

David Fern

06/29/2005 05:42 PM

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Subject: Re: Az League of Cities and Towns/ HB 2256

Beth,

I did get a hold of Paul Ward after you called yesterday, who could not commit to including this matter on the "formal" agenda, but did note I could bring the matter up as a general discussion item as always, and I've included committee members on the distribution so they are aware of the details on this matter before the meeting. I've got copies of Scottsdale and Mesa Standards (City of Scottsdale Detail # 2440 and Mesa Detail M-24) I'll distribute for committee consideration in developing a standardized detail at the upcoming July meeting. The one that Scottsdale uses appears to be the simplest fix to comply with this new blue stake regulation, based on information below.

If anyone wishes to attend, the address is 302 N. 1st Ave, we meet on the second floor in the Cholla Room starting at 1:30 pm, July 6th, and the price of admission is a business card, so "pending" new chair person can include appropriate information in the meeting minutes.

Will advise all of outcome.

Let me know if you have questions/concerns/etc.

Thanks

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Elizabeth Huning

Elizabeth Huning

06/29/2005 09:13 AM

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Subject: Az League of Cities and Towns/ HB 2256

Yesterday, Kim Neill and I attended a League meeting with Patrice Kraus to discuss the ramifications of the recently passed Housebill 2256 that requires us to install all new sanitary sewer services with a

detectible underground location device and that all new services beginning on January 1, 2006 be bluestaked and installed with this device.

## **HISTORY**

This bill was initiated this year by the utilities, primarily Southwest Gas. Southwest Gas met with us earlier this year and said they were going to pursue it at a larger scale. When they met with us earlier, they indicated they were primarily concerned with the gravity sewer connections, not the pressure water, rec water connections. They explained that they had a situation at a mobile home park in Phoenix where they bored thru a sewer service without knowing it, then the home owner had the sewer routed as it had plugged. This broke the gas line, gas went back up the line and filled the house. They also mentioned about 6 cases of this happening in Nevada. Southwest Gas has taken to video taping sewers to find the services, but they are finding it costly. They pursued this bill based on a public safety concern and the point that who is better suited to mark the services than the utility owner. This argument played well. They initially attempted to pass a bill that required that all services be bluestaked when someone was going to dig. (According to Todd L., the City currently has 64,875 services) The League was able to diffuse the bill by limiting it to only those services that will be installed after January 1, 2006. My understanding is that the full bill was only narrowly defeated in committee and the bill was then revised to the current version. According to the League, we were able to get some support to do this, but the message back was get with the industry and work this out. My understanding is that the League also believes that it will be difficult to continue to limit it, that we need to work with the utilities to find an equitable way to cover our costs of locating and marking the sewer connections.

## **GO FORWARD**

Some of the cities have already begun standard detail changes to address the new law. Mesa has developed a spec to install electronic ball markers with new services. Scottsdale, however, believes that the balls will be dug up and/or will fail or be broken over time. They want a more positive means of locating. So, their detail will require that a cleanout be installed at the ROW line in a meter box. They have the location of the sewer tap at the main line from the videos and the meter box provides them a surface fixed point at the other end of the line. Their detail will be available in July from Doug Mann. I like Scottsdale's idea as it is a reliable "hard pipe" solution. Cleanouts sometimes get buried, but Chris Hines said that you can get some cleanout covers with a metal piece in them so they are locatable. However, it is unclear if this meets the letter of the law and may have to be addressed in a cleanup bill.

Some other info the other cities provided regarding locating existing services. Scottsdale has 80,000 services with only about 15,000 left to install. They have talked to Propipe. They have a technology where they can run a camera down the mainline and then a secondary camera up each service for 90 feet. The initial capital outlay to just locate the existing services is around \$3,000,000. Then, they would have the added expense of marking them for every bluestake call and they do not have the staff or the ongoing budget to do this. Phoenix has 380,000 plus or minus services. Their estimate from Propipe for initial location was \$14,000,000. One option is to consider opening franchise fee discussions again and requiring Southwest Gas and other utilities to cover these costs. It might be possible to contract out the location and continued marking and collect additional fees to cover the costs.

