



## CITY OF LA CROSSE UTILITIES

### WATER - SEWER - STORM

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## MEMORANDUM

**To: Board of Public Works**  
**From: Bernard Lenz – Utility Manager**  
**Date: 08-12-2019**  
**Subject: Emergency Repair – 28<sup>th</sup> Street**

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The Utility experienced a failure of the Sanitary Sewer main on 28<sup>th</sup> street resulting in a sinkhole and collapse of the roadway. We believe the collapse is the result of hydrostatic pressure from high groundwater exposing a structural deficiency in the concrete sewer main pipe. The pipe shows signs of deterioration related to sewer gas associated with ponding of sewage at the near-by lift station reservoir.

Normal sewage flow is fully blocked by this failure and thus is currently being maintained thru by-pass pumping. After attempting and failing to be able to patch the pipe without additional collapse, it has been determined a full replacement of the main is required. The Utility is requesting approval for the immediate full replacement of the failing sanitary sewer main and associated structures. Due to the depth of this sewer this may include replacement of the overlying storm sewer. I am asking the Board declare this an emergency pursuant to Wis. Stat. secs. 62.15(1b) to maintain the welfare of the city.

The utility is providing some of the materials and by-pass pumping and will hire a contractor to do the majority of the work on a time and material basis. Our Engineering Department will be involved to assist with survey and the street department will repair the roadway and bill the Utility. Funding for the repairs will be paid by the Sanitary Sewer Utility operating budget.

Due to the frequency of these repairs this year (associated with the high groundwater) the line item in the operating budget for these types of repairs is likely to be overspent.

Thank You