

# VILLAGE OF HOMEWOOD



**BOARD AGENDA MEMORANDUM**

**DATE OF MEETING: November 12, 2024**

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

**Through:** Napoleon Haney, Village Manager

**From:** Terence Acquah, Assistant Village Manager

**Topic:** Contract – Facility Hardening & Disaster Resiliency Assessment

## **PURPOSE**

Staff is proposing to engage Interface Engineering of Chicago, Illinois to conduct a comprehensive study to assess the electrical backup needs for Village facilities. The study will provide recommendations on redundancy and disaster preparedness for Village-owned facilities. Following this evaluation, Interface Engineering will provide cost-effective recommendations for phased solutions aimed at upgrading the electrical backup power systems, both internally and externally. This initiative will ensure that each facility remains fully operational guarding against power outages during severe weather and other disasters. Board approval is required to enter into this contract.

## **PROCESS**

On July 15, 2024 the Village experienced an unprecedented weather event that had a significant impact on much of the area. A confirmed EF-1 tornado, with wind speeds exceeding 100 MPH, inflicted extensive damage throughout the Village. Power outages affected a large portion of downtown, including Village Hall, which had to remain closed for three days. Although the Police and Fire Departments were able to operate on backup power, most of their facilities still experienced outages.

This storm revealed critical weaknesses in the Village's electrical redundancy. Traditionally, Village Hall is expected to serve as a refuge for residents during natural disasters; unfortunately, Village Hall and other facilities were unable to remain fully operational, indicating a need for redundancies and improvements.

In response, staff desires to engage a firm to conducted an assessment of five Village facilities: Village Hall, Police Station, Fire Station, Municipal Service Center (Public Works Facility), and the Brian Carey Training Center which serves as the Village's Emergency Operations Center (EOC). The assessment aimed to identify cost-effective, phased solutions to build in redundancies by way of electrical backup power systems. The assessment will included upgrades to both internal systems (such as outlets, internal circuitry, and emergency lighting) and external connections

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(like generator integration), ensuring that all five Village facilities remain fully operational during power outages and other emergencies that may lead to extended power outages.

A Request for Qualifications (RFQ) was issued on August 23, 2024, with two (2) electrical engineering firms responding: (1) Interface Engineering of Chicago, IL and (2) Millhouse Engineering of Chicago, IL.

Interface Engineering was selected to conduct the study, partly due to their submitting the lowest proposal cost estimate. In the company's cost-efficient proposal, Interface Engineering was able to demonstrate their extensive experience in conducting electrical studies by having a highly-qualified and experienced project team.

Previous clients of Interface Engineering include the University of Illinois, University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC), and the City of Geneva, Illinois.

Interface Engineering proposes to:

- review the current electrical equipment inventory and power consuming apparatus.
- interview Village staff who are responsible for management of each facility to determine requirement for current and future loads.
- review existing electrical schematics and maintenance records for all properties.
- assess the backup power required to support the full power demands of the operational programs housed at each facility.
- develop budget cost estimates for the backup power options developed in the assessment.
- meet with the Village Project Manager and other staff to discuss budget costs for the options developed for each facility.
- further refine options developed to address input from the Village team.
- compile assessment documentation into a final report document and deliver to the Village.

It is anticipated that Interface Engineering will take six (6) to eight (8) weeks to complete the assessment. The firm is requiring a lump-sum fee of \$34,500 to complete the assessment.

### **OUTCOME**

This comprehensive study will identify the necessary equipment and facility improvements needed for the Village to remain fully operational during power blackouts and other events that could result in extended outages. The next phase of this process will include the implementation of the phased work. The costs to implement recommendations will be included in the Village's ongoing Capital Plan and also in various budget/operational line items depending on the costs.

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Because of the electrical analysis and work required to complete this study, staff initially budgeted \$148,518 of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. Interface Engineering’s proposal was well under the estimated budget amount. The approximate \$114,000 in savings will be re-allocated to another project that staff will agendize for Board approval before the end of the calendar year - with the understanding that all ARPA dollars must be “obligated” by the end of the year.

## FINANCIAL IMPACT

- **Funding Source:** American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds
- **Budgeted Amount:** \$148,518
- **Cost:** \$34,500

## LEGAL REVIEW

Completed

## RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTION

Authorize the Village President to enter into an agreement with Interface Engineering of Chicago, IL for \$34,500, to conduct a Facility Hardening and Disaster Resiliency Assessment.

## ATTACHMENT(S)

- Interface Engineering proposal
- Interface Engineering RFQ response
- Millhouse Engineering proposal
- Millhouse Engineering RFQ response
- Facility Hardening & Disaster Resiliency Assessment RFQ