



ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT


Michael G. Lewis
Director of Public Works / City Engineer

414/302-8360
414/302-8366 (Fax)

City Hall
7525 West Greenfield Avenue
West Allis, Wisconsin 53214

www.ci.west-allis.wi.us
mlewis@ci.west-allis.wi.us

MEMORANDUM

TO: Michael G. Lewis, City Engineer/Director of Public Works
FROM: Brian D. Block, Traffic & Utility Technician 
DATE: March 28, 2011
RE: Claim Against the City of West Allis by Steve Unger, property owner of addressed property 2361 S. 63 St.

SUMMARY

J. R Plumbing, Inc. was hired by the property owner who was experiencing a back-up of the sewer water at the property addressed 2361 S. 63 St. on June 1, 2010. J.R. Plumbing, Inc. augured, then water jetted the lateral pipe to drain.

The property owner who again experienced a back-up of the sewer water at the property addressed 2361 S. 63 St. then hired Roto-Rooter. Roto-Rooter augured the lateral on February 26, 2011 and then water jetted the lateral pipe to drain. Roto-Rooter inserted a camera and video taped the line.

Based on the video produced by Roto-Rooter for the property owner, the City let an emergency contract to repair this lateral connection, along with a second problem lateral complaint at 2346 S. 63 St.

Underground Pipeline Inc., an underground contractor for the City, repaired both locations on March 8, 2011. City forces are scheduled to restore permanent pavement at both locations.

FINDINGS & OBSERVATIONS

- **Existing conditions and utilities in S. 63 St. at the address 2361 S. 63 St.**

The pavement at 2361 S. 63 St. is a 30 ft. wide 7 in. thick concrete pavement centered in a 60 ft. right of way. Both sides of the street have concrete sidewalks.

The City of West Allis underground utilities in S. 63 St. at the above-referenced address consist of the following:

<u>UTILITY</u>	<u>YEAR INSTALLED</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
6 in. cast iron water main	1929	24 ft. west of east RoW line
10 in. clay sanitary sewer	1929	30 ft. west of east RoW line

City records indicate that the existing sanitary sewer lateral at 2361 S. 63 St. is a 6 in. clay pipe installed in 1930 and is connected with a riser connection.

The March 8, 2011 Inspector's Report from the U.P.I. repair, notes that the top portion of the riser for 2361 S. 63 St. was found broken with missing pipe with black-color soil in the area of the broken section.

CONCLUSIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

It is my opinion that a failure of the riser to the sanitary main existed at 2361 S. 63 St. prior to the March 8, 2011 U.P.I. emergency repair.

I've concluded that the broken riser caused a back-up and non-draining condition for the resident at 2361 S. 63 St.

I am recommending reimbursement of the receipts totaling \$1,405.51, which is the total amount of the Roto-Rooter Invoice No. 178249, Roto-Rooter Invoice No. 177515 & J.R. Plumbing, Inc. Invoice No.131760.

BDB:

Attach:

cc (via email): Joseph Burtch
Michael Scherer

h:\bbclaims\63st 2361s steven unger claim

RECEIVED

MAR 08 2011

CITY OF WEST ALLIS
ENGINEERING DEPT

Steve Unger
2361 South 63rd Street
West Allis, WI 53219
(414) 788-7054

March 4, 2011,

Joe Burtch
Assistant City Engineer
City of West Allis
7525 West Greenfield Ave
West Allis, WI 53214

Mr. Burtch:

Per our phone conversation on Monday, February 28, 2011, I am writing this letter to request reimbursement of receipts paid to sewer/drain service contractors on two separate, yet related, incidents for services provided at our residence on South 63rd Street.

The first incident occurred on Sunday, May 30, 2010 when I noticed that our sewer system was backing up through the floor drain in our basement. I immediately rented a 50' electric snake device from Home Depot in an effort to clear the drain. After six hours of work, the pipe remained clogged. My family and I left our home to stay with other family members. I contacted J.R. Plumbing, Inc. to come out and clear the line, and they arrived at my house on Tuesday, June 1, 2010. J.R. worked on the obstructed sewer line 2.5 hours and although they were able to snake out to 60', the pipe still remained clogged. Originally, they thought the problem was tree roots, but the city tree between the sidewalk and the road is only 40' from the main vent in my basement. The major obstruction J.R. kept running into was 60' from the main vent; a point directly in the center of the road above the main. The line could not be cleared using several different cutting tips, and I was told that the only other option was to jet the pipe. Reluctantly, I agreed and the jetting crew arrived at my house on Wednesday, June 2, 2010. After 2 hours of jetting, the sewer was finally cleared. The accumulated costs to this point were more than I could afford, and I was not able to spend more money to have the pipe televised. Please see receipt from J.R. Plumbing, Inc. for \$615.51.

