

## **City of Hartford Sewer Lateral Replacement Fund Policy**

As per Resolution #3500, adopted by the City of Hartford Common Council on 3/13/18, a Sewer Lateral Replacement Fund has been established to help reimburse property owners for a portion of the cost associated with the replacement of sewer laterals within the City.

The property owner is responsible for contracting for all services required to replace the sewer lateral. All cost associated with the sewer lateral replacement would legally be the responsibility of the property owner and all invoices should be sent to the property owner. The property owner or their contractor is also responsible for any costs associated with obtaining all required permits.

In order to receive reimbursement, a property owner must complete an application explaining why the sewer lateral needs to be replaced. The maximum total reimbursement available will be 30% or \$3,500.00, whichever is less, for replacement of the entire lateral per property owner. The application must be approved by a majority vote of the City Council's Utilities Committee before any funds are released to the property owner. Each year there will be a budget of \$35,000.00 for this sewer lateral replacement program. In the event funds are remaining in this account at the end of the year, those funds will be carried forward and added to the next budget year of \$35,000.00. In the event all funds are used in any budget year, property owners can still apply for the reimbursement and will be included in the next budget year.

Following approval of the application by the Utilities Committee, the Finance Director is authorized to release funds. The property owner must provide photocopies of itemized invoices, along with a Lien Waiver, for all work completed before funds can be released. Costs in excess of the maximum total reimbursement amount of \$3,500.00 are the responsibility of the property owner.

The sewer lateral need not be obstructed for the property owner to apply for reimbursement from the Sewer Lateral Replacement Fund. Property owners who are aware that their sewer lateral is in poor condition, or who believe that failure is imminent may apply before the work is actually scheduled.

The City Of Hartford reserves the right to refuse reimbursement if it can be determined that blockage of the sewer lateral resulted directly from negligence of any persons other than City of Hartford employees or their designees. "Negligence" includes but is not limited to a failure blockage caused by foreign objects or items improperly flushed down a toilet, or damage to the sewer lateral caused by excavation or the improper use of chemicals or equipment. Failures or blockages that result from normal age-related deterioration of the pipe and the resulting infiltration of soil or tree roots are eligible for reimbursement.

The City of Hartford requires that to be eligible for reimbursement, the Entire Sewer Lateral must be replaced both within the public right-of-way, and on private property. A City designee (either the City Engineer or Sewer Utility Director) may authorize reimbursement if either

determines, upon inspection or review, that total replacement of the sewer lateral is not warranted. A written report detailing how such a determination was reached shall be completed by the City designee, and shall be attached to the application prior to reimbursement

The City of Hartford reserves the right to limit the number of applications approved each year based on the funds available.