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## VILLAGE BOARD

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October 27, 2015

Residents of White Pines,

The Village is providing this response to an October 12, 2015 letter (attached) received from the White Pines Civic Association (WPCA). We are sending this response letter to all residents of the White Pines Area in order to assure that everyone is fully informed on this critical issue.

The letter addresses issues related to system replacement, water main rehabilitation, frequency of water main breaks, water flow / fire flow, ownership of the White Pines water system, and funding for the proposed project. We hope that our responses will clarify any issues or concerns that you may have.

### **System Replacement**

WPCA question: What documentary proof do you have that the water system needs replacing?

*Village response: Determining the need to replace a water system depends on many factors like age of system, frequency of water main breaks, fire flow capacity, condition of water mains (as seen during repairs), and known water quality concerns.*

*The White Pines water system was installed in the 1940's as part of the original subdivision construction – making the system over 70 years old and past its useful life (given the pipe material, soil conditions, and performance).*

*The White Pines water system has experienced over 150 water main breaks since 1986. The Village plotted these breaks on a map of the area to show the locations of such breaks. The locations are widespread throughout the entire area. This information has been provided to the WPCA and the reports are available on the Village website. [www.bensenville.il.us](http://www.bensenville.il.us)*

*M.E. Simpson performed a flow test on 22 fire hydrants in the White Pines area. The purpose of this test was to validate the conclusions of the previous modeling performed on the water system. M. E. Simpson report identified only 2 of the 22 fire hydrants tested met the appropriate Class AA (>1,500 gallons per minute, gpm) standard, 6 hydrants fell in the Class A (1,000 -1,499 gpm) standard while 14 hydrants fell far below the appropriate standard (10 hydrants @ Class B 500-999 gpm and 4 hydrants @ Class C <599 gpm standard).*

*The Village utilized the fire flow testing data to carry out a fire flow capacity analysis to determine whether or not the velocity of the water was sufficient for effective fire protection. The system's ability to provide effective fire protection has been a concern expressed by the Fire District. The results of the analysis were plotted on a map to show the fire flow capacity throughout the area and that information is made available on the Village's website for public viewing. [www.bensenville.il.us](http://www.bensenville.il.us).*

*Based on the age, areas of very low fire flow capacities and frequency of breaks throughout the entire subdivision, replacement of the system is required.*

WPCA question: Why didn't you share such documentary proof with the residents?

*Village response: All of the information described above was shared with the WPCA at a meeting held on April 13, 2015 at the Village Hall and the reports have also been made available on the Village website for public viewing. [www.bensenville.il.us](http://www.bensenville.il.us).*

WPCA question: Did an expert base his/her opinion on the flow test results?

*Village response: M.E. Simpson performed a flow test on 22 fire hydrants in the White Pines area. The purpose of this test was to confirm the results from the prior modeling performed on the water system. The M. E. Simpson report identified only 2 hydrants met the appropriate Class AA (>1,500 gallons per minute, gpm) standard, 6 hydrants met the Class A (1,000 -1,499 gpm) standard and 14 hydrants fell into the very low Class B (500 – 999 gpm) and Class C (<500 gpm) standards. The report has been posted on the Village website for public viewing at [www.bensenville.il.us](http://www.bensenville.il.us).*

WPCA question: If so, why didn't you share the opinion with the White Pines residents?

*Village response: All of the information described above was shared with the WPCA at a meeting held on April 13, 2015 at the Village Hall and the information has been posted on the Village website for public viewing at [www.bensenville.il.us](http://www.bensenville.il.us).*

WPCA question: If an expert did not base his/her opinion on the flow test results then can you postpone the board vote on awarding any contracts related to the replacement of the White Pines system until the county hires such expert? Please note: the county informed the residents that they did not perform an analysis of the system. See DuPage County letter "Option Two".