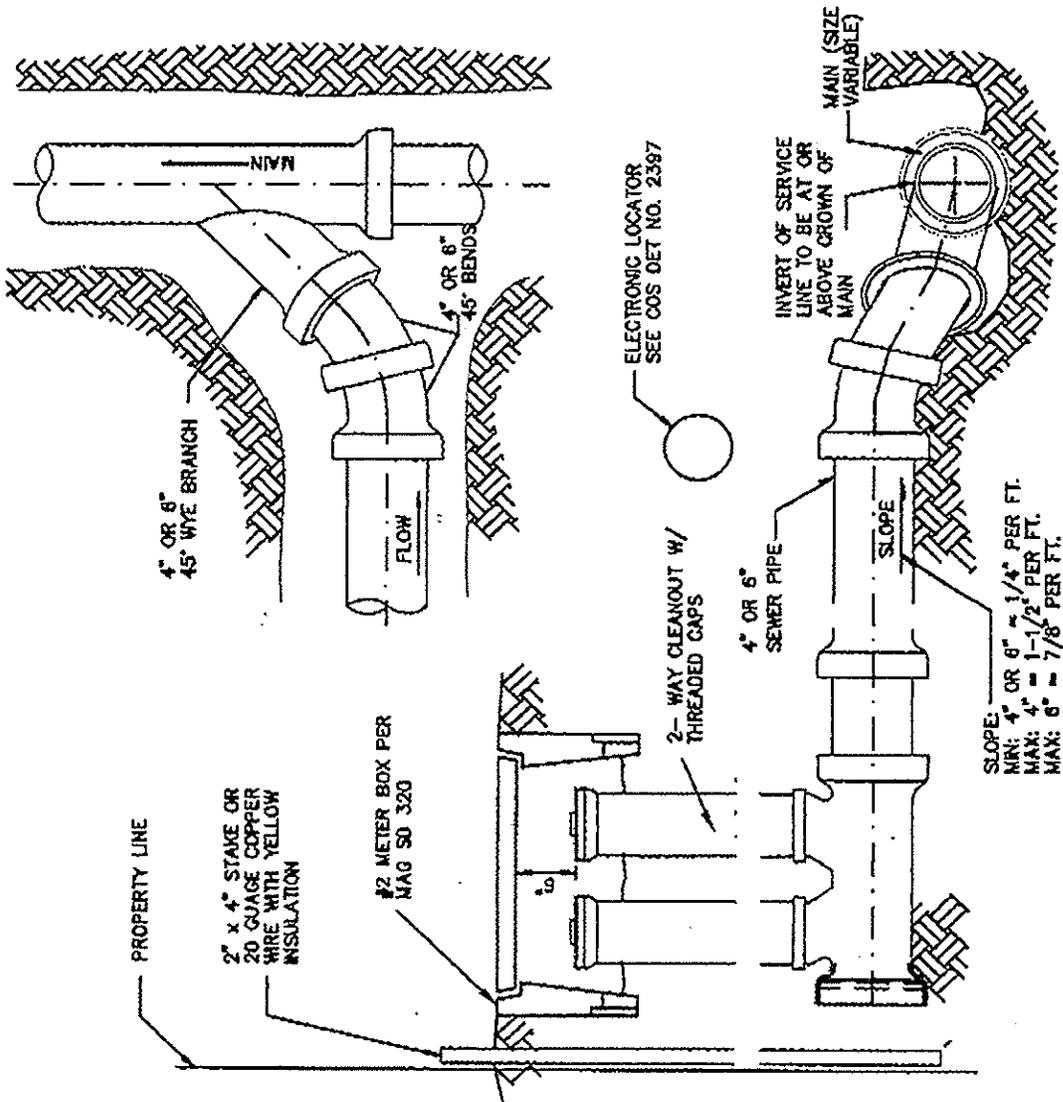
Phoenix also mentioned they are concerned about utilities blindly boring in the ROW. If they are boring thru services, the utility could also be faced with Sanitary Sewer Overflow (SSO) violations. Some felt we need to require utilities to tighten up their boring requirements. It wasn't clear to me how we would tighten them. Don Hawkes from Tempe talked about how the corporation commission requires Southwest Gas and some of the other utilities to pothole and leave the potholes open while the bore tool crosses the utility. But, this does not apply to all utilities. Another option to discuss with the utilities would be to change the boring requirements.

And, finally, a discussion was held regarding the need to put together an adhoc group to develop a standard detail for how to install detectable devices on new services. Phoenix asked for a smaller committee of the group present, however, Chandler suggested that we use the MAG Standards and

Details committee. I have found that the Association of General Contractors (AGC) and the Homebuilders' Association (HBA) get pretty upset when each community or specialty group is out there doing their own thing. They routinely remind me that we need to use the MAG process as it has been established to do just that. The League agreed. Patrice called MAG, the committee meets again on July 6th. MAG indicated that the agenda goes out today and that if we want it on the agenda, our rep needed to call Paul Ward and get it on the agenda for discussion. Dave Fern is our rep, so I called him and he was going to contact Paul Ward. It was my hope to attend this meeting, however, I have a meeting at the same time to esolve another disputed claim on one of the City's low bid contracts. I will ask Sheina to attend with this info, but MUD may also wish to send someone to help present this case.

