

Bureau County Republican

Material bids will 'speak for themselves'

THE PVC PIPING ALTERNATIVE TO DUCTILE IRON

By ZITA HENNEBERRY

PRINCETON, IL — In response to a recent publication concerning bids for the upcoming Claude Bailey Subdivision water main construction, executive director of Uni — Bell PVC Pipe Association contacted Mayor Keith Cain, Princeton City Council members and the Bureau County Republican to discuss the modernization of local infrastructures with a PVC piping option.

"PVC pipe is the most widely used material for water and sewer piping in North America, and there are no reasons to not include it in bids," said Hollands.

Hollands explained, when PVC is excluded from the bidding process, only iron materials are bid, causing prices to easily escalate. The inclusion of PVC in the municipal bids for a project drops the prices through competition, said Hollands, adding even when PVC is not the chosen material, including it in the bidding process is a great benefit.

Competition is a great thing and is the only thing that will drive the industry to a more efficient process of procedure, said Hollands.

Princeton City Manager Jeff Clawson said, the bids will go out for both materials and the costs will "speak for themselves."

Throughout his career, Clawson has used PVC piping and said he has never had an issue.

"PVC is the industry standard," said Clawson. After having discussed the PVC piping option with the residents of the Claude Bailey Subdivision, Clawson believes overall the residents are comfortable with either option.

Former Princeton Water Department Superintendent Mike Eggers presented his opposing opinion at the recent city council meeting alongside regional engineer of the Ductile Iron Pipe Research Association, Paul Hanson. Eggers adamantly disapproves of PVC's use in Princeton, believing it would compromise the integrity of the Princeton water main system.

However, PVC is more cost effective, and unlike ductile iron, it is maintenance free, said Hollands.

He explained, "It is not only more cost-effective than iron piping but lasts longer because it is corrosion proof."

While Eggers believed corrosion was not an issue for the local area, Hollands said corrosion can be an issue in small or large areas of any system.

The matter of PVC versus ductile iron is one of personal opinion and

Both materials meet the piping standards, Clawson said, adding anyone is entitled to his or her opinion on the matter, however, it's just an opinion.

Clawson encouraged Princeton residents to ignore the opinions of both Eggers and himself and research the materials to formulate their own opinions.

Some engineers remain resistant to the use of PVC piping in pocket areas throughout the Midwest and northeast, said Hollands.

"However, PVC water pipe has been shown to be up to 70 percent less expensive than iron piping, and its longevity surpasses 100 years according to numerous reports," Hollands said.

Hollands encouraged any individuals resistant to PVC piping to further familiarize themselves with the PVC material.

He and the PVC Pipe Association offered for its senior regional engineer, Steve Cooper, to address any questions Princeton engineers or council may have. Cooper would be able to provide a presentation on PVC piping to the Princeton City Council and/or the engineering staff in March.

Courtesy of the Bureau County Republican, article by Staff Writer Zita Henneberry; zhenneberry@bcrnews.com