*Village response: As stated above, the Village staff and various experts all agree the system needs to be replaced. Based upon the requests of the WPCA the Village Board agreed to table entering into a design engineering agreement until November 24, 2015. It is important to note, the Village postponed voting on the design engineering agreement since approximately November 2014, at the request of the WPCA, and the County has indicated that they do not intend to perform a preliminary analysis of the system at this time.*

### **Water Main Rehabilitation**

WPCA question: Did any expert (i.e. Engineer) examine other option besides replacement?

*Village response: Village staff (which includes two Licensed Professional Engineers, P.E.) has considered various alternatives and has conducted considerable research into the possibility of water main lining on the project. The Village is a proponent of water main lining and would line mains where appropriate. Below please find some of the Pros and Cons of water main lining.*

<i>PROS</i>	<i>CONS</i>
<i>Provides a mostly trenchless form of rehabilitation, thus less digging and mess</i>	<i>Reduces the size of the host pipe and thus capacity</i>
<i>Extends the life of the host pipe up to 50 years (based on studies)</i>	<i>Does not replace connection points into the main where many main breaks occur</i>
<i>Is a great application for rehabilitation of tough to access places or pipes</i>	<i>Requires special tools for repairs in the future</i>
<i>Great application for sections with limited number of services</i>	<i>Not a great application for sections with many service connections</i>

*The Village established three goals for the project - (1) meet fire flow capacities, (2) relocate backyard water mains, and (3) rehabilitate the system to provide overall system reliability. Water main lining of the backyard mains would not satisfy goal number 2.*

*The Village’s Engineer also looked into the impacts that lining would provide to the fire flow capacities in the area. This analysis looked at a number of different scenarios including existing conditions, proposed complete replacement, existing roadway mains lined / backyard mains relocated into the parkway, all mains lined, and backyard mains lined / no replacement in parkways. The results indicate that lining could potentially be used for some areas of the project in order to achieve desired fire flow capacities for the entire system.*

*The Village has always considered utilizing lining on the non-backyard mains as long as it achieved long term benefits to the system as a whole. The final analysis would need to be performed during the detailed design engineering to identify the appropriate areas for water main lining which was the part of the engineering agreement postponed, again, at the request of the WPCA.*

**WPCA question:** If so, why didn’t you provide these expert opinion(s) to the residents?

*Village response: All of the information described above was shared with the WPCA at a meeting held on April 13, 2015 and the information is posted on the Village website for public viewing at [www.bensenville.il.us](http://www.bensenville.il.us).*

**WPCA question:** If not, would you allow another expert to examine other options besides replacement and base their opinion on the current flow test results?

*Village response: The Village has examined other options besides replacement. This information is available. The Village is unaware of any requests from WPCA experts to examine the information. The engineering contract has been delayed since November of 2014 at the request of the WPCA.*

WPCA question: Can you postpone the board vote on awarding any contracts related to the replacement of the White Pines water system until the county hires and expert to perform such analysis?

*Village response: The County has indicated that they do not intend to perform a preliminary analysis of the system at this time. Nonetheless, at the request of the WPCA, the Village Board tabled their consideration of entering into a design engineering agreement on October 13, 2015 and the design engineering has been already postponed since November of 2014.*

WPCA question: Do you agree that other options such as rehabilitation should be explored if it reduces the cost of the project?

*Village response: Other options were explored (see above). Cost should not be the only factor involved with determining the best solution to the project. Long term maintenance, service line replacement, and fire flow capacity also need to be considered.*

WPCA question: In a recent letter distributed to the White Pines residents, why do you only mention options "One" and "Three" that is contained in the County's recent letter?

*Village response: The Village also received the letter from DuPage County. Within the letter, the County indicated that they could not and would not consider Option 2. Therefore, the Village only commented on the Options the County presented to the residents of White Pines. The County indicated that they do not intend to perform a preliminary analysis of the system at this time. The "Option Two" analysis could be performed using the detailed engineering which was tabled as indicated above.*

WPCA question: Why did you not mention (and skip over) option 2 within the County's letter?

*Village response: See previous question and answer above.*

### **Frequent Water Main Breaks**

WPCA question: What documentary proof do you have that White Pines experiences frequent water main breaks?

