On September 1, 2021, Tropical Storm Ida struck the New York region, causing unprecedented flooding and destruction. The Chemka pool sustained very serious damage and was shut down for the remainder of the 2021 season. The pool filter room was filled with 11 feet of water from the storm, directly affecting the mechanical and electrical wiring. A landslide and collapse of two sections of the Hillside Park parking lot inundated the Main Pool, the bath house, and the pump room. The Training Pool and the Spray Pool remained unaffected at the surface level. In addition to an inundation of mud and debris, significant damage was done to the pump room – flooding to the ceiling and the movement of mud and other debris through the room. The first weeks of September were dedicated to clearing debris from the storm. Pool and Parks staff, as well as volunteers, worked to clean out the bath house and Guard Office, drain the Main Pool, and hose, shovel, and pump out most of the mud and debris from the pool. Approximately 15.57yd³ (4 tons) of mud and debris was deposited at the bottom of the pool.

In parallel, the Village contacted an electrician, mechanical specialist, and engineer to begin the process of assessing the extent of the damage. The Village also contacted FEMA to have the damage assessed. The professional assessments obtained by the Village determined that most of the electrical and mechanical equipment in the pump room (pumps and motor starters, electrical lines and fuses, mechanical and electrical housings, and gauges) needed to be replaced.

October 1, 2021, the Village received a report from a licensed electrical contractor, Lippolis Electric, Inc., which indicated that the electrical components in the pump room must be replaced in full. Oxidation and rust were found requiring replacement of branch circuit panels, breakers, main distribution panels, electrical lines, and fuses. Lippolis recommended that the Village retain an outside consultant for mechanical equipment evaluation.

November 1, 2021, the Village received a mechanical pump and motor evaluation from AC Furia Pumps and Motors recommending that all pumps and motors be replaced because their age suggested a limited future service life even if substantial repair work was done.

November 4, 2021, the Village retained Rimkunas Engineering, PLLC, an Aquatic Engineer to coordinate with mechanical, plumbing and electrical consultants to provide a structural and equipment evaluation report for all three pool systems to include:

a. Pool filtration and chemical treatment systems for three pools;
b. Leak testing results;
c. Recommendations for restoration; and
d. Cost estimate for restoration.

Rimkunas was also tasked with the review of applicable Codes and Regulations for the project including the swimming pools and chemical bulk storage to develop a permitting
and construction plan to provide code compliant upgrades to the chemical bulk storage and coordinate with Westchester County DOH for permit requirements for restoration of the pump room.

December 11, 2021, the Village received the engineer’s report, which indicated that all pumps, chemical controllers and delivery systems and certain sections of piping needed to be replaced. The pools remained in good condition. The Village then solicited a proposal for engineering services to create bid documents to fix the pump room damage.

January 10, 2022, the Village received a proposal for engineering services to provide a scope of the work and bid documents. It was determined to separate the pump room restoration and chemical bulk storage upgrade from the leak remediation intending to do the leak remediation in the fall since it was not critical to opening the pool for the season.

February 1, 2022, the Aquatic Engineer was authorized by the Board of Trustees to design and provide bid documents for the Village, with an aggressive timeline, to have the work begin within five (5) days of contract execution.

April 3, 2022, the Village received the bid documents.

April 5, 2022, the request for bids were provided by the engineer to 6 pool contractors and publicized on BidNetDirect to an additional 11 contractors.

April 8, 2022, the request for bids was publicly noticed in the Enterprise with a due date of April 18 (subsequently extended to April 20th).

April 20, 2022, one (1) bid was received. The bidder estimated a minimum of 20 weeks to complete the work. Given that time frame the pool would not be able to open until mid-August at the earliest, essentially after the pool season is over. The Village reached out to those contractors who did not bid the work. All of the contractors indicated that they were already committed to other projects and that there are supply concerns, leaving them unable to meet the Village’s aggressive timeline.

April 27, 2022, the Aquatic Engineer provided a letter of no recommendation, indicating that the Village should re-bid the work in June/July.

In early May, Rimkunas was directed to combine the pump room restoration, chemical storage upgrade and leak remediation into one bid document to be circulated in June.