

**BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS AND SAFETY**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2024-R-1**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS AND SAFETY FOR THE  
CITY OF SCOTTSBURG APPROVING POLICY REGARDING THE OPERATION  
OF MAINTENANCE OF PRIVATE SEWER LATERALS**

WHEREAS, the City of Scottsburg, Indiana (the "City") owns and operates a sanitary sewage Utility works (the "Utility") for purposes of collection and treatment of wastewater;

WHEREAS, the Board of Works of the City of Scottsburg (the "Board") has been authorized to supervise and control the Utility;

WHEREAS, it is the policy of the Board to maintain all of its existing wastewater system facilities on a regular basis to minimize the opportunity for accidental discharges or spillage of wastewater;

WHEREAS, the City provides wastewater collection services to various parcels of property within the City, which are connected to the City's system by lateral sewers from improvements on the parcel;

WHEREAS, the board wishes to take all measures possible to broaden the areas of responsibilities to further minimize the risk of wastewater spills; and

WHEREAS, the Board desires to clarify that the ownership and maintenance of lateral sewers is that of the owners and occupants of the property, to the point of connection with the Utility's collection system.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF WORKS OF THE CITY OF SCOTTSBURG, THAT:

1. The Board hereby approves its Policy Regarding the Operation and Maintenance of Private Sewer Laterals (the "Policy") in substantially final form as attached hereto as Exhibit A.
2. The Board hereby authorizes the Operator of the Utility to finalize the Policy and take any actions necessary to enforce the Policy.

Passed and adopted by the City on October 9, 2024 by a vote of 3 in favor and 0 opposed, by the Board of Public Works and Safety of the City of Scottsburg, Scott County, Indiana.

  
TERRY AMICK, Mayor  
Presiding Officer

ATTEST:

