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### [West Dundee looking at cost-saving options](#)

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For The Courier-News

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WEST DUNDEE — The village board this week discussed ways to save money for both the village and home builders.

The first item up for debate was the possible integration of police departments for the villages of East and West Dundee and Sleepy Hollow. The villages last week got the results of a study on the proposed merger.

“This could create a significant benefit to the tune of \$800,000 in terms of potential savings across all three villages,” West Dundee Village Manager Joe Cavallaro said. “In this day and age, that is not something that should be looked at lightly.”

The study determined that West Dundee operates with the most advanced service and police infrastructure and has the strongest tax base. Therefore, should either Sleepy Hollow or East Dundee find this deal too risky, West Dundee still has the capability to partner with the other village and go through with the deal, officials said.

West Dundee essentially would become the overall commander of the police department for all three villages. The combined services would include police administration and management, police operations and police headquarter facilities.

Even if the three villages’ police departments are combined, it would not mean fewer officers on the beat, Cavallaro said.

“We are going to be moving individuals from management back to officer ranks,” he said. “We will end up with more officers on the street.”

Acting Police Chief Andy Wieteska was in attendance and expressed his approval of the merger under one condition: “There needs to be some kind of assurance that the level of service will be consistent to all three,” Wieteska said. “We will provide the same service to everyone.”

#### New interest in subdivision

In other business, board members discussed the dormant Aspen Homes subdivision at Sleepy Hollow and Huntley roads.

After construction stalled due to bankruptcy by Aspen Homes, 13 of the Aspen lots remain undeveloped. Originally, according to Trustee Norm Osth, the company wanted to build homes with asking prices of up to \$1.2 million each. But the housing slump put a stop to those plans.

Nonetheless, Drake Homes is interested in purchasing the lots under certain conditions. Drake is asking that the minimum square footage per home be lowered to 2,600 square feet from the current 3,000 square feet. Officials said that if the Aspen Homeowners Association agrees to that, the organization would request an upgrade in some architectural features, such as brick facades.

The board also discussed the possibility of lowering the developer impact fee — a fee aimed at offsetting the impact new homes have on local governments such as schools and municipalities — to \$19,995 from the current \$23,150 per home.

Board members said they will continue to discuss the proposals at future meetings.

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