

Officials worry sewer could collapse

Written by CAROL POMEDAY
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Wastewater plant supervisor says emergency repairs needed before sink holes develop on Main Street

The Main Street sewer line that runs from Pierron Street to Dean Road is in such poor condition there is the possibility it could collapse and cause a sink hole in the street, Belgium officials recently learned.

The company that televised the sewer line in preparation for the Main Street reconstruction project scheduled for next spring said the repair cannot wait until then.

Neil Anderson, wastewater treatment supervisor, told the Village Board Monday that the televised report shows three holes in the one-block stretch — the largest one is a foot long and six inches wide.

“It has rotted. If we try to take it up, the sewer is so degraded we will damage it more,” Anderson said.

To do a permanent repair will cost \$80,000, he said.

Anderson recommended the village do a temporary repair for \$12,000 that should last until the spring reconstruction.

Visu-Sewer of Pewaukee has agreed to do the work, but they are busy now, Anderson said.

“We’re on their list and they will notify us when they can do it. It should be in the next few weeks,” Anderson said.

The process involves making a fiberglass sleeve for the pipe, then filling it with an epoxy and using steam or hot water to have the epoxy adhere to the sock, forming a pipe within a pipe, he said.

The sewer line connection to private laterals will be cut while the repair is being done, Anderson said. Although it will take several days to prepare the fiberglass sleeve and epoxy mixture, he said, the lateral cut-offs will only be for a few hours.

“Residents will be notified when it will happen,” Anderson said.

The holes have allowed stormwater to seep into the pipe and get into the wastewater system, Anderson said.

However, he said, sewage did not escape into the soil. The sewage clung to the top of the pipes causing them to deteriorate, he said.

Trustee Vickie Boehnlein asked if the village is required to get bids for the work.

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Normally anything over \$6,000 should be bid, Village Attorney Gerald Antoine said, but bids are not required for emergency situations.

“This is an emergency,” Anderson said. Visu-Sewer is experienced in such repairs and respected in the field, he said.

Antoine suggested the village post a notice that the work is being done and deemed an emergency repair.