

## Michele McPherson

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**From:** Jennifer Edison <JEdison@wsbeng.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 25, 2024 2:26 PM  
**To:** azlynnjohnson@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** FW: Flooded basement

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Good afternoon, Lynn,

Thank you for your email. This information has been under review by City staff as well as the consulting engineering staff. While I completely understand the circumstances that your family had to undergo, I do want to recognize that we do not believe it was the negligence of the contractor that caused the crack in your sewer service. The contractor did locate the crack in a 90-degree bend that was causing the back up, and we determined the crack was well beyond the limits of disturbance that was made when the temporary connection of your service to the main line was made. The location of this bend was outside the limits of both the current project construction as well as the work from CenterPoint Energy.

The City recognizes the special circumstances of your situation and will agree to reimburse your family for expenses listed below in the amount of \$1,931.77.

The administrator is out of office for the next couple weeks, but when she returns, she will work on completing this reimbursement. Please let me know if you have any questions. Thanks!

Jenn

Jennifer Edison, PE  
Senior Project Manager



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**From:** Lynn Johnson <[azlynnjohnson@yahoo.com](mailto:azlynnjohnson@yahoo.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 10, 2024 4:11 PM  
**To:** Mark Osborn <[MOsborn@wsbeng.com](mailto:MOsborn@wsbeng.com)>  
**Subject:** Flooded basement

**EXTERNAL EMAIL**

Attn: Mike Osborn,  
Director of Geotechnical Services at WSB

I understand that WSB is the company doing the project in Princeton MN from 12th Street to Rum River Drive and that you are in charge of the project. I am emailing you regarding a flood that happened in our home during construction. This problem had affected our water, sewage and drainage system and the welfare of our children.

On Fri June 28th I found that the basement was flooded with water 2" deep in the hallway. I went to the laundry room and found that the main drain was flowing water across the floor and leaching into the wall, the trim and flooding the hallway. I grabbed towels to sop it up and I called for help. We had sheet rock leaning against the hallway wall and there was at least 2" of water covering the bottom of it. When help arrived we got the sheet rock placed on boards on the other side of the hallway. We continued to soak up water with towels, started a dehumidifier, 3 fans and wet vacuumed the flow of water coming up from the drain onto the floor.

We called the city of Princeton and informed them of the problem and asked what to do. We were instructed to inform the men at the job site, which we did.

Jacob, project inspector, came over and we told him what happened and showed him the main drain. He took a picture of the drain then left. He came back later saying that they had only worked 8' from the street into our property and said that after inspection he saw no problem on his end and stated that it was our problem. He then asked me if anything like this has ever happened before and I answered, "no."

We called my son, who was working in St Paul, and told him about what happened and what Jacob had said so he left work and came home.

Later on in the day Jacob returned again saying that they found 2 root balls and they removed them and said that "we probably have a root problem." Granted, this was late on Friday afternoon and we didn't know what to do. We couldn't run water, flush toilets, wash clothes, do dishes, take baths, etc. as every drain and toilet would back up.

We called plumbers asking for service that day but, no one could make it over. One company scheduled an appointment on Saturday and at 5pm they called and cancelled saying they were stuck at another job. We called "Dean's Plumbing" and scheduled an appointment on Sunday. Sam showed up after 5pm and snaked the drain and used a grinder extending 100 feet from the house. He said nothing came back from the grinding implement and there was nothing else he could do. He left at 830 pm and informed us that a speciality plumber, from would come back tomorrow.

The plumber came on Monday and said that his camera went 140 feet and he found that the line was blocked with sand and he could go no further. He also told us that this was the responsibility of the city of Princeton and/or the construction companies. The plumber went to the job site and spoke with

the subcontractor and the city representative and informed them of his evaluation.

We have 3 young boys, a 16 year old daughter and 3 adults living in our home.

We have been washing dishes outside using pails and the hose, using plastic bags in our toilets, or going to restaurants or gas stations to use the restroom and the children have had to use the hose or kiddie pool to bathe for 4 days. I could go on about this but, I'm sure you understand the situation. We did get a room at a local motel on Monday evening so that we could bathe the boys. Jacob came to the house to speak with Cody at 9:30pm Monday saying that the problem had been resolved.

I've enclosed invoices and the evaluation from Dean's Plumbing, the AmericInn and cost of the sheet rock. Also, Cody has missed 2 & 1/2 days of work. The plumber and motel invoices have been paid by my son and wife which has put a burden on their monthly budget.

Anyhow, this has been a very stressful situation and a real inconvenience and we are worried that there may be a possibility of mold in the future. We assumed the responsibility based on what Jacob had told us and we understood it to be true. We now know that there was negligence on the contractor, subcontractor or the city. As of now we have not heard from anyone.

We are requesting compensation for:

Dean's Plumbing @ 886.05

AmericInn @ 193.72

Loss of work @ 740.00

8 pieces of sheet rock @ 112.00

Total: 1931.77

Thank you and we look forward to hearing from you.

Cody & Cecelia Hallerman  
605 12th St N Princeton MN  
Lynn Marie Johnson @azlynnjohnson@yahoo.com

Sent from my iPhone