

Dear Resident or Business Owner,

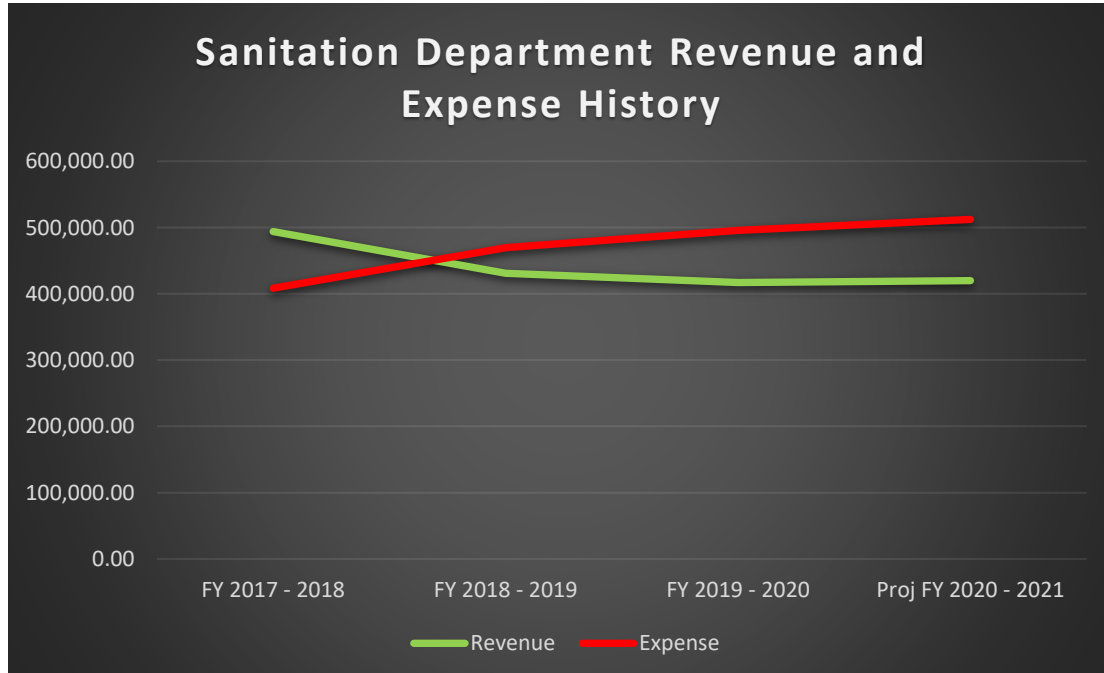
The rising cost of recycling and dumping fees over the past few years have led to a shortfall in funds as the expenses associated with the sanitation department have outpaced the revenues.

Dump / Recycling Fees	Fiscal Year
86,268.52	2017-2018
107,766.15	2018-2019
117,531.48	2019 - 2020

*Source: City of Valley Parks FY Budget for 2018 through 2020

Due to these rising costs, the Finance, Ways and Means Committee met to discuss ways to address the problem. During the 2019 – 2020 fiscal year, the Sanitation Department generated \$417,080 in revenue while spending \$510,000. Although the fees at the landfill have gone up, the committee felt it was important to retain the level of services provided by the city. Like other municipalities around us, the committee felt that the best way to continue the twice weekly trash routes, the weekly yard waste and recycling pick up programs along with large item pick up could be to raise the rates of services.

The City of Valley Park has a sanitation reserve account that has absorbed the deficit in the Sanitation Department budget in the previous years. This reserve account is separate from the general reserve. The sanitation reserves generally fund large expenditures that are needed to perform services. The current revenue/expense projections show the revenue and expense history. These deficits have, by design, been absorbed by the sanitation reserve account. Revenue must be increased to match the expenses.



*Source: City of Valley Parks FY Budget for 2018 through 2021

Due to all the above listed factors, projections show that the sanitation reserve account can only continue to fund these deficits for another fiscal year. Keep in mind that, as mentioned, the sanitation reserves are separate from the general reserves.

The Finance, Ways and Means Committee has addressed the above listed issues and would like to make a recommendation to the Board of Aldermen that would allow the city to balance the sanitation account and prepare for future equipment purchases that will allow staff to continue to provide the excellent sanitation services that our residents and businesses are used to.

The following adjustments are being considered:

- A \$6.00 a month increase for sanitation services, raising the quarterly bill from \$54.00 to \$72.00
- Imposing late fees
- Increasing the billable amount for bulk item pick up
- Penalties for residents with large outstanding balances
- Long term planning to provide sufficient funding

We are asking for your input on these changes. A public comment section will be open to the public, via Zoom, at the September 8, 2020 Board of Aldermen Regular Session meeting. There are several ways to voice your opinion on the matter.

- Log on to the Zoom meeting (the link will be posted at www.valleyparkmo.org) and speak during the public comment section
- Reach out to your elected officials
- Email your questions/opinions to Dhosna@valleyparkmo.org
- Call City Hall

We look forward to hearing from you as we continue to work with our residents and business owners. If you have any questions, feel free to call me at (636)861-1385. If you need any accommodations to participate in the public comment section, please contact City Hall.

Sincerely,

Chandra Webster
Mayor of Valley Park