



# GRAND RAPIDS PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM

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**AGENDA DATE:** February 9, 2022

**AGENDA ITEM:** Consider a motion to order the preparation of plans, specifications, and bid package and authorize the advertisement of competitive bids for the televising of our wastewater collection system.

**PREPARED BY:** Steve Mattson, Water/Wastewater Manager

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## **BACKGROUND:**

This project is part of the approved Wastewater operations and maintenance budget for 2022.

The televising of the wastewater collection system is essential for the proper maintenance of our system, but it is also needed in order for GRPUC to obtain no-fault sewer backup coverage through the League of Minnesota Cities Insurance Trust. We submitted our application for this coverage last year and are partially through the underwriting, essentially waiting on the completion of the televising requirement.

As a reminder, this insurance coverage will reimburse a property owner for cleanup costs and damages resulting from a city sewer backup or from a city water main break, irrespective of whether the backup was caused by city negligence.

The no-fault sewer backup coverage option is intended to:

- Reduce health hazards by encouraging property owners to cleanup backups as quickly as possible.
- Reduce the frequency and severity of sewer backup lawsuits.
- Give cities a way to address the sticky political problems that can arise when a property owner learns the city and LMCIT won't reimburse for sewer backup damages because the city wasn't negligent and therefore not legally liable.

The budgetary cost for the televising work is \$500,000 and considered a major purchase in our Procurement Policy G.030 and therefore requires GRPUC approval prior to the solicitation of bids.

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

Consider a motion to order the preparation of plans, specifications, and bid package and authorize the advertisement of competitive bids for the televising of our wastewater collection system.