

John W. Shaw and Linda S. Kramer
1309 Jefferson Street
Ames IA 50010

Attn: Claims
City Clerk
200 E. Wells St., Room 205
Milwaukee, WI 53202-3567

31-December-2024

Greetings,

I am writing to request reimbursement for sewer lateral repair expenses we incurred as a result of problems with a city-owned sewer main. We are the owners of 811 East Otjen Street, Milwaukee WI 53207. Earlier this year we were contacted by the Department of Public Works (DPW) regarding potential problems with the sewer lateral at our property. Concurrently DPW contacted the owners of the adjacent property at 817 East Otjen Street (our neighbors to the west) regarding an identical problem. Moreover, sewer lateral issues were subsequently discovered at 807 East Otjen Street (adjacent to our property to the east), which also experienced a water lateral break in 2020.

Believing it was unlikely that the laterals would crack simultaneously at neighboring properties in the absence of a problem with the city sewer main, we reached out to Jason Sanders at DPW, along with Alderwoman Marina Dimitrijevic and her Legislative Aide Terri Williams. In our correspondence, we noted the unlikelihood of simultaneous lateral breaks at neighboring properties and suggested that this—in combination with recurring sink holes in the street, sidewalk and alley subsidences, and the water lateral problem at 807 East Otjen Street—could be indicative of problems with the City sewer main. Mr. Sanders insisted that the sewer main was in good condition and directed us to replace the lateral. A similar directive was issued to the owners of 817 East Otjen.

We contracted with Subterranean Sewer Experts, LLC (Robert Mohr and crew) to replace our lateral at a cost of **\$13,740.00** (Milwaukee plumbing permit #PLB-24-03775). Excavation on **October 17-22, 2024** revealed a belly (low spot) and standing water in the city main between 811 East Otjen and 817 East Otjen, indicating subsidence of the main. This was accompanied by serious cracking, damage and collapse of the **city-owned** wye pipe that connects the main to our lateral (Figure 1 and Figure 2). This wye (or Y-shaped pipe) is an integral part of the city main and is owned by the City of Milwaukee. Special permission from the DPW was required for the contractor to install a collar on the broken wye and restore the connection to our lateral. Beyond the wye, our pipe was found to be in very good condition.

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Figure 1. Damaged wye on city sewer main.
Source: Subterranean Sewer Experts



Figure 2. City sewer main wye cracked and collapsed.
Source: Subterranean Sewer Experts

In summary, the sewer problems near 811 E Otjen Street resulted from defects in the city sewer main, as we suspected from the outset. **Since the problem involved the publicly-owned sewer infrastructure (not our property), we request reimbursement for the repair expense totaling \$13,740, as documented in the attached invoice.** In addition, we remain concerned that continued subsidence of the city main will break our lateral again. Therefore, we request the city to initiate prompt repairs of the sewer main to prevent additional damage to our lateral as well as adjacent public infrastructure such as pavements, sidewalks, and alleyways.

Sincerely,

John W. Shaw and Linda S. Kramer
Owners

Attachments:

- Subterranean Sewer Experts Invoice #1226
- Photos of damaged wye

CC: Alderwoman Marina Dimitrijevic



Subterranean

License #: 1561828

3021 N Pierce St
Milwaukee,, WI 53212

(414) 937-0971

www.subterraneanpro.com

dig@subterraneanpro.com

Invoice #1226

PARTIALLY PAID

John Shaw

(414) 698-7912

811 East Otjen Street
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53207

Invoiced Date: Oct 14, 2024

Due Date: Nov 14, 2024

Status: Partially Paid

Sewer Lateral Repair ROW

Excavate up to 12' deep and repair broken sewer pipe. Includes ROW Restoration, permit, materials and excavation.

Item	Unit Price	Quantity	Taxed	Amount
Exterior Excavation	\$9,250.00	1.00	No	\$9,250.00
Excavate to repair sewer lateral				
Saw Cutting	\$100.00	6.00	No	\$600.00
Saw cut the pavement up to 9 inches deep. Cut the seams for full panel replacement				
Pipe Laying	\$120.00	10.00	No	\$1,200.00
Lay Sewer and Water pipe and concet to the main				
Materials	\$1,750.00	1.00	No	\$1,750.00
PVC, CEMENT, SLURRY, Backfill				
Permits	\$840.00	1.00	No	\$840.00
Plumbing, ROW Excavation, ROW Restoration				
Restoration of ROW	\$1,600.00	1.00	No	\$1,600.00

Item	Unit Price	Quantity	Taxed	Amount
lay concrete / Asphalt and retore the roadway				
Discount	\$-1,500.00	1.00	No	\$-1,500.00
Discount for bundle with 807 E. Otjen				

Thank you for your business!

Subtotal	\$13,740.00
Total	\$13,740.00
Amount Paid	\$2,500.00
Amount Due	\$11,240.00