More recently, the sewer backed up again through the floor drain in our basement on Saturday, February 26, 2011. Immediately, I contracted the services of Roto-Rooter who arrived that same day. Roto-Rooter spent 3 hours using multiple tips, cutters and whips, 55' out from the clean out near the front of my house, but the pipe would not clear. At one point clay and soil was noticed embedded in the end of the whip, and again, jetting was recommended. My family and I made arrangements to stay elsewhere until the pipe could be cleared. On Monday, February 28, 2011, the jetting crew arrived, and after jetting for over two hours, cleared the pipe. In an effort identify a more complicated problem; I elected to pay extra money to have the clean pipe televised.

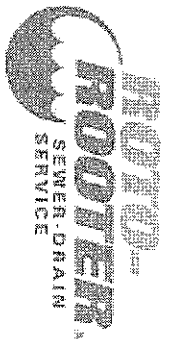
Several important facts were discovered after viewing the DVD. First, although the camera was not able to make it to the main sewer, the tracing device located the camera directly in the center of the road about 11' down, where it could not go any further. At this point, 55' from the clean out, it is obvious that the pipe is broken. Also notable, at 35' into the pipe, there is no evidence of tree roots or misaligned joints as previously suspected. Please see two receipts from Roto-Rooter for total charges of \$790.00.

As we discussed, it is obvious upon viewing the DVD that the break in the pipe is at the top of the vertical riser to the main. Survey marks placed on the road to locate the main riser are within inches of the suspected location of the pipe break, as marked by Roto-Rooter. My wife and I are relieved that the City of West Allis has agreed to repair the pipe. Please consider reimbursement of all receipts totaling \$1,405.51 related to alleviating and identifying the problem with the broken sanitary riser. Each year we try to use our tax return and plan a home improvement project to upgrade our home and property. Setbacks like this have caused us to cancel projects for 2010 and 2011. Reimbursement of this money would allow us to proceed with our patio and sidewalk project for this year. Thank you for your assistance in this unfortunate incident.

Sincerely,



Steven J. Unger



11030 W. Lincoln Ave.
Milwaukee, WI 53227

INVOICE

177515

Milwaukee: (414) 541-4477
Waukesha: (262) 548-3660
Ozaukee: (262) 375-5576
Washington: (262) 255-3031

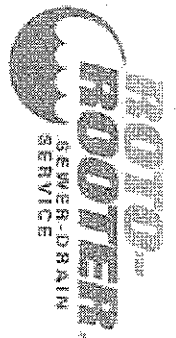
INVOICE DATE 2/28/11	PHONE 54500807	P.O. #	START TIME
CUSTOMER NAME Steven Unger	JOB ADDRESS (STREET, ZIP) 2361 S. 63 St		FINISH TIME
BILLING ADDRESS (IF DIFFERENT) (STREET, CITY, ZIP)			
SERVICE PERFORMED			
water salted sewer			PRICE 375.00
from C.O. out towards			
main hit hard out by			
main. 1.1' out			
canning			PRICE -100.00
Possible offset			275.00
PARTS/PRODUCTS			
offset main			
Televised + Located Sewer			
Approx. 11' Deep at main			325.00
TRUCK #	7411	SUBTOTAL \$	175.00
SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE	M.P. L.S.	TAX \$	
WARRANTY (IF APPLICABLE)		TOTAL \$	425.00

RETAIN RECEIPT FOR WARRANTY PURPOSES.
\$30.00 CHARGE FOR RETURNED CHECKS. PAYMENT IS
DUE WITHIN 30 DAYS. SERVICE CHARGE OF 1% PER
MONTH (18% APR) ON ALL INVOICES OVER 30 DAYS OLD.

