

VILLAGE OF HOMEWOOD



BOARD AGENDA MEMORANDUM

DATE OF MEETING: September 30, 2025

To: Village President and Board of Trustees

Through: Napoleon Haney, Village Manager

From: Joshua Burman, Director of Public Works

Topic: Sale of Surplus Equipment

PURPOSE

The Public Works Department is preparing for the upcoming snow season and seeks approval to trade in two (2) V-box salt spreaders. The gross weight of the V-Box Spreaders, when loaded with salt, causes a costly and consistent failure of the truck suspension. The trade-in value of the spreaders would be used as a credit toward the cost of retrofitting two (2) snow plow trucks with traditional tailgate salt spreaders.

BACKGROUND

A V-box spreader is a hopper-style piece of equipment mounted on the back and within the bed of a snowplow dump truck. Its primary purpose is to distribute salt and liquid material during winter snowfighting operations. Unlike traditional truck-bed tailgate spreaders, which mount directly on the tail end of the truck, V-box spreaders sit inside the truck bed. This “V” design feature allows the truck to carry more “liquid” (salt brine) than a tailgate spreader system. Salt brine is a super salt dissolved liquid that is sprayed directly on the salt as the salt is dispersed on the street. The brine treated salt has a much higher opportunity to stick to the street surface. Untreated salt will actually bounce off of the pavement into the grassy parkway without the sprayed brine treatment.

Unintended Consequences

In response to 2017 Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) chloride (rock salt) reduction mandates, the Village began purchasing V-box spreaders (two at a time). The V-box design is able to hold twice the liquid (salt brine) capacity (75 gallons to 150 gallons), giving the fleet greater liquid-applying ability during snow events. Unfortunately, the implementation of the “V-box” led to unintended consequences. The additional volume of the liquid tanks and stainless steel V-box equipment severely increased the total weight carried by the trucks. In practice, this additional weight placed on the trucks is well over the manufacturer’s suggested gross carrying weight. As a result, the suspension systems, which are designed to last at least five to six years under normal loads are experiencing failures in just one to two years. These premature breakdowns have led to expensive repairs, more downtime due to parts availability, and greater demand on our mechanics and operators.

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Change in Equipment Standardization

From an asset management perspective, the “V-box” represents a key lesson learned. While the V-box design allowed Public Works to expand and enhance liquid pre-wet capabilities, it also severely shortened the lifecycle of our trucks. Now looking at the entire system as a whole (trucks, spreaders, ancillary equipment and operations), Public Works recognizes the need to align equipment purchases with manufacturer specifications to maintain the full life cycle of our fleet. To lower the continually increasing maintenance costs,

Surplus Equipment

Public Works is requesting for the Village Board to declare two (2) V-boxes as surplus property which would allow Public Works to trade in two of our V-boxes ahead of the upcoming snow season. Public Works would then use the credit from the trade-in to retrofit our plow trucks back to traditional tailgate spreaders. This adjustment will help protect the full life cycle of our trucks, reduce repair costs, limit downtime, and better allocate our staff resources. By applying what we’ve learned and by making this equipment standardization change, we can continue to provide safe and reliable winter operations while managing our fleet in a more cost-effective way.

V-box Salt Spreader



Traditional tailgate salt spreader



PROCESS

The two (2) V-Box spreaders being declared surplus property, are listed below.

- Flink Spreader: Model HA106 184S4 0002 Serial #10334
- Flink Spreader: Model HA106 184S4 0002 Serial #10412

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OUTCOME

Approval of this ordinance will authorize the Public Works Department to trade in two (2) V-box salt spreaders, and use the credit to retrofit two (2) of the Village's snow plow trucks with traditional tailgate salt spreaders. This adjustment will help protect the life cycle of our trucks, reduce repair costs, limit downtime, and better allocate our staff resources.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

- **Funding Source:** N/A
- **Budgeted Amount:** N/A
- **Cost:** N/A

LEGAL REVIEW

Not Required

RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTION

Pass an ordinance authorizing the Village Manager to sell, trade-in, or dispose of two (2) V-Box Salt Spreaders.

ATTACHMENT(S)

Ordinance