



WATER AND SEWER LINE REPAIR POLICY

03-2023

Purpose

To provide a guideline for staff regarding water and sewer line repairs and are subject to any other agreement or resolution of Council. The primary responsibility to address a sewer blockage rests with the property owner.

The property Owner is responsible for the cost of maintenance or repair of the line from the building structure right up to and including the tap connecting to the sewer main, including any blockages, breakages or collapses.

The Town of Pilot Butte is responsible for a failure at the main line, which is owned by the Town of Pilot Butte.

If a blockage originates from the residence or business, the Owner will be responsible for the costs associated with clearing the line. Tree roots, or any other impediments, originating on private property, which affect the pipe's integrity on Town-owned property, are the responsibility of the Owners.

Summary

Sewer line back-ups and blockages can be caused by a variety of issues including but not limited to:

Excessive grease, root infiltration of line, infrequent use (frozen lines), breaks in the lateral sewer line and obstructions. Obstructions may include, but are not limited to: rags/fabric, 'flushable' wipes, household debris, personal hygiene products, and diapers, toys, disinfecting wipes or paper towels. It is the responsibility of the property owner to investigate and arrange for the clearing of blockages as well as the repair to pipe defect on their property. It is the Town's responsibility to repair pipe defect on Town property.

Scope

That Section 25(2) of *The Municipalities Act* provides the following:

As a term of supplying the public utility service to the parcel of land, the council may make the owner of the parcel of land responsible for the costs of the construction, maintenance, repair and replacement of the portion of the service connection from the main line of the system or works to the boundary of the street, road or easement.

And Section 25(3) *The Municipalities Act* provides as follows:

If the council acts pursuant to subsection (2), the costs mentioned in that subsection are an amount owing to the municipality by the owner of the parcel of land.

General Guidelines

1. It is the responsibility of the property owner to maintain the water line to the property line, except for the curb stops. It is the responsibility of the property owner to maintain the sewer line to the sewer main.
2. It is the responsibility of the property owner to contact the Town recommended Plumber (Roto Rooter 306-359-3996) to ensure location of the blockage or break is clearly defined. Video inspection footage will be required. A plumber must video each affected line to determine where the blockage is located.
3. If the camera inspection shows that the problem originated from the Town main line and Water and Wastewater Operations verifies the results of the footage, the property owner shall be advised that it is within their rights to submit the plumber bill to the Town for reimbursement. If the camera inspection shows that the blockage is found to be on the Owner's service line, or originating from the Owner's property, the Owner will be liable for all of the costs incurred.
4. The property owner shall hire a contractor to complete the work on his/her property. The Water and Wastewater Operator will inspect the line before the trench is backfilled to ensure the work meets Town specifications.
5. Replacement or repair of curb stops shall be done by the Town at no cost to the property owner.
6. The Town shall pay the costs of cleaning the sewer main line.
7. The property owner shall pay the costs of cleaning or unplugging the sewer connection to the sewer main.

This policy was adopted January 23, 2023.

Resolution No.: 2023-023

Bylaw No. Reference: None

Legislative Reference: None

Areas of Responsibility: Water and Wastewater