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Grant to Help Fund Green Features in New Public Works Facility

A \$100,000 grant from Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation will help the Village incorporate energy saving and environmentally friendly features into the new Public Works Department facility to be built on the department's current site on South Boulevard.

Under the grant guidelines, the Village has set a goal of achieving a *silver level accreditation* through the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design or LEED program, a nationally accepted sustainable buildings practices measurement tool developed by the U.S. Green Building Council.

The grant will fund design costs associated with incorporating *green* building principles into the design of the new building, including features that will provide at least a 20 percent reduction in energy usage from what a traditional building would have required.

Holabird & Root, a Chicago architectural firm and member of the Green Building Council, is designing the new facility. The firm has experience in designing LEED-certified buildings and has LEED-certified staff members who will work on the Oak Park project to ensure grant objectives are met.

Improvement to Oak Park's public works facilities have been under consideration for about two years as part of a larger space needs study of all Village municipal facilities. An accidental fire in late July that destroyed a public works vehicle garage on the South Boulevard site made improvements there more pressing.

The Village is hosting a series of meetings with the neighbors to gather input into the design. The first public meeting to discuss the project was held Aug. 4. The next meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m., Thurs., Dec. 16 in Community Room 101 at Village Hall, 123 Madison St.

For more information on the project call 358.5778 or email village@oak-park.us.

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