

Department of Public Works

City Hall
730 Washington Avenue
Racine, Wisconsin 53403
262.636.9121 – Public Works
262.636.9191 - Engineering



John C. Rooney, P.E.
Commissioner of Public Works

Ronald J. Pritzlaff, P.E.
Asst. Comm. of Public Works

June 27, 2024

Legistar Item: XXXX-24

Ald. Mollie Jones, Chairperson
Public Works & Services Committee

Re: Sump Pump Program – Phase 2

Dear Alder Jones:

In December 2023 the Common Council approved Contract 2023278 with P&M Mechanical for the installation of 70 sump pumps for Phase 1 of the Sump Pump Program (SPP). As you know, part of the City of Racine's approved plan for reducing peak flow at the Racine Wastewater Treatment Plant is to install approximately 2,000 sump pumps in the next 7 years. This work, with other measures, will ensure this reduction as required by the Racine Wastewater Utility Board of Commissioners.

On 4/30/2024, the contract for Phase 2 was received and filed by this committee due to no bids being received. After checking with the plumbing contractors, it appears that the process of prequalification and bonding is too large of an obstacle to bid on large public works projects. Based on this, and the fact that the City must work towards our peak flow reduction with sump pumps, we have decided to pursue Phase 2 in a different manner.

Phase 2 will be a program initiated by the property owner. It is designed to minimize staff time and allows the property owner to simply apply for the SPP online or in-person at the Customer Service Department. The SSP program is eligible for any property owner, provided they do not have an existing sump pump, are not delinquent on property tax payments, and have no open NED orders for code violations. The SPP program follows these basic steps:

1. Apply for the program through an online portal or in person at Customer Service.
2. Applicants are checked to see if they are eligible based on the criteria described above.
3. Applicants are notified if eligible or not eligible, and if eligible they get an *application number* and can contact the plumber of their choice to inspect their property to see if a sump pump can physically be installed. Any inspection fee required by the plumber is the responsibility of the property owner and may be applied towards payment by the City if the sump pump can be installed. If the sump pump cannot be installed, the property owner is responsible for any inspection fee required by a plumber.
4. If sump pump can be installed, the plumber gets the necessary permit and the *application number* is linked to *reservation number*, which ensures that the plumber gets paid directly by the City after the installation has been approved by the Building Department.
5. Plumber submits Building Department approval with *reservation number* to the Department of Public Works for payment in MUNIS.

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The maximum amount of payment to the plumber is \$5,000 and can include the cost for permits, inspection fees, sump pump materials & installation, and any electrical work required by the Building Department. Any work needed that exceeds \$5,000 will be a private transaction between the property owner and plumber.

Funding is available in Org-Obj 40101-57560, Sanitary Sewer Surcharge. This program will be limited to the amount of funding made available annually in the budget approved by the Common Council. If the committee agrees, the appropriate action would be to authorize the Commissioner of Public Works to proceed with the Sump Pump Program – Phase 2.

Sincerely,

John C. Rooney, P.E.
Commissioner of Public Works

Cc: Mayor Cory Mason
Jim Sullivan
Kathleen Fischer
Dan Kirchenberg
Ron Pritzlaff
Ara Molitor