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September 10, 2020

Dear White Pines Resident,

As you are aware, the Village of Bensenville is about to embark on a major water infrastructure improvement project in the White Pines subdivision. The White Pines Water Main Replacement Project will include over 15,000 linear feet of new water main, the installation of over 50 new fire hydrants, and the elimination of all lead service lines in the subdivision. This project will also bring a more reliable water system, increased flow, and improved fire protection for all customers south of Third Avenue and west of Church Road.

The history of this project is well documented. We understand that not every customer is in favor of the project, but the need for improvements is critical. Assuring that the area has the necessary fire flow to protect the homes is one of the driving factors in the decision to upgrade the system. The age is also a major contributor as a majority of the infrastructure is approaching 75 years old.

The Village recently bid the project and received very favorable results. John Neri Construction Company of Addison, IL submitted the lowest responsible bid in the amount of \$5,785,985.25, almost \$1.7 million below the engineer's estimate. The Village Board approved a Notice of Intent to award the contract to John Neri at their August 25th Board Meeting. The award is currently contingent on the receipt of an Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) loan. We expect to have this loan finalized and approved in the coming weeks and construction to begin shortly thereafter.

The Village also approved a contract with Civitech Engineering, Inc. of Itasca in the amount of \$672,687 to perform construction engineering services during the project. This contract will provide on-site engineers to oversee the construction of the project, assure that the contractor is installing the infrastructure according to the plans and specifications, provide material testing to make sure the products going into the ground are of good quality, and also serve as the liaison between the contractor and the customers. The Civitech engineers will be a very important part of the success of this project and direct interaction with each customer is anticipated at some point during the project. More on this to come in future correspondences.

Some additional good news regarding the loan is that the Village has secured \$400,000 of principal forgiveness on the primary loan – this means we do not have to pay back \$400,000 of the loan and the savings will be passed along to the customers. Also, we have been approved for a secondary loan, under the Lead Service Line Replacement (LSLR) Program, which will provide 100% principal forgiveness for all costs associated with the replacement of lead service lines.

Not all of our service lines are comprised of lead, but for every service line we can confirm, the IEPA will in essence pay for the replacement. **This means less cost to you, the customer.** We remain committed to eliminating all lead from the distribution system within the White Pines subdivision. Any lead service line identified will be replaced all the way to the water meter inside the home.

Funding for the repayment of the loan will come from water and sewer bills of those in the unincorporated area that will see benefit from the project. Starting Summer 2021 water and sewer rates for those unincorporated customers within the project benefit corridor will increase to support the debt service on the loan. Currently, unincorporated customers of our water and sewer utility pay 150% of the incorporated rate. The Village originally anticipated an increase to 275% of the Village rate. Due to the favorable bids, our new expected increase will be 220% of the Village rate. The current and proposed rates are as follows (based on a 4,000 gallon per month consumption):

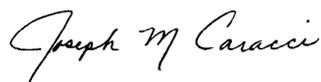
Unincorporated User Rate	Current Rate (150%)	Proposed Rate (220%)	Current Bill (4,000 gallons)	Proposed Bill (4,000 gallons)
Water (per 1,000 gallons)	\$15.45	\$22.66	\$61.80	\$90.64
Sewer (per 1,000 gallons)	\$13.11	\$19.23	\$52.44	\$76.92
Fixed Charge (per month)	\$15.45	\$22.66	\$15.45	\$22.66
Total			\$129.69	\$190.22

In the coming weeks, we will be working with our contractor and engineer to prepare for a quick start to this project. The contractor is excited and eager to start this project with multiple crews. We are hoping to identify our schedule and share it with you soon.

As soon as we get our signatures on the IEPA loan, we will send out a follow-up correspondence. This multi-page letter will include many details as they relate to what to expect from construction – including garbage collection, mail delivery, irrigation systems, driveway access, contact information, etc. Please read through that letter thoroughly.

As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 630-350-3435.

Sincerely,



Joe Caracci
 Director of Public Works

