

# VILLAGE OF HOMEWOOD



**BOARD AGENDA MEMORANDUM**

**DATE OF MEETING: April 28, 2026**

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**To:** Village President and Board of Trustees

**Through:** Napoleon Haney, Village Manager

**From:** Joshua Burman, Director of Public Works

**Topic:** Contract Renewal – Water Distribution System Leak Survey

## **PURPOSE**

Staff requests that the Village Board renew a contract with M.E. Simpson Company, Inc. of Valparaiso, IN to perform a Water Distribution System Leak Survey in an amount not to exceed \$31,075. This annual program has proven effective in reducing non-revenue water loss and maintaining the Village's water system below the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) acceptable loss threshold.

## **PROCESS**

Every municipal water system will experience leaks of varying degrees. One of the most effective methods of identifying critical water system leaks is through the performance of a systemwide leak detection survey.

### *Best Management Practices (BMP) for Leak Survey Frequency*

As it relates to Homewood's Best Management Practices (BMP), leak detection surveys should be performed annually. Leak detection for municipal systems is becoming increasingly important. As many municipalities face aging pipelines and water supplies, leaks are becoming more frequent and more costly. Consistent loss of water can equate to significant lost revenue for water operations, capital projects and environmental issues. Non-revenue water represents treated water that is produced but not billed due to leaks, breaks, or system losses. Even small, undetected leaks can accumulate over time into significant financial loss and, in rare cases, may pose a risk to the integrity of the water distribution system.

### *Water Leak Survey Process*

Water is lost through leaks and cracks in pipes and their fittings. Since most water infrastructure is underground, it is virtually impossible to visually determine the location of these leaks unless the leaking water reaches the surface (causing ponding and sink holes, structural damage, buckling pavement, etc.) and the exact location of the leak may be nearly impossible to determine. Leak detection requires special technologies that allow inspectors to precisely determine the location and severity of pipe leaks and is accomplished by ultrasonically monitoring every foot of water main, hydrant and mainline valve.

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A computerized leak analysis is used to pinpoint every suspected leak and then is confirmed with an electronic leak correlator. Suspect leak sites are electronically confirmed by measuring and analyzing the timing of sound waves simultaneously from two monitoring points.

## *This Year's Leak Detection Survey*

As part of our water distribution system infrastructure maintenance, and effort to reduce water loss, Public Works let out for bid for a Water Distribution System Leak Survey in 2025, in which the Village's 113 miles of water main, 1,150 fire hydrants, and 1,111 main line valves were inspected. Under the proposed renewal, this same systemwide inspection will again be performed as part of the 2026 survey. M.E. Simpson Company, Inc. performed the 2025 survey in a timely and professional manner, providing accurate and actionable data that has been effectively utilized by Public Works staff to prioritize and complete system repairs.

## **OUTCOME**

The Village Board awarded the contract to M.E. Simpson Company, Inc. in 2025, which included an option for a one-year extension. The contractor has agreed to extend the contract for the 2026-2027 term at the same unit pricing.

Renewing this contract ensures the continuation of the Village's proactive leak detection program, which has proven effective in reducing water loss, preserving infrastructure, and minimizing lost revenue. This program aligns with industry best management practices and supports the long-term sustainability of the Village's water distribution system.

## **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

- **Funding Source:** Capital - Water/Sewer Fund
- **FY 2026-2027 Budgeted Amount:** \$75,023  
*(Budgeted amount includes Valve & Flow Testing to be renewed in May 2026)*
- **Cost:** \$31,075

## **LEGAL REVIEW**

Not Required

## **RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTION**

Authorize the Village President to renew the contract with M.E. Simpson Company, Inc. of Valparaiso, IN to perform the annual Water Distribution System Leak Survey for 2026-2027, in an amount not to exceed \$31,075, subject to Board approval of the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Village budget.

## **ATTACHMENT(S)**

Renewal Letter