



March 5, 2009

**TO:** Public Works Committee

**FROM:** Carl S. Goldsmith, Director of Public Works *CS*

**SUBJECT:** February 26, 2009 Storm Event

**Background:**

Heavy rainfall caused flooding throughout the Chicagoland region on February 26, 2009. The overwhelming majority of damages to homes in Lombard were between 16<sup>th</sup> Street and North Avenue. Public Works called in employees to assist residents, maintain pump stations, close streets and monitor the storm activity.

**Storm Characteristics:**

The Village's rain gauge measured 2.28 inches of rain in approximately 11 hours. The Glen Oaks Lift Station located along the East Branch of the DuPage River (which flows along the west edge of Lombard) reached a gauge height of 57.80 inches during the storm event. Normal operating levels are approximately 11". The Village was fortunate in that it did not lose electricity, which prevented worse flooding. The storm water detention basins functioned as expected. In addition to the rainfall, there was a trace amount of snow melt as a result of the storm. These factors coupled with frozen ground, which did not allow for saturation of the water contributed to the flooding. The rainfall was more than typically falls in an entire February and was the second heaviest February rain event in 138 years. Had the temperatures been lower and snow resulted, the amount of precipitation would have been on the order of 20" of snowfall.

**Summary of Damages:**

The damages were due solely to rainfall. There were no problems with wind, lightening or power outages. A total of 32 homes reported flood damages as of February 26, 2009. The Village lost one pump at the Rt. 53 station, which is currently being repaired.

**Flooding Areas:**

The attached maps identify the locations and types of complaints received by the Village as a result of the storm event. The following maps have been provided for your consideration.

- ◆ February 26, 2009 Storm Incidents by Category/Issue
- ◆ Storm Events Sept 2008-Feb 2009

**Staffing:**

Administrative staff in PW and PD answered calls, the Lombard ECC communicated with the Director of Public Works on weather and logistical issues, Underground Utilities staff responded to residents' homes, Pumping staff maintained stations and Streets staff closed streets and delivered sandbags.

The Staff will continue to monitor the response to storm vents and incorporate new processes and procedures into the Emergency Response Plan. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 630-620-5740.