

June 30, 2015 **Notice of New Ordinance Sump Pumps Are Mandatory**

UTILITY CUSTOMERS OF THE CITY OF OWEN. PLEASE BE AWARE OF THE NEW ORDINANCE PASSED ON JUNE 23, 2015 BY THE OWEN CITY COUNCIL. ALL CUSTOMERS WILL RECEIVE A COPY OF THE ORDINANCE ALONG WITH THEIR JUNE 30, 2015 UTILITY BILL. PLEASE NOTE THAT THE OWEN PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT WILL BEGIN CONDUCTING INSPECTIONS LATER THIS YEAR. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CALL CITY HALL AT 715-229-2404 OR email: [terriernst@cityofowen.com](mailto:terriernst@cityofowen.com)

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June 30, 2015

Attention: Utility Customers

The City of Owen has adopted the following ordinance that requires all customers connected to City Water and Sewer to have a Sump Pump installed. This mandatory ordinance brings us up to code with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

WHEREAS, THE City Council of Owen, Wisconsin finds that the discharge of water from any surface, groundwater sump pump, roofs, yards, lawns, streets, alleys, footing tile, or other natural precipitation into the sanitary sewer contributes to the flooding and overloading of the sanitary sewer system. Such overloading of the sanitary sewer system may result in sewage flowing into basements and/or residences and businesses, creating hazardous public health conditions and significant damage to properties. The City, therefore, determines that this ordinance is necessary to protect the health, safety, and welfare of its citizens through the regulation of connections to the City's sanitary sewer system.

Sec. 9-2-5 (a) PROHIBITED DISCHARGES. Except as otherwise expressly authorized in this Section, no ponds, water fountains, water from any roof, surface, groundwater sump pump, swimming pool, or other natural precipitation shall be discharged into the sanitary sewer system. Dwellings and other buildings and structures which require, because of infiltration of water into basements, crawl spaces, and the like, a sump pump discharge system shall have a permanently installed discharge line which shall not at any time discharge water into a sanitary sewer system. A permanent installation shall be one which provides for your round discharge capability to either the outside of the dwelling, building, or structure, or is connected to a storm sewer or discharge through the curb and gutter to the street. Within the home or business, the sump pump discharge pipe shall consist of a rigid discharge line, without valves or quick connections, which would alter the path of discharge. However, if the line is directly connected to a storm sewer line or catch basin, a check valve and an air gap are required.

(1) INSPECTIONS. Property owners shall allow an employee of the City or a designated representative of the City to inspect the buildings to confirm that there is no sump pump or other prohibited discharge into the sanitary sewer system. The City may periodically re-inspect any building or premise to determine compliance with the requirements of this ordinance.

(2) REMOVAL OF CONNECTIONS. Any property owner who previously made any connection or installation in violation of this ordinance shall immediately remove such connections or correct such an installation. If not removed or corrected within 30 calendar days after notice of the violation has been delivered personally or by certified mail to the owner, the City may impose a surcharge in the amount provided in Section 4 of this Ordinance. Such a surcharge may also be imposed upon any property owner, after a 30 calendar day notice has been delivered, and if the owner refuses to allow their property to be inspected. The owner of a building or premises found to be not in conformance with this ordinance during periodic re-inspections may be subjected to a surcharge as provided in Section 4 of this Ordinance.

### (3) FOUNDATION DRAIN TILE

Future Homes and Businesses: Groundwater from foundation drain tile for future homes and businesses shall not discharge to the sanitary sewer system. The groundwater shall flow through the tile and drain to a sump basket and shall then be pumped and discharged to the exterior of the structure with the use of a sump pump.

Existing Homes and Businesses: Some existing homes and businesses may have been constructed with groundwater from foundation drain tile discharging to the sanitary sewer. If the connection of the foundation drain tile to the sanitary sewer pipe is on the exterior of the home, the connection will be considered grandfathered and disconnection will not be required. If the connection of the foundation drain tile to the sanitary sewer pipe system is on the interior of the home or business, the connection is considered "not in compliance" and the owner is required to correct the improper connection. Any connection considered "not in compliance" shall abide by the sections contained in the ordinance.

(4) PENALTY. A penalty of up to \$500 per month is hereby imposed on every sewer bill to property owners for the following conditions:

1.) not in compliance with this ordinance 2.) refusal of property inspection

(5) PROCESS OF NOTIFICATION.

1.) 30 days are given to comply from date of notification letter. City will re-inspect. 2.) If not in compliance after 30 days, a penalty will be imposed.

3.) If not in compliance after another 30 days, this will be considered an Ordinance Violation and the Owen Police Dept. will issue a penalty with Clark County Clerk of Courts. All court costs will be imposed to the property owner.

(6) NON-PAYMENT OF PENALTY. If the surcharge is not received by the City of Owen, the City reserves the right to assess the property owner the unpaid balance.

(7) EFFECTIVE DATE. This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and publication.

A MOTION WAS PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 23rd day of June, 2015.

Your cooperation during this inspection time will be greatly appreciated.

Erik Stinson  
Director of Public Works