

Memo

To: Finance Committee

From: Jim Bergner

Re: Innovation Drive Investigation

Investigation of Possible Main Break – Innovation Drive

Sunday, January 14

During snow removal, the Water Department's on-call operator was called out on Sunday, January 14, for a possible break on Innovation Dr. Due to heavy snow and an extreme cold temperature, I allowed the operator to isolate the area by shutting down the main since no one would be affected by this action. If this procedure worked, we would then have a general idea where the break may be.

Monday, January 15

Crew members investigated the area and noted water was still flowing in the asphalt driveway approach with the addition of water filling the field to the north and east. Water was also noted east of the new building and an ice dam was beginning to form in the driveway approach. We checked the water service to the building for a possible leak but were unable to hear anything. We also ran chlorine and fluoride tests hoping that if the test results showed a residual we knew a break was there or close by. Due to the discolored water the test sample(s) had to be and were filtered to get an accurate result. Test results came back with no detection of chlorine or fluoride but water was still flowing under the ice that started to build up. My lead operator brought out equipment to remove the ice dam and also salted the area heavily. It was determined to call out a company who specializes in locating leaks.

Thursday, January 18

American Leak Locators arrived and were informed on the issue at hand and what the Water Department had already done. With the help of water department crew members, water main valves were opened to try and locate the break. Upon their investigation, no leak was found and it was determined to leave the valves open to keep the system looped and keep monitoring the flow of water.

During the next few days snow and ice melted quickly due to warmer temperatures and the flow of water increased. We did keep an open mind that it may still be a break, but unlikely. We ran a few more water tests for fluoride and even though they came back negative, I decided to call the company back to check for leaks again but this time we expanded our search further south and north.

Thursday, January 25

With the knowledge that the break may be coming from a greater distance, since the City of Whitewater has lime rock throughout, I had the crew isolate the main further upstream at Howard and Bluff Rd. American Leak Locators arrived and tested further upstream with the

help of two water department crew members. After a few hours of searching it was determined that we did not have a water main break. We opened all valves again and kept on monitoring.

Monday February 5

No water was running in the area where first noticed.