

Editorial
Muskego is not unique

As the former Muskego Mayor, residents sometimes reach out to me to better understand government matters. Their recent concerns led me to seek information regarding a City of Muskego road project budgeting error.

The budget proposal for the project was in error by about 2 million dollars. But it was not disclosed by current Muskego Mayor Rick Petfalski until a year later, after he received pressure at a Common Council meeting.

At the meeting held on 10/22/24, it was further disclosed that the money to pay for the error was taken from Muskego's Landfill Fund without the approval of the aldermen. (Note: Muskego's purchasing policy requires Common Council approval for budget changes exceeding \$50,000.00)

After several Muskego Common Council requests to have the budget error on the agenda at a future meeting were denied by Petfalski, he held a session that was closed to the public on 4/8/25. Within days following the closed session, the error was posted on Mayor Petfalski's Facebook page, which is neither an official city platform nor open to the entire public (State Statute 19.85).

Everything about this budget error indicates an attempt by Muskego's Mayor to hide critical information from Muskego's citizens. Sadly, this kind of behavior can be found at all levels of government, and it's not unique to Muskego. I'm confident it can be found throughout Wisconsin.

Transparency is how we, as citizens, hold our government accountable. It's up to all of us, the people, to make sure we're getting it in our own communities.

Respectfully,
Kathy Chiaverotti
City of Muskego Mayor (2011-2020)