

**Village of North Hudson  
Special Village Board Meeting  
July 14, 2020 at 4:30 p.m.**

**Issue Statement  
By: Melissa Luedke**

**Topic**

Purchase of additional DS200 Election Equipment from ES & S.

**Background**

Due to COVID-19, the number of absentee ballots for the April & May elections far exceeded similar elections from previous years. Because of continuing virus concerns, the absentee ballot numbers for the upcoming August and November elections are on track to beat the previously requested numbers as well.

**Absentee Ballot Sent in 2018 & 2019 versus 2020:**

April 2018: 40	<b>April 2020: 754</b>
August 2018: 52	<b>May 2020: 707</b>
April 2019: 108	<b>August 2020 (as of 7-10-20): 477</b>
	<b>November 2020 (as of 7-10-20): 474 absentee applications on file so far</b>

This large amount of absentee ballots creates a problem when processing them on Election Day. The poll worker(s) try to send them through the DS200 election equipment in-between regular voters, which causes a back up at the machine. It is a struggle to get all of the absentee ballots processed during the normal 7am-8pm election day, which results in absentee ballots not being sent through until the polls close at 8pm.

The Village currently has only one (1) DS200 machine. An additional DS200 (election tabulation equipment) would greatly alleviate the congestion at the ballot box. The additional equipment would be used to process the large number of absentee ballots, and regular voters would use the other machine.

The cost for the additional DS200 is \$6,205 however, the costs are 100% reimbursable through the Routes to Recovery Grant that is being offered due to COVID-19. It has been confirmed through the Wisconsin Department of Financial Institutions that this is an allowable expense.

**Recommendation**

Motion to purchase an additional DS200 from ES&S in an amount not to exceed \$6,205 to aid in processing the large increase of absentee ballots due to COVID-19, and submit expense through the Routes to Recovery Grant for reimbursement.