

# Memorandum

**TO:** Administration and Finance Committee  
Board of Public Works

**FROM:** Joseph Burtch, Assistant City Engineer

**DATE:** April 1, 2014

**RE:** Communication from the Assistant City Engineer regarding the progress on the proposal to establish a Private Property Inflow/Infiltration Reduction Fund.

The previous proposal to implement a Sanitary Lateral Fund (Private Property Inflow/Infiltration Reduction Fund) included an annual fee for each residential property of fifty dollars, or twelve dollars and fifty cents per quarter. The current proposal lowers the fee to forty dollars, or ten dollars per quarter. This proposal includes a Special Assessment on the properties that work is performed on based on the type of work done. This Special Assessment allows for a reduction in the fee for the program.

Attached to this memo is a copy of a one page summary of the proposed program. I hope that the summary provides a quick reference of the purpose along with the positives and negatives of the program.

I am requesting at this time to proceed with a public hearing for the Private Property Inflow/Infiltration Reduction Fund. Information on the program will be distributed to property owners prior to the hearing.

**Cc:** Mayor Dan Devine  
Paul Ziehler, CAO  
Mike Lewis, Director of Public Works/City Engineer

# Memorandum

**TO:** West Allis Common Council  
**FROM:** Joseph Burtch, Assistant City Engineer  
**DATE:** April 1, 2014  
**RE:** Summary of the proposed Private Property Inflow/Infiltration Reduction Fund.

**Purpose:** The primary purpose of this fund is to provide a mechanism for improvements on residential private property to reduce excess flow in the City's sanitary sewer system.

- West Allis is under an enforcement ruling to reduce excess flows caused from I/I.
- West Allis needs to manage I/I to reduce the likelihood of future enforcements.
- Sanitary laterals and foundation drains on private property account for most of the I/I.

**Benefits:** This fund provides a great benefit to the residential property owners.

- Provide help to rehabilitate aging, leaking sanitary laterals. (Ave. cost \$4,000 to \$12,000.)
- Provide help for emergency repair of failed lateral. (Ave. cost \$5,000 to \$15,000.)
- Reduced risk for basement back-ups. (Reduced flows in wet weather from I/I removal.)
- Special Assessments for rehabilitations and repairs can be paid for on a 10 year plan.
- Provides a more efficient way to meet the City's flow reduction requirements.
- Can reduce future costs to expand the municipal sewer system.
- Establishes a fund that will provide a mechanism to continue to address aging infrastructure.

**Residential Property Owner Responsibilities:** Property owners will retain ownership of their sanitary service from the connection at the sewer main to the building. Owners are responsible for the following:

- General maintenance of the sanitary lateral
- Removal of blockages in the lateral (when removable without repair to the existing pipe)
- Cleanup from basement back-ups caused by blockages/failures in the lateral
- Inspection of the lateral (to provide proof of failure/excessive I/I)
- Special Assessment for lateral rehabilitation

**Costs:** The program does have a price tag which includes the proposed \$40 annual fee and the Special Assessment of \$1,500 lateral rehabilitation, or \$3,000 for emergency repairs. A Special Assessment provides the opportunity to spread the cost of a sewer repair over a ten year period, which is much easier to tolerate than having to pay immediately for work done privately.

**Cc:** Mayor Dan Devine  
Paul Ziehler, CAO  
Mike Lewis, Director of Public Works/City Engineer