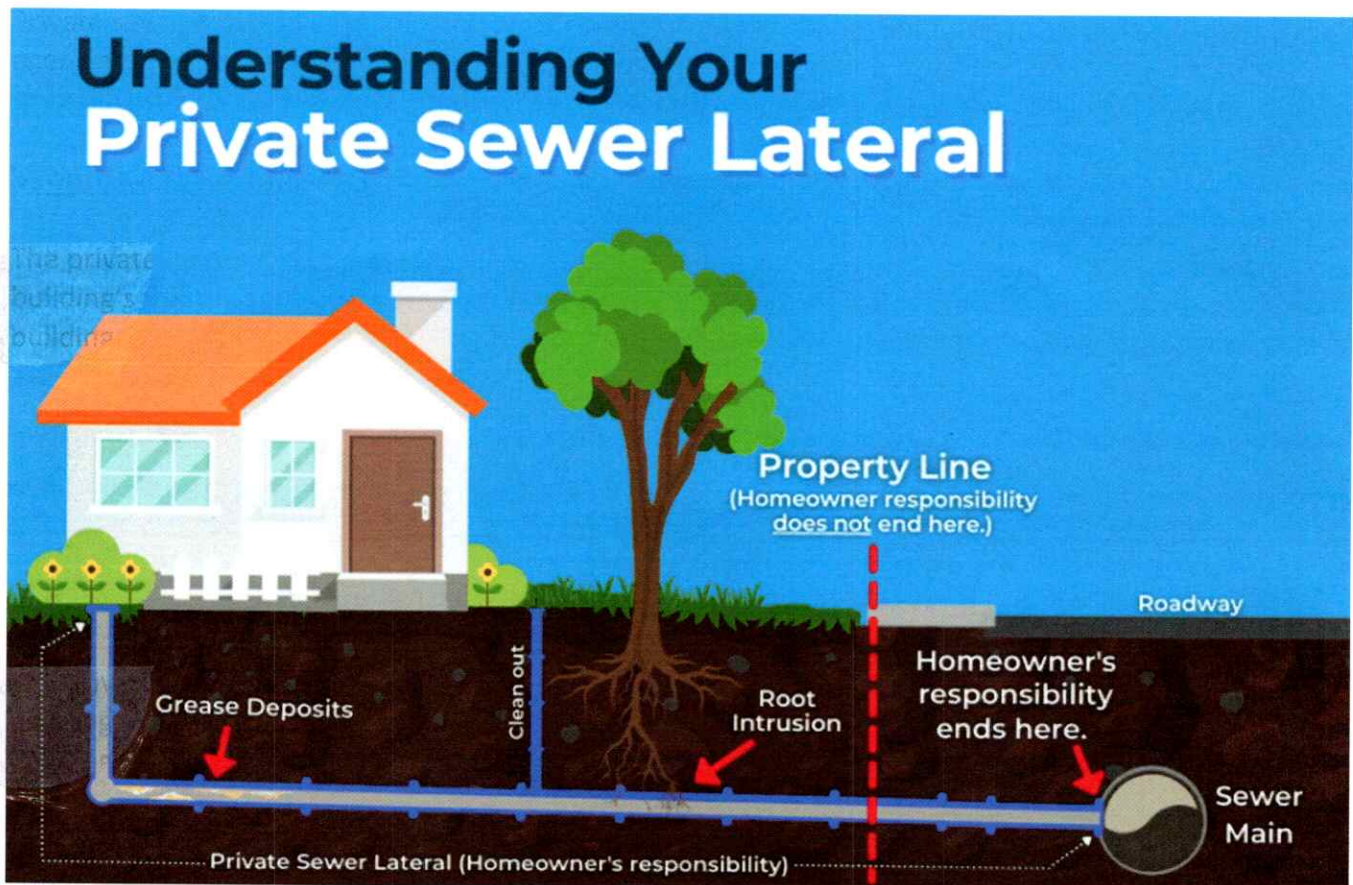
  
JANETTA C. HARDY, CLERK-TREASURER

## City of Scottsburg Policy Regarding the Ownership and Maintenance of Private Sewer Laterals

Private sewer service laterals, which typically are not under the jurisdiction of public wastewater agencies, are not always sufficiently maintained and can contribute to inflow and infiltration (I/I) problems, cause blockages and play a role in sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs).

### What is a private sewer lateral?

The private sewer service lateral (also known as a private lateral) is a pipe that takes an individual building's wastewater to the public sewer main in the street. These private laterals are owned by the building owner and are essential for directing wastewater away from homes/businesses and into the collection and treatment system. (See Diagram Below)



### **Who is responsible for private sewer laterals?**

The entire private lateral is owned and maintained by the property owner. The transition from upper to lower lateral may be defined by the property line or a cleanout near the property line, sometimes located in or at the edge of a sidewalk. The City of Scottsburg is required by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management to manage and maintain the public portion of wastewater systems to eliminate the likelihood of sanitary sewer overflows. Regular maintenance of city-owned sewer lines typically includes scheduled cleaning, inspection and rehabilitation or replacement of defective lines to make them structurally sound and watertight. However, no similar statewide program exists for property owners to regularly clean, inspect and otherwise maintain the private laterals. Most often, property owners only attend to laterals in cases of complete stoppages or emergency failure.

### **Why are unmaintained sewer laterals cause for concern?**

Many older homes still rely on original sewer laterals that over time have become cracked, disjointed or damaged by roots, earth settlement or grease blockages. Unmaintained private laterals that become blocked or fail can contribute to SSOs of the public sewer system or to sewage backups into the building served by the private lateral. Some of the causes for concern for unmaintained private laterals are described below:

- Root intrusion into the private lateral can contribute to SSOs in two ways. One way is that extra water can enter the sewer system through cracks in private laterals created by roots. This extra groundwater and storm water seeps in or “infiltrates” the public sewer mains, with the potential to cause wastewater collection and treatment system overloads such as SSOs. The other way is when a plumber cleans out a lateral blocked by roots, the plumber sometimes will push the root mass into the public sewer main. This mass can then cause a blockage in the public sewer main, cause wastewater to back up and result in an SSO.
- Earth settlement that results in cracks and leaks in the private lateral allows for the “inflow” of groundwater into the private lateral. This additional groundwater flows into the public sewer main, increases the wastewater flow in the collection system and has the potential to overload the system, creating SSOs.
- If roof drains, irrigation drains and driveway drains are connected (illegally) to the private lateral, this increases the “infiltration” of groundwater, rain water and inflow into the public sewer system, which can lead to system overloads.
- Grease build-up in the private lateral (like plaque in a person’s artery) can cause blockages that potentially result in on-site SSOs or backups of wastewater into the building that is served by the blocked private lateral.
- The combination of inflow and infiltration from private laterals, across a wide area (neighborhoods or commercial districts), can significantly increase the wastewater flow in the public sewer main and to the treatment plant. Infiltration and inflow from private laterals can be the major source of SSOs in some communities.

**How should property owners manage their sewer lateral?**

Property owners should inspect their private lateral upon property transfer and then at least once every 5 to 10 years to determine if it is defective or if a blockage is building up in the line. If problems exist, a plumber or contractor should be hired to correct the problem.

**Notification to the City**

Property owners are required to notify the City of Scottsburg's wastewater department if they have had a blockage in their private lateral and their plumber cleared the blockage by pushing the debris into the City's mainline. Please contact the City at (812) 752-4343, extension 1 within 24 hours of the private lateral blockage being cleared.