Anyhow, that's all I know for now. Patrice or Kim may have something to add that I may have missed.  
Beth

- NOTES:
1. CONSTRUCTION DETAIL APPLIES WHERE CONTRACTOR BUILDS HOUSE CONNECTION. TAP EXTENDS TO PROPERTY LINE IN ALLEYS OR STREETS OR TO EASEMENT LINE.
  2. SIZE OF TAP SHALL BE DESIGNATED ON PLANS.
  3. CONSTRUCT TAP AT MINIMUM SLOPE IF COVER WILL BE LESS THAN 5' AT PROPERTY LINE.
  4. IF DEPTH REQUIRES, MINIMUM SLOPE CAN BE REDUCED TO 1/8" PER FOOT PROVIDED STUB IS STAKED TO GRADE.
  5. ALL FITTINGS SHALL BE INSTALLED IN ACCORDANCE WITH ASTM D-2321. THE CONTRACTOR MAY VARY TEE-WYES AND BENDS TO ENSURE NO MISALIGNMENT OF THE PIPE AND FITTINGS. BLOCK OR BRACE FITTING JOINTS TO ENSURE ZERO DEGREES ANGULAR JOINT DEFLECTION.
  6. END OF TAP TO BE SEALED AND MARKED AS NOTED.
  7. PROVIDE ELECTRONIC BALL MARKER PER COS SECTION 615.6 AND COS STD DET NO 2397.



DETAIL NO. 2440 City of Scottsdale Standard Details

SEWER BUILDING CONNECTION

DETAIL NO. 2440

REVISED 3/23/05

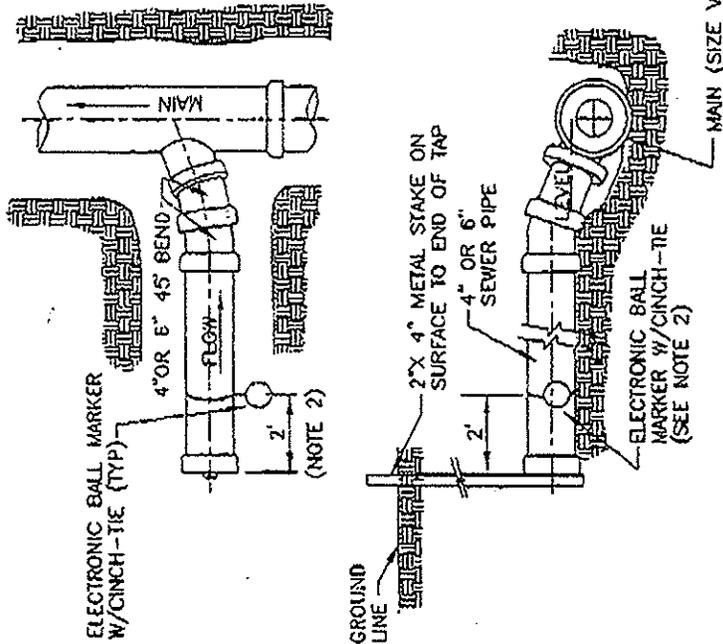
ELECTRONIC MARKER FOR SEWER SERVICE STUB

DETAIL NO.  
M-24

REV. 01/01/04

GENERAL NOTES

1. ELECTRONIC BALL MARKER SHALL BE A 3-M "MID RANGE", GREEN IN COLOR.
2. MARKER SHALL BE INSTALLED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE MANUFACTURER'S DIRECTIONS AND ATTACHED TO THE STUB WITH CINCH-TIES/TIEWRAPS, 2' BACK FROM THE END OF THE SEWER SERVICE STUB.
3. MARKER SHALL BE LEFT UNDISTURBED ONCE THE HOUSE SERVICE IS CONNECTED.
4. MARKER SHALL BE USED IN ADDITION TO A 2"x4" STAKE.



M.A.G.440 SERVICE  
ELECTRONIC MARKER PLACEMENT

Post-it® Fax Note	7671	Date	6/29	# of pages	2
To	DAVE FARR	From	D. MANN		
Co./Dept	COC	Co.	COS		
Phone #		Phone #	480317-5636		
Fax #	480 782 3495	Fax #			