

1. If the economy continues on its current path, what is the first step you would take to reduce spending? Would you cut jobs in that effort?

I am optimistic, and believe the economy in our area will make a turn for the better. That being said, the Trustees along with the Village President must be realistic about the economy today and review and prioritize as to “a needs based assessment” all the services the Village provides and determine where adjustments may be made to balance revenue and expenditures. The Village Board and Administration are responsible for the fiscal well being of the Village. I am confident that we will do what is right and proper for all involved.

2. How, specifically, can voters distinguish your approach from your opponents’ on economic development? On job growth?

The Village has an economic development person on staff and my approach would be to have this individual work very closely (network) with the Elburn Chamber of Commerce on promoting and building a marketing program highlighting what the Village has to offer and why businesses should come to Elburn. Once a marketing strategy is developed and business activity increases the job market tends to take care of itself.

3. Please list a few ways you would encourage new businesses to locate to Elburn. Do you believe financial incentives, such as tax rebates, are a good tool for commercial development, or should they be used sparingly?

At present we have three areas of retail and two of light industrial.

The two industrial developments are fairly well planned and have easy access, with Village services available. There seems to be continuous activity and progress in these two areas, but the Village must be vigilant, open and welcome to continued interest in these developments as well as others that may be on the horizon.

The retail areas are a different issue, one to the north, basically the intersection of Routes 38 and 47 which includes Jewel, Walgreens (soon to open), McDonalds and the Post Office. The Keslinger Route 47 intersection which includes Hogan-Walker -John-Deere, Patten-Cat and the proposed development on the Northwest corner across from Blackberry Township Cemetery. The third is the central downtown business district which includes Reams Elburn Market, Paisanos, NAPA, American Bank, etc.

The retail areas to the north and south will, in my opinion, grow according to the market wants and needs in the Elburn area.

The central business district has an opportunity to become a “niche type” business area where one business compliments or relates to another. I believe we have a unique opportunity in this particular area of Elburn and put forth the idea of thinking “outside the box” to promote new business growth here. We must be creative in our planning for business areas to the east, west, north and south of the existing businesses on Main Street.

If the marketing and demographics are correct, financial incentives may not be needed, and, if they are we must be very selective and cautious.

We must work toward the goal of having our gateways more pleasing in appearance to those who visit our community.

4. How will the village deal with issues associated with its aging waste water treatment plant (upgrades and/or a new plant and expansion of the facility) and related residential flooding? How do you propose funding these needs?

The waste water treatment plant was constructed in the late 70’s, I was a member of the Village Board (Chairman of the Public Works Committee) at the time, it was designed with expansion capacity to provide sewerage treatment for 15000 P.E.. Engineers have indicated to me that it is still, with maintenance and upgrades, a plant which will satisfy today’s EPA standards for treatment plant effluent.

Storm water issues may be solved in some areas with minimal expense i.e.; catch basin cleaning and storm tile cleaning. The areas addressed by the engineers in their study have been addressed before and we have the opportunity to be creative as to what may be done economically to alleviate flooding. For example we may be able to use old sludge lagoons from the former sewer plant for storm water over-flow. If the state of

Illinois receives funds from the Federal Government (Stimulus Package) for a capital budget program it is probable storm water issues will be on the list and we must be prepared to respond.

5. Would you endorse raising residential water rates to address concerns in this fund?

Water and sewer services are basically the only services a municipality “sells”. These two services must be provided to residents as a revenue producer. The revenue must cover the costs to provide these services and should produce enough set aside for capital improvements and upgrades as needed. The Village Board and the Administration need to have the facts before us as to what the costs are to provide the services and what the revenue is to cover these costs. If the costs exceed revenue it becomes pretty obvious as to what must be done. If rate increases are justified we should be able to reduce some other tax levied by the Village to offset a rate increase.

6. What will your administration do to revitalize the downtown?

Revitalizing the downtown area was touched upon earlier. We must look to and aid property owners to be creative (development director) and visually aware of the appearance and physical integrity of their individual buildings.

7. What other issues do you believe will shape the city over the next four years?

I believe the attitude that the Village President exemplifies is contagious and reflects upon all of Elburn and its residents. My decision process will be based on the facts related to the answers to three questions; Is it good for Elburn? Is it good for Elburn? Is it good for Elburn? Working together as a Board and Community we can instill as common practice the monitoring and acting upon those “Quality of Life” issues that will take us from a good community in which to live work and play to a great community to live work and play.