

May 21, 2004

In the 60's the Milwaukee Water Works and the City Engineers decided to separate the Water Distribution work crews and build separate facilities on the north and south sides of Milwaukee. This was done to improve efficiency of leak investigations, repairs of broken water mains, new construction and all other maintenance on the Distribution System. The two locations including a Pipe Yard helped put travel time to a minimum, leaving more time in a shift to do the work. Bottom line, saving money for the MWW consumer.

By going back to one Distribution facility were going back to the 50's. By increasing travel time for all crews and supervisors you would be increasing cost to the consumers. With the Pipe Yard moved to the 1100 block W. Waterford Ave. it may be necessary to build a satellite pipe yard at the new location or moving it completely, that would again increase cost to the consumer. Another concern is the response time by water investigators from a new facility to the south side. Time is of the essence when someones basement is flooding. Would another satellite building be needed on the south side for them to standby at, again, increase cost to the consumer.

I don't understand why these high repair cost are quoted on Lincoln and Cameron yards, as a regular maintenance program was kept on them as well as all MWW facilities. In the mid 90's both facilities were completely remodeled at \$10's or maybe even \$100's of thousand of dollars. This work to my knowledge included a new heating plant, central air in all new and remodeled offices with computer, communication system, alarm and telephone updates. It also included new restrooms with showers. Shop areas had additional floor space and secured storage added with a complete electrical update to the entire building, outside storage and parking yard.

The \$8.9 million quoted for repairs must come from the facilities other than Water. With all the regular maintenance, past remodeling and updates done, these buildings are almost brand new and will work as they are currently being used for many years to come.

At the time of remodeling Lincoln yard was shared with the MWW Pipe Yard Division which stored all materials for the Distribution Division and all new water main construction within the distribution system. The Pipe Yard Division was moved after the remodeling and the entire acreage of the land acquired by the City for it's current tow lot. This move at Lincoln Yard made more office and shop space in the building available for the Distribution Division. If a Distribution facility needs to be built, why not build it on the MWW acreage west of the Howard Avenue Plant near the current MWW Pipe Yard location.

These facilities were built by the Milwaukee Water Works for a large expansion program in the early 60's along with others. Howard Avenue Plant, Grange and Florist Pumping Stations, Greenfield and Florist Storage Tanks and many many miles of large concrete water mains to name a few. With what is being said about the condition of Lincoln and Cameron yards are you going start a replacement program with these others because their condition must be similar. Lets budget more money for replacement, again, another increase to the consumer.

The Professional City of Milwaukee Engineers and Architects that built these concrete and brick structures designed them to last for more than 40 years, this move is an insult to their integrity.

All the information available doesn't show vacated acreage or building footprints, nor does it show acreage or building footprints being acquired or all new construction. Vacating Traser Yards will put the land on the tax roll. With the acquisition of the Automotive Tower land how much is being taken off the tax roll. Also, moving these 435 positions to the new site does not guarantee to make new jobs available to the neighborhood.

Why does the water department need to be involved and have to put up \$10 million when there facilities are of adequate condition and size. Or, if this goes through will the MWW facilities be demolished or acquired again by some other city department that can make do with these 2 buildings that are in need of major repairs as we are told.

Does mixing MWW and City funds separate ownership at time of acquisition or will the City take ownership and MWW have to pay rent. I know City law says everything owned by MWW belongs to the City and thats the law. But, building with MWW funds and later acquire it for City operations is morally wrong.

This MWW funds commingling with City funds and acquisitions of MWW structures by the City puts a higher cost to the MWW consumer which also includes the Milwaukee suburbs. Lets add another line to the water bill. Let's see, we now have a Solid Waste Fee and Snow & Ice Fee, why not call it the Harley Davidson Museum Fee.

I thought things would change after the election, but.

Oh by the way, how is the City going pay to move all the eye sores west of 6th Street.

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