

VILLAGE OF ROSCOE

AGENDA ITEM - STAFF REPORT



Agenda Item: Review and Recommendation of Blasting Permit Application – Hawks Pointe Subdivision, Plat 6

Date: January 6, 2026

Meeting: Committee of the Whole

Prepared by: Josef Kurlinkus

Department: Administration

Overview/Background Information

The Village has received an application for a blasting permit to allow controlled blasting activities associated with the installation of a sanitary sewer system for **Hawks Pointe Subdivision, Plat 6**. The proposed blasting is intended to break up shallow bedrock encountered during utility installation.

Pursuant to **Article III – Planned Explosions and Blasting Activities** of the Village Code, blasting within the Village requires approval by the Village Board. The Code currently prohibits blasting within **1,000 feet of any building**. There are existing residential structures located within 1,000 feet of the proposed blasting area. As a result, the Village Board must first determine whether it wishes to allow blasting to occur at this location, which may require modification or waiver of the current distance restriction. If the Board elects to proceed, the Village Board is also the body authorized to approve or deny the blasting permit application.

Staff has also met with the general contractor and blasting subcontractor to review the proposal and discuss additional safety measures and conditions, and received a formal application and blasting plan.

Assuming the Village Board authorizes staff to proceed, the Village will continue working with its consulting engineer, the applicant, and the Harlem-Roscoe Fire Protection District to ensure that any blasting activities are conducted safely and in compliance with applicable standards.

Key Issues

The applicant, Northern Illinois Services, is proposing limited, controlled blasting to fracture approximately **800 cubic yards of bedrock** encountered during installation of a sanitary sewer system serving Hawks Pointe Plat 6. The blasting would occur intermittently over an estimated **12–15 day period**, during weekday hours between **9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.**, consistent with Village Code requirements.

Blasting would generally occur once per day near the end of the workday, with drilling occurring earlier in the day, and would be performed by **SX Blasting, Inc.**, a licensed contractor with experience in residential and utility-related blasting projects.

The contractor relies on the industry-standard **scaled distance formula**, historically derived from U.S. Bureau of Mines research, to limit vibration and potential impacts. At the proposed charge weights, the contractor indicated that scaled distance calculations place potential damage thresholds at approximately **165 feet**, while the nearest residences are located beyond that distance.

The following practices will be incorporated into this project as conditions of any approval:

- Seismographic monitoring at each blast, with records retained;
- Pre-blast inspections, including video documentation, to establish baseline conditions;
- Post-blast response procedures for any reported concerns, with prompt site visits;
- Responsibility for remediation of any damage attributable to blasting activities.

Additional Considerations:

- The contractor has identified controlled trench blasting as the least invasive and most time-limited option compared to prolonged drilling and hydraulic hammering.
- North Park Public Water District has been consulted regarding blasting near the Village's water tower and has indicated no general objection, subject to monitoring and pre- and post-blast inspections.
- Staff is recommending that **all buildings within 500 feet** of the blasting area receive pre-blast and post-blast inspections, with responsibility for any damage borne by the contractor.
- Notice and warning requirements will extend to **1,500 feet**.
- Staff is also recommending that, prior to any final approval, the Village host a **public information meeting** for nearby residents to provide information, answer questions, and receive feedback.

Action Required/Recommendation

At this stage, staff is seeking policy direction from the Village Board regarding:

1. Whether blasting should be allowed to proceed at this location;
2. Whether the Board wishes to consider modification or waiver of the 1,000-foot restriction; and
3. Whether staff should proceed with a public information meeting and preparation of a formal approval resolution and conditions.

Attachments

Application for Blasting Permit - Hawks Pointe Plat 6

DRAFT Blast Plan prepared by SX Blasting

Village of Roscoe Code of Ordinances: Article III - Planned Explosions and Blasting Activities