

## Agenda Report

**Subject: Sanitary Sewer Anti-Backup Program: Request for Additional Funding**

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Date: November 23, 2011

In 2006, the Village implemented a cost-sharing program to encourage and assist homeowners to install anti-backup protective systems on their sanitary sewer service lines as a means of reducing the incidences of sanitary sewer backup. Installations of anti-backup devices or conversions to overhead sewer are the only activities eligible under the program, which is limited to unprotected single-family residential buildings. The program contributes 50% of the cost up to \$3,500 (\$5,000 for overhead sewer installations)<sup>1</sup> up to the funding limit set annually by the Village Council when the budget is adopted.

The Village has budgeted \$15,000 each year for this program since its inception, which had been a sufficient amount to cover requests for participation in the program. Interest in the program has increased significantly this year, for two reasons. First, the program has been widely publicized in the aftermath of the July 2011 flood event, and second, the recently increased participation limits have made the program more popular and attractive to residents interested in protecting their basements from flooding. The following table illustrates this increase in popularity.

<b>Year</b>	<b># Inquiries Logged</b>	<b># Requests Processed</b>	<b>Amount Reimbursed</b>	<b>Budget</b>
2006	8	0	\$0	\$15,000
2007	5	3	\$6,500	\$15,000
2008	0	0	\$0	\$15,000
2009	4	4	\$10,000	\$15,000
2010	5	4	\$10,000	\$15,000
2011	22	5 to date (14 pending)	\$19,749*	\$15,000

\* Total outstanding reimbursement requests \$45,450

When the Council increased the program participation limits in September 2011, program funding limits were discussed, and staff indicated that if program requests exceeded budgeted funds, a supplemental request would be made.

Staff has evaluated the status of several projects in the Sewer Fund and proposes allocating an additional \$50,000 to the anti-backup program to cover all requests currently in process. The additional funding would come from savings realized from the

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<sup>1</sup> The participation was recently increased by the Village Council. It had previously been \$2,500.

purchase of the replacement Sewer Cleaner truck, which was budgeted for \$340,000 but purchased for \$291,335. The \$49,665 savings offset this request for additional funding.

**Recommendation:**

Consider authorizing expenditure of an additional \$50,000 on the Sewer Anti-Backup Cost Sharing Program, for a total authorization of \$65,000, for FY 2011-2012.