

BOROUGH OF BALDWIN

ORDINANCE NO. 844

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF BALDWIN, COUNTY OF ALLEGHENY, COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, AMENDING BOROUGH ORDINANCE NO. 606, REQUIRING PRIVATE SEWER LATERAL LINE TESTING BY VIDEO CAMERA INSPECTION UPON SALE OR TRANSFER OF IMPROVED AND SEWERED REAL PROPERTY AND AUTHORIZING THE PROMULGATION OF REASONABLE RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE OPERATION AND ENFORCEMENT OF THE VIDEO CAMERA INSPECTION REQUIREMENT.

WHEREAS, the Pennsylvania Sewage Facilities Act as amended, 35 P.S. § 750.1 et seq. requires that the Borough of Baldwin cause to be made such inspections and tests that may be necessary to carry out the provisions of said act to eliminate storm water and surface water from entering into the sanitary sewer system operated by the Borough of Baldwin; and

WHEREAS, the Borough is desirous of eliminating storm and surface water from entering into the sanitary sewer system; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Baldwin Council has determined that for the health, safety and welfare of the residents of the Borough of Baldwin, it is necessary to implement a requirement of certification that there are not illegal storm water or surface water connections to the sanitary sewers and that no ground water is entering private lateral sewer lines prior to the sale of such real estate within the Borough through the issuance of Lien letters; and

WHEREAS, the Borough is desirous of establishing certain fees and procedures for the issuance of Lien letters; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Council has, on May 15, 1989, previously adopted Ordinance No. 606 which sets out general procedures for obtaining a document of certification before the sale of any real property within the Borough of Baldwin; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Baldwin, pursuant to the Administrative Consent Orders issued to all eighty-three (83) communities that discharge sewage into the ALCOSAN System has completed the mandated testing of homes and businesses for down spouts, area drains and other potential direct access points that could allow rain water to enter the system, the Borough's findings to date show that a significant portion of the private lateral lines tested, especially those clay sewers constructed in the 1970's, have defects such as cracks, root intrusion, and open joints that may allow ground water to enter the system; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Baldwin desires to minimize overflow events through a system by which, as part of the authority's mandated inspection program, private sewer lateral lines would be inspected with video cameras to determine whether such lateral have defects such that ground water may be allowed to enter the private lateral and thus the sanitary sewer system.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED AND ENACTED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Baldwin, in meeting assembled, and it is hereby ordained and enacted by and with the Authority of the same as follows:

1. The term "video camera inspection" shall be added as a defined term to Section 1 of Borough Ordinance 606, enacted on May 15, 1989, and shall hereby have the following definition:

Video Camera Inspection: Any commonly accepted method of testing whereby a video camera is inserted into and travels throughout the private lateral sewer line of real property to determine if any illegal storm water, ground water, or surface water is entering the sanitary sewer system.

2. As part of the Document of Certification Application process, outlined in Sections 2, 3, 4 and 5 of Ordinance 606, in addition to the dye test performed by a plumber registered and licensed by the Allegheny County Health Department, the Borough of Baldwin does hereby require a video camera inspection of the private sewer lateral performed by a plumber registered and licensed by the ACHD.

3. When, as a result of a video camera inspection, it is determined that there is a defect in the private lateral whereby storm water, surface water, or ground water is being allowed to flow into the private lateral, no Document of Certification will be executed until the private lateral line is repaired and certification of such repair is certified by a plumber registered and licensed by the ACHD.

4. The Borough is hereby empowered to make reasonable rules and regulations for the operation and enforcement of the video camera inspection requirement. All rules and regulations issued pursuant to this Section shall be in writing.

5. This Ordinance shall not preclude the Borough from requiring video camera inspections or other inspections of the "private systems" for the purpose of locating defective piping which would allow surface or ground water to enter the system.

6. Repeals. Any ordinance or part of ordinance conflicting with the provisions of this Ordinance be and the same is hereby repealed to the extent of said conflict.

7. This Ordinance shall be effective thirty days after enactment.

ORDAINED AND ENACTED INTO LAW, this 20th day of March, 2012.

ATTEST:

BOROUGH OF BALDWIN



Borough Manager

By: 
David Depretis, President of Council

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Examined and approved this 20th day of

Borough Solicitor

March, 2012.

Alexander Bennett, Mayor

ORDINANCE 844 OF 2012
Requiring Private Sewer Lateral Line Testing
by Video Camera Inspection
Upon Sale or Transfer of Ownership

PROCEDURES AND REGULATIONS

On March 20, 2012, the Baldwin Borough Council unanimously adopted Ordinance 844. The Ordinance provides the legal framework from which the Borough will require the video camera inspection of private sewer laterals. The purpose of this document is to identify the procedures that homeowners must follow, and to provide further technical assistance to support the implementation of this Ordinance.

- I. Video Camera Inspection shall be completed on a property at the time of sale/transfer of ownership, or upon the refinancing of a property where a sanitary sewer certificate is required.

- II. Video Camera Inspection will typically be completed from the building to the main sewer. During the video camera inspection, the property owner's plumber or agent hired to perform inspection shall utilize water injection into the ground in the vicinity of the sanitary sewer lateral to determine if leakage is present.

- III. During the performance of the video camera inspection, the NASSCO Pipe Assessment Standards must be used to determine pipe defects. Any structural defects found to have a Level 3 or higher shall be deemed a failure. Any visual leakage Level 2 or higher shall be deemed a failure. Multiple Level 2 structural defects (greater than 2 in number per 50 feet of lateral pipe) in a given lateral may also be deemed a failure.

- IV. If a failure exists, it is the requirement of the property owner to replace/reline the private sewer lateral at their own expense. Work shall be done in accordance with the Allegheny County Plumbing Code and these Rules and Regulations. Inspection of all work shall be completed by Allegheny County and the Borough of Baldwin. Any fees pertaining to these inspections shall be the responsibility of the homeowner. All work must be completed within thirty (30) days of the deemed failure unless a time extension is granted by the Borough. After the repairs are completed, a re-inspection must be scheduled.

- V. The Video Camera Inspection of private sewer laterals will be required to receive a Sanitary Sewer Certificate from the Borough. Sanitary Sewer Certificates are valid for a five (5) year time period.