

March 23, 2011

Mr. William J. Mueller,  
Village President, and  
Board of Trustees  
Village of Lombard

**Subject: Text Amendments to Title 15, Chapter 150 – Bowstring Roof Inspections**

Dear President and Trustees:

The Board of Building Appeals (BOBA) transmits for your consideration its recommendation regarding the above-referenced request. The Village of Lombard is requesting text amendments to Title 15, Chapter 150, of the Lombard Building Code pertaining to inspection requirements for selected roofs.

On March 1, 2011 BOBA met to review this request. Mr. Steiskal presented information about causes of wood bowstring roof collapses. Staff is concerned that with about 12 of these type roofs in town and several collapses in other areas of the country, we should address the issue. Staff explained how the two firemen in Chicago died after a bowstring roof collapsed and gave examples of some other bowstring collapses. He also discussed the location and nature of bowstring truss roofs on selected Lombard buildings. Staff proposed an inspection be conducted of these roofs by 12/31/2011 and every ten years after that. The inspection would be conducted by a structural engineer and be at the expense of the building owner.

Bob Mueller asked where the ten year time limit between inspections came from. He asked if more often would be better.

Mr. Steiskal stated that every ten years would control costs and direction would be given to the engineers performing the inspections that the next inspection would not take place for another ten years. The engineer may then make note of anything that he/she would want re-evaluated in 2 years, 5 years, etc.

Mr. Mueller agreed that direction to the engineer performing the inspection would be sufficient.

On a motion by Mueller and seconded by Flint BOBA voted unanimously 4 to 0 to recommend to the Board of Trustees for approval that inspections of bowstring roofs be completed by December 31, 2011 and inspected every 10 years thereafter.

Respectfully,

**VILLAGE OF LOMBARD**

Board of Building Appeals