



**Village of Hawthorn Woods Questions and Answers from the
Aqua Illinois/Village of Hawthorn Woods Meeting on July 31, 2023**

- **Can another survey be conducted of Hawthorn Woods residents about their interest in Lake Michigan water?**

For several years, the Village Board has contemplated alternative sources of water to service the Village. Conducting a survey of Hawthorn Woods residents to understand their interest in Lake Michigan water is something the Village Board can discuss. Going through the process of requesting a Lake Michigan water allocation for Hawthorn Woods is a multi-year process, with the construction of the water infrastructure taking longer. The distribution of a new water supply to those residents who paid for the installation of private wells would be a major undertaking and expense. Aqua Illinois is currently designing an additional water supply pump to supplement the water quantity they can provide to our distribution system which can provide an immediate solution by next year.

- **Can the Village of Hawthorn Woods hire a third party paid for by Aqua Illinois to assess what happened?**

The Illinois Commerce Commission is already investigating the watermain break issue. Additionally, third party vendors are assessing the soil conditions at the break and an independent laboratory is conducting an analysis on the pipe itself to test the corrosive elements that may have been a contributing factor to the break.

- **What is the basis of Aqua Illinois' ownership of the infrastructure in Hawthorn Woods?**

At the time the Hawthorn Woods Country Club was being planned, Consumers Illinois, now known as Aqua Illinois, entered into a series of agreements with the Village of Hawthorn Woods and Toll Brothers granting ownership and maintenance responsibility of the system to Aqua Illinois. Who paid for this system? When the system was first built, it was paid for by Toll Brothers. Now, when a new development is going to connect to the water system, the developer pays for the installation of the infrastructure to service their subdivision. Who was the other entity when the system was constructed and their relationship to Aqua Illinois? The other entity was Consumers Illinois.

- **Regarding the \$1.5 million grant allocated to the Village for future infrastructure, who will own these lines once constructed?**

The Village has not yet received the \$1.5 million grant money for future infrastructure needs. As such, it has not yet been determined who will own the lines.

- **The Village should update their emergency response plan to include better support to residents with the loss of water such as places to shower.**

The Village continually reviews and updates our emergency response plan as needed. Although there are showers at the Aquatic Center that are identified to be used in emergencies such as the Aqua water emergency, the Aquatic Center is also connected to the Aqua water system and did not have water during the outage. The Village holds regular emergency drills and tabletop exercises to plan responses to many emergencies. Within hours of this watermain break, our emergency action Plan was in place and our Director of Public Safety secured our first pallets of drinking water through the Lake County Emergency Management Agency and the Salvation Army. Additionally, leadership in the Village of Hawthorn Woods has undergone FEMA training and crisis management training for all emergency situations.