VISA/MASTERCARD
 CHECK #

Date: 2/28/11
Signature: *[Signature]*

CASH
 CHARGE



11030 W. Lincoln Ave.
Milwaukee, WI 53227

INVOICE

178249

Milwaukee: (414) 541-4477
Waukesha: (262) 548-3660
Ozaukee: (262) 375-5576
Washington: (262) 255-3031

INVOICE DATE 2/26/11	PHONE 7287657	P.O. #	START TIME
CUSTOMER NAME Steve Unger	JOB ADDRESS (STREET, ZIP) 2567 S 63		FINISH TIME
BILLING ADDRESS (IF DIFFERENT) (STREET, CITY, ZIP)			
SERVICE PERFORMED			
1 1/2" pipe on sewer from 14' to			PRICE
Brought back all the			175
temporarily spent on waste			
lines trying different things			
which just ran does not			
want to cut with cable sniffer 170			
wants to try fetter on Monday			
NO guarantee not responsible			
for any mess or clean up			
TRUCK #	7	SUBTOTAL \$	
SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE	[Signature]	TAX \$	
WARRANTY (IF APPLICABLE)		TOTAL \$	365

RETAIN RECEIPT FOR WARRANTY PURPOSES.
\$30.00 CHARGE FOR RETURNED CHECKS. PAYMENT IS
DUE WITHIN 30 DAYS. SERVICE CHARGE OF 1% PER
MONTH (18% APR) ON ALL INVOICES OVER 30 DAYS OLD.

VISA/MASTERCARD
 CHECK # 8317

Date: 2-26-11
Signature: *[Signature]*

CASH
 CHARGE

CITY OF WEST ALLIS - ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

CONTRACT NO.: EMERGENCY

DAILY UNDERGROUND REPORT

DAILY REPORT NO. 1

PLAN FILE NO.: _____

DAY/DATE Tue 3/8

ACCOUNT NO.: PI137N

WEATHER & TEMP 1st 32° P/c 2nd 38° P/c

IN: S. 53rd St

CONTRACTOR: LPI

FROM: W. Lincoln Ave.

TO: W. Hayes St.

SUBCONTRACTOR: _____

LABOR			EQUIPMENT			STRUCTURES				
DESCRIPTION	NO.	HRS.	DESCRIPTION	NO.	HRS.	LOCATION	SIZE/TYPE	CONNS.	WORK COMPL.	VERT. FT.
FM-ROGER	1	8	BALLOON	1	8					
OP	2	8	LOADER	1	8					
LAB	1	8	TRUCK	1	6.5	(7:00-1:30)				
NOEB	1	8								

SKETCH OF WORK & REMARKS

SANITARY LATERAL RISER REPAIR ON HOUSE # 2346 - 7:00-10:30

- SAWCUT - 17'
- 6" PVC PIPE - 3.5'
- 45° PVC BENDS - 2 EA.
- 6" FERNCOs - 2 EA.
- TRUCKLOAD SPOIL - 1
- BRICK + MORTAR BULKHEAD ON UNUSED LAT. TO LOT #31 (SHARED WYE + RISER)
- FOUND FRACTURED PIPE @ BEND TO RISER + 3' UPSTREAM FROM RISER, BUT PIPE WAS STILL IN PLACE.

SANITARY LATERAL/RISER REPAIR ON HOUSE # 2361

- SAWCUT - 13'
- 6" PVC PIPE - 7'
- 45° PVC BENDS - 2 EA.
- 6" FERNCOs - 2 EA.
- TRUCKLOAD SPOIL - 1
- 2361 + 2364 SHARED RISER WITH WYE CONNECTION.
- 2364 - 1.5' OF 6" PVC PIPE AND 1 6" FERNCO AND 6" x 6" WYE FOUND BROKEN + MISSING PIPE IN TOP OF 45° BEND INTO WYE OUT OF RISER. SOIL AROUND BROKEN BEND WAS BLACK.

TOTALS

	STATION		LINEAL FT.	SIZE OF UTILITY	KIND OF UTILITY	TYPE OF SECTION	KIND OF PIPE	JOINT TYPE	REMARKS	
	FROM	TO							CONTRACTOR TIME	
EXCAVATING INTERFERENCE ENCOUNTERED	6" PVC WYE - 1 EA.									
	SAWCUTTING - 30'									
	45° PVC BENDS - 4 EA.									
	6" FERNCOs - 5 EA.									
	6" PIPE - 12'									
	SLURRY - 17 CY									
	TRUCKLOADS SPOIL - 2									STONE CHIPS - 10 TONS? - NO TICKET
PIPE LAYING									FROM	700
									TO	300
									TOTAL	8

INSPECTOR

Don Jenkins

WORKING DAY CHARGE CW CNW RAIN WET NC