

August 7, 2006

TO: Phillip L. Nelson, City Manager

FROM: Brian Murphy, Assistant City Manager/Services
Timothy Richnak, Public Works Director
Stephen Cooperrider, Risk Manager

SUBJECT: Agenda Item –
2307 Rochester Court Sewer Backup

BACKGROUND

On July 13, 2006 there was basement flooding at 2307 Rochester Court, Troy Michigan. The Water and Sewer Division of the City of Troy cleared a restriction downstream from this residence. The sanitary sewer restriction was located between manhole 4 and manhole 160 located just north of the intersection of Rochester Court and Robinwood Drive (See the Attached Map). This sewer line has the following building connections upstream from this location:

- 2 hotels (Holiday Inn & Red Roof Inn)
- 2 restaurants (Holiday Inn & Mountain Jacks)
- 2 commercial office buildings
- 9 residential single-family homes
- 65 apartments (Eagle's Landing)

This entire system upstream from manhole 4 has been cleaned three times since 2002 and most recently as of October 1, 2005 (9 months ago). Within this section of the sanitary sewer system we have an area that we clean on a quarterly basis. This quarterly cleaning is performed on the following three sections of line:

305' of sewer from manhole 162 to manhole 233

- This section of sewer has a direct connection from the Mountain Jacks restaurant to manhole 233. It also has two sanitary sewer connections to the Red Roof Inn. A restriction in this line some 10 to 15 years ago was the primary factor in placing this section of sewer on the quarterly cleaning list.

130' of sewer from manhole 162 to manhole 163

311' of sewer from manhole 163 to manhole 164

- These two sections were also included in the quarterly cleaning as they contained a hotel and a restaurant connection to the Holiday Inn.

When cleaning sanitary sewer lines, City staff uses a high-pressure hose with specially designed cleaning heads that scour the line with 1500 lbs of water pressure.

Restrictions that are generally described as a grease clog are a combination of grease, soap, paper, plastic and waste. Restrictions of this nature more often occur downstream from restaurants but are not exclusive to them. There are records of grease clog restrictions in the middle of subdivisions and they are attributed to holiday and family cooking preferences that use oils in the cooking process. Similar to the sections of line mentioned in the specific area, the City has a practice of conducting quarterly cleaning of lines where restrictions are more likely to develop.

The recent restriction between manhole 4 and manhole 160 occurred approximately 370' south of manhole 162. We have no record of any previous restriction in this line. Staff communication and contact with the Jonas family included the following:

Ralph Houck is the sewer jet truck operator and at the time he was out at the site clearing the restriction he informed the Jonases that he would add this location to the list of trouble spots that we clean quarterly. He also advised that they take photos of the basement flooding.

The following day Steve Bauman (Water and Sewer Field Supervisor) and the manager of Mountain Jacks met with the Jonases. Mr. Bauman informed the Jonases that he would be inspecting and televising the sewer. He also directed them to Stephen Cooperrider (Risk Manager) of the City of Troy's Risk Management Department.

The Jonases contacted Stephen Cooperrider on July 14, 2006. During this conversation Mr. Cooperrider listened to all the information and created an incident report. He explained Public Act 222 and its purpose as it clarifies a municipality's liability for sewer backups. Additionally claim forms were mailed out to 2307 Rochester Court on July 14, 2006 and returned by the post office as NO SUCH ADDRESS. A copy of the returned envelope is attached. The claim form was again mailed to 2305 Rochester Court on July 31, 2006. There is some discrepancy as to the address.

Mr. Cooperrider also informed the Jonases that he would investigate this issue. During Mr. Cooperrider's investigation he contacted the Public Works, Engineering, and Building Departments. It was determined that no design flaws contributed to this restriction.

John Lamerato (Assistant City Manager/Finance) spoke with the Jonas family and encouraged them to get their insurance adjuster out and to get all claim forms filed as soon as possible. He also informed them of the availability of a dumpster rental from Tringali Sanitation.

 **City of Troy**
Risk Management Dept
500 West Big Beaver
Troy, Michigan 48084

 **NO SUCH NUMBER**

NSM
DENISE AND ED JONAS
2307 ROCHESTER CT.
TROY, MI 48083

PRESORTED
FIRST CLASS



UNITED STATES POSTAGE

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