

Show Cause Hearing – August 24, 2006
South Lyons Township Sanitary District
475 West 55th Street
Countryside, IL 60525

Attached is a Sign-in Sheet listing all that were in attendance for the show cause hearing. The purpose of the hearing was to hear concerns and answer questions in relation to the Violations issued to businesses on 9th Avenue.

Attorney King opened the hearing giving a brief history of violations received by SLTSD by MWRD in regard to the infrastructure our Sanitary District and how this in turn, through our rehabilitation program in repairing our sewer lines, we are finding problems related to private owners linked into our system.

Questions posed were as follows:

Can repairs be made only at the point of connection? With the age of the old pipes being clay, we are finding that these old pipes are not holding water and need to be replaced.

Are you finding that every connection on 9th Avenue is at fault? Yes, they will need to be replaced or pressure tested. The MWRD standards requires that every pipe be virtually water tight and pressure tested.

Would you be able to give a per foot price in order to know what the cost would be for each individual? Because each individual has a different problem, bids would have to be given on address by address.

The Mayor suggested setting up a taxing district that would allow people to pay over several years.

The Engineer explained that we have 200-300 defective connection found during these surveys that were taken in 2005 in various areas of the city, whereas the 9th Avenue problem is just a small part of.

Are you going to be repairing the main on 9th Avenue? Once all of the connections are repaired or replaced, then we will have a main with integrity, then we will line the line from manhole to manhole from Plainfield Road to 56th Street.

The mayor reported that their 9th Avenue payment program is put on hold until we have accomplished what we have set out to accomplish.

What is the Scope of the project with the 2-300 laterals? Ultimately the whole district will be done. Right now we are concentrating on the area north of 55th and the area centered on 57th Street, that section that flows west of LaGrange Road because we have a large service area there.

How will you handle individuals that have already have had a full dig from the house to the street? Bring evidence to the sanitary district or would I have to have it re-dug? If the job was done according to specification, there will be no need to re-dig.

Is it possible that your line shifted causing the problem on all of our lines? No, you can see from the video that this is not the case.

Has there been any study by your engineering company as to why these laterals are all defective? It's the material. It's the age of the material. They shift, roots get in them and the materials are not the quality standards of today.

Could you give us some consideration and identify where the pipes are defective and not just assume that the entire pipe needs to be repaired or replace? Will you make that data available to our engineer? I will you a copy of the tape along with a map indicating the location of the laterals.

Could you do something about this 45 day due date. Could you extend it. The 45 day, we feel has already been extended and waived. The board is here to work with everyone.

The video tape showing the defective laterals was viewed by all, while the engineer gave an explanation of what they were looking at.

Why isn't the district responsible for the connections? A permit is given to each property for the right to use the sewer system whether you're building a McDonalds or a home. That connection is yours and you need to maintain it. Not all people in the past did not connect to the sewer back in 1958, some people chose not to connect to the sewer line, but to maintain their septic.

Can we get some relief from the Construction Fees? If we gave relief to all those who request relief from the fees then this is putting the burden on the taxpayers.

Why are the businesses charged \$2,500, while the business owner is charged only \$250? Most of the businesses have more than one line connected to the sewer line whereas a resident only has one line. The inspection fee was set up because of the complexity of most commercial applications are compared to residential.

What part of the burden is MWRD is assuming? MWRD is paying nothing. They are issuing the violations. Unfunded mandates have been issued by the federal government. They started issuing grants in the past, but have since ran out of money, so this full burden is put on the individual community.

We have a line that can be vacated – we don't use it. Each commercial property should have it's own service and inspection manhole. You have a building that is subdivided and your tenant is using the sewer that was built for the building originally. You don't have an inspection manhole. Because we found a defect and you don't have an inspection manhole, you were sited. We have since learned that you are draining everything out and Slitco's operations contributory to you. The question is what standard of operation can be applied to commercial tenant space. It was the engineers view that the violation to them can be waived.

Why can't we line the lateral lines? They do not seal adequately within the lateral lines and the lines have so many irregularities that the lining is not effective and will be causing for the user later. The main lines are straighter, whereas the lateral lines have many problems such as bad plumbers, tree roots, they don't run straight.

What was the difference between Longview and what we are doing now? Years ago it used to be the policy of the district to replace laterals as it was the policy of the city to do things in a more mom & pop fashion. This policy changed in 1996.

What happened with Terry Lane? We found out that because of the water lines, it collapsed our lines and we wanted to get new lines under the streets, we knew a lot of the laterals were bad and we took the responsibility of replacing the laterals at the same time.

What is the possible time-frame on this project? Does this go back 2-3 or four years? Is it possible to get grants for this project? The district has exhausted it's use of loan funds from the EPA and the district doesn't have enough money to assume this burden. Money can not be used from the Motor Fuel Fund.

When do you plan on notifying the residential owners? We plan on doing a section at a time. Until we have our discussion with the city on our plans. We are aiming for the first of the year to begin notifying people.

If I'm in the 10" line do I have to go into the 18" pipe and how do I do it? Yes you have to go into the 18" pipe, you could cut through the 10" pipe and cut into the 18" pipe. There are about 3 residents that will all have to do the same thing which should all coincide together, otherwise once the cut is made, the other people would not have use of the pipe.

At this time, a resolution on how to do this can not be made until the District meets with the City and tries to set up a plan on how to perform this project in the most economical way for everyone.

The mayor suggested that the District seriously consider instituting a special taxing district.

It was decided that a letter will be sent to all of the violation holders a letter informing them that a meeting will be held informing everyone the outcome of this meeting, studies made on all of the violations and that everything is on hold until a plan can be compiled by the District.

When does MWRD want us to complete our repairs in order to come into compliance? They wanted it done last year. We have asked for extensions and with each one they are getting more impatient.

This board will recommend by eventual motion that notices go out to the individuals that you do nothing further until the District meets with the city of Countryside to figure out the possibility on how much it would cost and how that cost will be implemented.