

VILLAGE OF BELLWOOD
PUBLIC HEARING
Lead Service Line Replacement
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency Loan Program
Meeting Minutes

The Village of Bellwood conducted a Public Hearing on January 27, 2026 at 10:00am in the Village Boardroom at 3200 Washington Blvd. Bellwood IL 60104.

Call to Order

The hearing was called to order and directed by Edwin Stoelinga from Hancock Engineering 9933 Roosevelt Rd. Westchester IL.

Attendees

The meeting was attended by Village Clerk Jacqueline Hargrett, Village of Bellwood Engineer Charles Hodges, and Village of Bellwood Finance Director Willie Norfleet.

Presentations

Edwin Stoelinga presented information regarding the lead service line replacements and the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) loan program.

In 2022 the Lead Service Replacement and Notification Act took effect. A project plan has been submitted to the Village of Bellwood for the lead service line replacements. At least 6% have to be replaced annually. The plan is to complete the project in 5 years.

The IEPA offers a loan program. The Village submitted an IEPA loan plan. The plan includes securing funds from the IEPA currently at 0% interest over the period of 40 years.

Year one of the project will start in the Southwest region of Bellwood.

The complete presentation is available upon request.

Public Comment

Q&A

Charles Hodges - What are the boundaries for the Southwest Region?

Edwin Stoelinga – Mannheim Rd on the West
Harrison on the South
Cernan Dr. on the East
Wilcox on the North

Willie Northfleet – Will you complete the project within five years?

Edwin Stoelinga – That is our target. The estimated cost is about 5.5 million dollars each year. The Village will have to front each payment. As you make payments, a withdrawal can be made from the loans to reimburse those payments.

Charles Hodges – What is the reimbursement period?

Edwin Stoelinga – I do not know, but it will probably be 30 to 60 days. They allow reimbursement applications monthly.

Willie Northfleet- It is possible to end up paying more initially and waiting on reimbursement which becomes your loan basis.

Edwin Stoelinga – Exactly. Yes.

Jacqueline Hargrett – Is there anything the residents should do to prepare for this project?

Edwin Stoelinga – Yes, we will be doing notifications to the residents. As part of the contract, the contractor has to provide each household with a water filter pitcher, because there will be a period when the water service line is interrupted and there may be an elevated amount of lead. There will be a lot of coordination with the residents, because the lines have to come into the home to the meter.

Willie Norfleet – What is the time frame for water interruption when changing a line to the home?

Edwin Stoelinga – It is usually the same day.

Willie Norfleet -Will the line replacement be the entire line to the Main?

Edwin Stoelinga – Yes. It will be connected to the existing Main but not changing the Main.

Jacqueline Hargrett – Does it make a difference whether it is an older or newer home?

Edwin Stoelinga – No. The biggest impact is what has been done to the home since the original construction.

Willie Norfleet – If a meter was unable to be upgraded, will a new meter be put in?

Edwin Stoelinga – It can be included in the contract for the contractors to know that the meter needs to be replaced.

There was a discussion on whether TIF should be used as an additional funding source for the project.

If calls come in with any questions on the project, they should be forwarded directly to Hancock Engineering.

The meeting ended at 10:33am .


Jacqueline Hargrett
Village Clerk