*Village response: The Village compiles logs of all water main breaks repaired. An accumulation of this data and corresponding mapping to show this data has been generated. This information has been shared with the WPCA.*

WPCA question: Where these breaks occurring and what are the frequency?

*Village response: The locations of the water main breaks since 1986 are identified on the map. A list of breaks and their dates can be viewed on the Village website [www.bensenville.il.us](http://www.bensenville.il.us).*

WPCA question: Provide documentary proof supporting your claims that water pipes in White Pines break frequently?

*Village response: The locations of the water main breaks since 1986 are identified on the map. A list of breaks and their dates can be viewed on the Village website [www.bensenville.il.us](http://www.bensenville.il.us).*

WPCA question: White Pines Water Main repairs are less than \$10,000 per year. Do you agree? If not, please show us documentary proof.

*Village response: Our records indicate that the annual cost of water main repairs in the White Pines subdivision has been as much as \$48,827. These costs do not include restoration costs. The deteriorated condition of the system makes repairing breaks more difficult, less effective and inconsistent with industry standards. Please see the Village website for additional information at [www.bensenville.il.us](http://www.bensenville.il.us).*

WPCA question: Can you postpone the board vote on awarding any contracts related to the White Pines water system until the residents review the alleged proof?

*Village response: The Village Board tabled their consideration of entering into a design engineering agreement for the White Pines Water System Project, at the request of the WPCA until November 24, 2015. The matter has been postponed since approximately November, 2014, at the request of the WPCA.*

### **Water Flow / Fire Flow**

WPCA question: Why did the Village of Bensenville perform a recent water flow test?

*Village response: The Village of Bensenville hired M.E. Simpson to perform a flow test on 22 fire hydrants in the White Pines area. The purpose of this test was to verify the conclusions of the modeling previously performed on the water system.*

WPCA question: What were the results of test for each hydrant tested?

*Village response: M. E. Simpson provided a Report for the testing that identified two hydrants met Class AA (>1,500 gallons per minute, gpm), six hydrants met Class A (1,000 -1,499 gpm), ten hydrants met Class B (500 – 999 gpm) and four met Class C (<500 gpm) standards.*

WPCA question: Did anyone provide a written opinion regarding the test results?

*Village response: M. E. Simpson, experts in water distribution system testing, conducted tests and provided a Report which can be viewed at [www.bensenville.il.us](http://www.bensenville.il.us).*

WPCA question: If so, why wasn't the written opinion provided to the residents?

*Village response: The M.E. Simpson Report can be viewed at the Villager website [www.bensenville.il.us](http://www.bensenville.il.us)*

WPCA question: What specific citations is anyone using to indicate that the water flow rate for fire protection is substandard? Is this person an expert? Can you provide the name of the person and the written opinion with citations?

*Village response: The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) "Guide for Determination of Needed Fire Flow" (Edition 05-2008) is the industry standard used for determining fire flow capacity.*

WPCA question: Do you agree that DuPage County's standard water flow rate for fire protection is 1,000 gallons per minute?

*Village response: Discussions with the Operations Manager for DuPage County Public Works has verified that DuPage County does not set the standards for fire flow rates. They follow State, ISO, NFPA, and AWWA Guidelines.*

WPCA question: If you do not agree, can you please explain and provide specific citations?

*Village response: DuPage County does not set the standards for fire flow rates. They follow State, ISO, NFPA, and AWWA Guidelines.*

WPCA question: Can you postpone the board vote on awarding any contracts related to the White Pines water system until the residents review the alleged opinions and citations?

*Village response: The Village Board tabled their consideration of entering into a design engineering agreement for the White Pines Water System Project, at the request of the WPCA, until November 24, 2015.*

### **Ownership of the White Pines Water System**

WPCA question: The IEPA recently alleged that the Village of Bensenville, while lobbying for a loan, indicated that the village owns the water system. This is in direct contradiction to statements made to White Pines representatives at an April 2015 meeting in which several members of the board said the village does not own the White Pines water system. Can you explain the above and why the Village has not responded to letters from WPCA requesting its opinion on who owns the system?

