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December 13, 2022

TO: Public Works and Environmental Concerns Committee

FROM: Carl Goldsmith, Director of Public Works *CG*

SUBJECT: Tree Planting Program Update

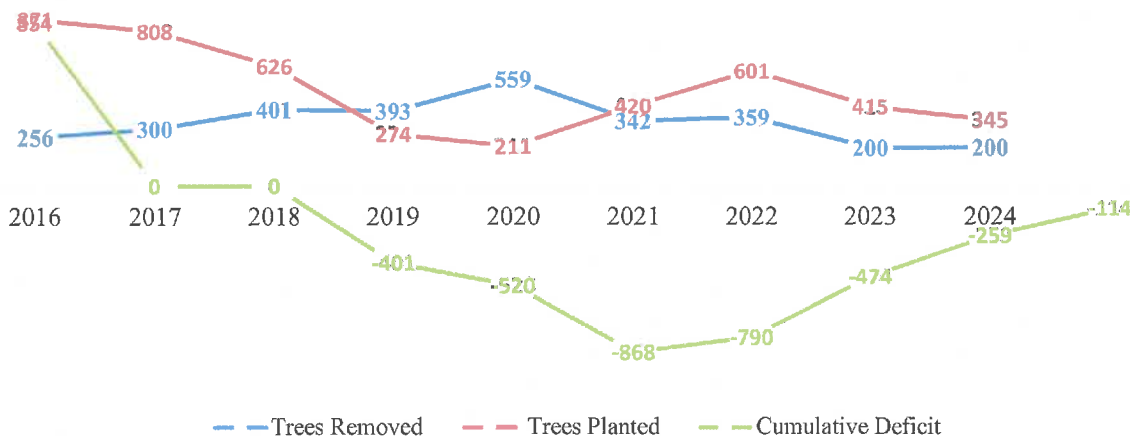
Background:

The Village of Lombard maintains an inventory of 18,920 trees that are located within public rights-of-way or on other Village-owned property. The Village funds planting, removal and stump grinding through the Capital Improvement Plan's Construction Fund. The funding level was \$75,000 for tree planting in 2021. The funding level had been at or below \$75,000 annually since 2009. This had resulted in a deficiency between the removals and plantings, and the timeframe for replanting had increased from 12 months to upwards of 3 years. The anticipated deficit was predicted to increase to nearly 900 trees by 2023.

At their August 19, 2021 meeting, the Village Board approved increasing the funding for replacement tree planting in Fall 2021, Spring 2022, Fall 2022 and Spring 2023 by \$65,000 per planting season. This will result in an increase of 200 trees planted per season. The budget for tree planting in the CIP has also been increased to \$125,000 annually beginning in 2024. The new funding level will provide 312 trees annually, allowing trees to be replaced within a year of removal per the desired practice by Spring 2023.

The chart below tracks the removals versus plantings between 2015 and 2024. The projections for 2023, and 2024 reflect the new level of funding. Estimates are to remove 200 trees in 2023 and 2024. This deficit does not include plantings in any available planting spaces where a tree has not yet been removed.

**TREE REMOVAL VERSUS PLANTING
2015-2024**



Recommendation:

Staff finds that the current funding level is sufficient, and is providing this memo as an update only. As such, no action is being sought from the Committee at this time.

CG/DG/EH:eh

PWECC Memo Tree planting update December 2021 R2.docx