VILLAGE BOARD MEETING **VILLAGE OF HARRISON**

From:
Chad Pelishek, Village Manager

Meeting Date:
September 29, 2026

Title:
Request from Firelane 2 and 3 for new storm line culvert installation.

Recommended Action:
1. Deny the request for Village-funded installation maintains the current practice of not installing drainage improvements on private roads or private property.
2. Authorize staff to pursue a cost-share agreement.
3. Fund the project in full.
4. Defer action pending further technical review, preliminary engineering, and cost estimates.

Background and Additional Information:
Canadian National Railroad recently installed an upsized pipe in the area. Property owners have expressed concern about the additional drainage flowing from that pipe and have requested that the Village install a new culvert pipe to convey stormwater from the Firelane 2 and Firelane 3 area to Lake Winnebago.

Firelane 2 and Firelane 3 are private roads. The Village's established practice has been not to install or maintain roadway or drainage improvements on private roads along Lake Winnebago. While the Village previously installed a culvert in this private area, staff does not believe that prior installation establishes an ongoing Village obligation to install additional private drainage infrastructure.

During a meeting this spring between a resident, the Operations Manager, and the Village Manager, staff discussed the possibility of a cost-share arrangement in which the benefiting property owners would participate in the cost of installing a new pipe. The subsequent request submitted by the property owners, however, asks the Village to fund the project entirely.

Property owners have cited their annual stormwater utility fee as justification for Village funding. Stormwater utility fees support the Village's broader stormwater program, including public-system operations, maintenance, regulatory compliance, and capital needs. Payment of the fee does not, by itself, create entitlement to Village-funded improvements on private property or private roads.

The requested work would provide a localized drainage benefit to private properties and a private road area. Funding the entire project with Village funds would be inconsistent with the Village's current practice of not constructing improvements on private roads along Lake Winnebago.

Approving full Village funding could also establish a precedent for similar requests from other private road areas, potentially expanding the Village's financial and maintenance responsibilities for privately owned infrastructure.

Any drainage improvement that discharges to Lake Winnebago should also be evaluated for required property permissions, easements, design standards, shoreline requirements, and applicable local, state, and federal permits before proceeding.

Staff recommends that the Village Board reaffirm its policy that the Village does not install or fund drainage improvements on private roads along Lake Winnebago and deny the request for full Village funding of the proposed approximately 15-inch concrete 400-foot culvert pipe. It is estimated to cost about $100,000 to $150,000 for materials and installation.

If the Board wishes to consider a partnership, staff recommends directing staff to return with proposed cost-share criteria.