*Village response: In order to complete this project at the lowest and economical means possible the Village applied for a low interest loan pursuant to the IEPA Revolving Loan Program on behalf of the White Pines residents. The Village's attempt to secure low interest funds to finance the project for the residents of White Pines is not a contradictory position. This a common method of financing such projects in unincorporated areas.*

*The Village has said that no evidence or indication exists that the White Pines system had ever been formally conveyed or deeded to the Village of Bensenville. This position is consistent with the WPCA's letter, dated September 29, 2015, to the IEPA Director Lisa Bonnett, which states:*

*"(Rebuttal) By a 1945 agreement between the developer of the White Pines subdivision, Mr. Branigar, and the Village of Bensenville, the water system would remain an asset of White Pines until such time that the White Pines subdivision would be annexed to the Village of Bensenville. To this date the White Pines subdivision has not and will not be annexed. Therefore, White Pines*

*retains ownership of the system. Bensenville **does not** own the system! The Village of Bensenville does sell water to the residents of White Pines, utilizing the White Pines mains, but does little to no regular maintenance on said system."*

WPCA question: Can you explain why Village President Frank Soto cites an agreement between the Village of Bensenville and the developer of the White Pines subdivision, Mr. Branigar, regarding said ownership and various operating rights in a filed 2005 court petition against the village but cannot now find documentation regarding same?

*Village response: The Village believes this question contains material misstatement of facts.*

WPCA question: If deposed, what would President Frank Soto's position be as to the existence of said agreement and why he cited it in the 2005 petition?

*Village response: The Village cannot comment on hypothetical questions.*

### **Funding**

WPCA question: Has the village looked into any alternative funding to cover the cost of repair or replacement of the White Pines water system and if not, why not?

*Village response: The Village has explored every possible funding source to defray any part of the project costs. There are no grants currently available for water system replacement.*

WPCA question: As the WPCA believes and has evidence that the village has in the past applied for and received grants for the same types of projects as the White Pines water system is the Village willing to look into the same type of funding for said water system?

*Village response: The Village has no evidence that grant monies have been secured for water main replacement projects. If the WPCA has contrary information, that should be shared with the Village, we would diligently explore and pursue any alternate funding sources for the project. To date, the WPCA has indicated they have secured funding, but has not shared the details with the Village.*

WPCA question: If the Village is willing to look into alternative funding, can you postpone the board vote on awarding any contracts related to the replacement of the White Pines water system until such funding is researched by all parties involved?

*Village response: The Village has already explored all known alternative funding sources, including the IEPA Revolving Loan Program. The Village Board tabled their consideration of entering into a design engineering agreement for the White Pines Water System Project, at the request of the WPCA until November 24, 2015. The matter has been postponed since approximately November, 2014, at the request of the WPCA.*

WPCA question: The County has stated that alternative funding is expected to free up within the next two years. Due to the scope of the project, the probability that funding will free up within the

designated time frame of the project is quite high. Thus the County has already agreed to look into alternative funding for White Pines.

*Village response: To date, the WPCA has indicated they have secured funding, but has not shared the details of this possible funding with the Village. If alternate funding does indeed look very favorable within the project timeline, the Village would like to be informed of the funding source. The Village requests that the WPCA provide any information they may have prior to November 20, 2015, in order for the Village Board to make educated decision on moving forward.*

*The County has confirmed that they are unaware of any new funding source available (other than the IEPA Revolving Loan Program), or becoming available in the near future, to defray the project cost.*

We hope these responses answer your questions. The Village will post all documents referenced in this letter on the Village website ([www.bensenville.il.us](http://www.bensenville.il.us)). If you have any questions, please contact our Public Works Team at (630) 350-3435.

Sincerely,



Frank Kosman  
Interim Village Manager

Cc: Honorable Frank Soto, Village President  
Village Board of Trustees  
Nick Kottmeyer, DuPage County Public Works Director  
Joe Caracci, Director of Public Works

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