institute of Basic Life Principles property
- complete rewrite of signage ordinance
- implementation of parking rules to motivate central business district employees and shoppers staying more than two hours to utilize the parking deck

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