5th Street Water Main Break.

1/16/2015:

1:45 pm - Chris and Allen checked on the wells around 1:45 pm and noticed the low level alarm was on in well #2 for the reservoir. We replaced a fuse that has given us the same alarm, and that did not change anything. We then went to the reservoir and looked inside; there was about 2 feet of water left in the reservoir. Thinking that there may be problems with the floats we turned well #2 on hand and made sure there was water going into the reservoir. After looking around town for any possible signs of a water leak, we decided to go home for a bit.

4:00pm – Myself and Allen went home, leaving well #2 on in hand.

8:00pm - We returned to work and went to well #2, the low level alarm was still on. I once again drove around town to look for signs of a water leak, I found nothing.

11:00pm – We returned back to well #2, the low level alarm was still on. I went up to the reservoir and looked inside, I observed about 2 feet of water in the reservoir. With well #2 running at 235 gallons per minute, it was just maintaining the 2 foot level.

11:15pm – We went to the wastewater treatment plant and checked on the SCADA system for our influent flow, which at normal is around 45,000 gallons in a day. The SCADA system indicated a flow of 220,000 gallons. It was apparent that whatever was leaking was making it's way to the sanitary sewer.

11:45pm – We started down at the ball field and pulled the manhole cover by the bathrooms. (Earlier in the day we were notified that there had been a water pipe that broke at Tom Walcker's residence that was the reason we started looking in the manholes at the ball field.) There was almost a full pipe of flow coming into that manhole. We moved on to the next manhole, same results. We followed the flow of water to 5th and Ash, where our map indicated the sanitary sewer dead ended there.

2:00am – After narrowing down where the water was coming from, we went to work trying to isolate that area of water main. The first valve we shut down was the valve in the SW corner of 5th and Ash intersection. There was no change to the flow of water going into the sanitary sewer. By placing a stethoscope on the valve wrench, we could hear water running through the valve, even in the shut position.

3:00am – We then went to the NW corner of 6th and Ash street and removed the concrete lid to the valve pit, we shut that valve off. No change in the flow of water in the sanitary sewer on 5th street.

3:45am – We spent the next few hours trying to locate valves that were on our water map. Valves that were indicated on the map were not in the street. We had to keep extending our shut down area due to the lack of valves, and valves not working.

8:00am – Contacted Tim Davison to find out if he was available to do an emergency repair of our water main. He said he was.

8:15am – Tim showed up to the site, and we discussed our plan. Tim made the gopher one call.

12:00pm – It was decided that the only way to isolate the leak, was to shut the whole town off by closing the valves at the reservoir. We called city administrator Rod Blank and notified him of our intent, he said he would post a notification on the City of Hokah facebook page. Tim arrived back on site with his excavator. We closed 5th street at Main and at Ash.

2:15pm – Once again our sewer map showed there was a manhole in the SE corner of the intersection of 5th and Ash, which after trying to locate, was determined to be nonexistent.

2:30pm – The first hole was opened and we concluded that the leak was farther down. We used Chase Munson's sewer camera and tried to look up the sewer pipe, the camera would only go in a foot or so. With the camera we observed the sewer pipe was broke and the heavy flow of water entering the sanitary sewer.

3:30pm – After a short period of digging further down the street, it was determined that we were going to need a jackhammer due to the amount of frost in the road way. We tried a hand operated jackhammer that Tim had that attached to the hydraulics of the bobcat. That was going to take an extremely long amount of time, so Tim rented a mini excavator from bobcat.

6:00pm – We made an emergency call to First Supply and Matt Vetsch ran to La Crosse to get the parts that were needed. He also stopped at the City of La Crescent's shop and got 2 flashing barricades.

6:15pm – The leak is now exposed. We called Houston County dispatch and talked to Mike to ask if they could make a Code Red call letting the residents of Hokah know of the water shutoff. Mike said that he would.

6:30pm – We shut the valves off at the reservoir.

7:45pm – The water was not slowing down at the break. We shut off one more valve at the reservoir.

8:15pm – The water was slowing down, we decided to open a couple of hydrants to help slow the leak in the hole. We opened a hydrant by Chris Mccaulson's home, and one by Jim Scholze's home.

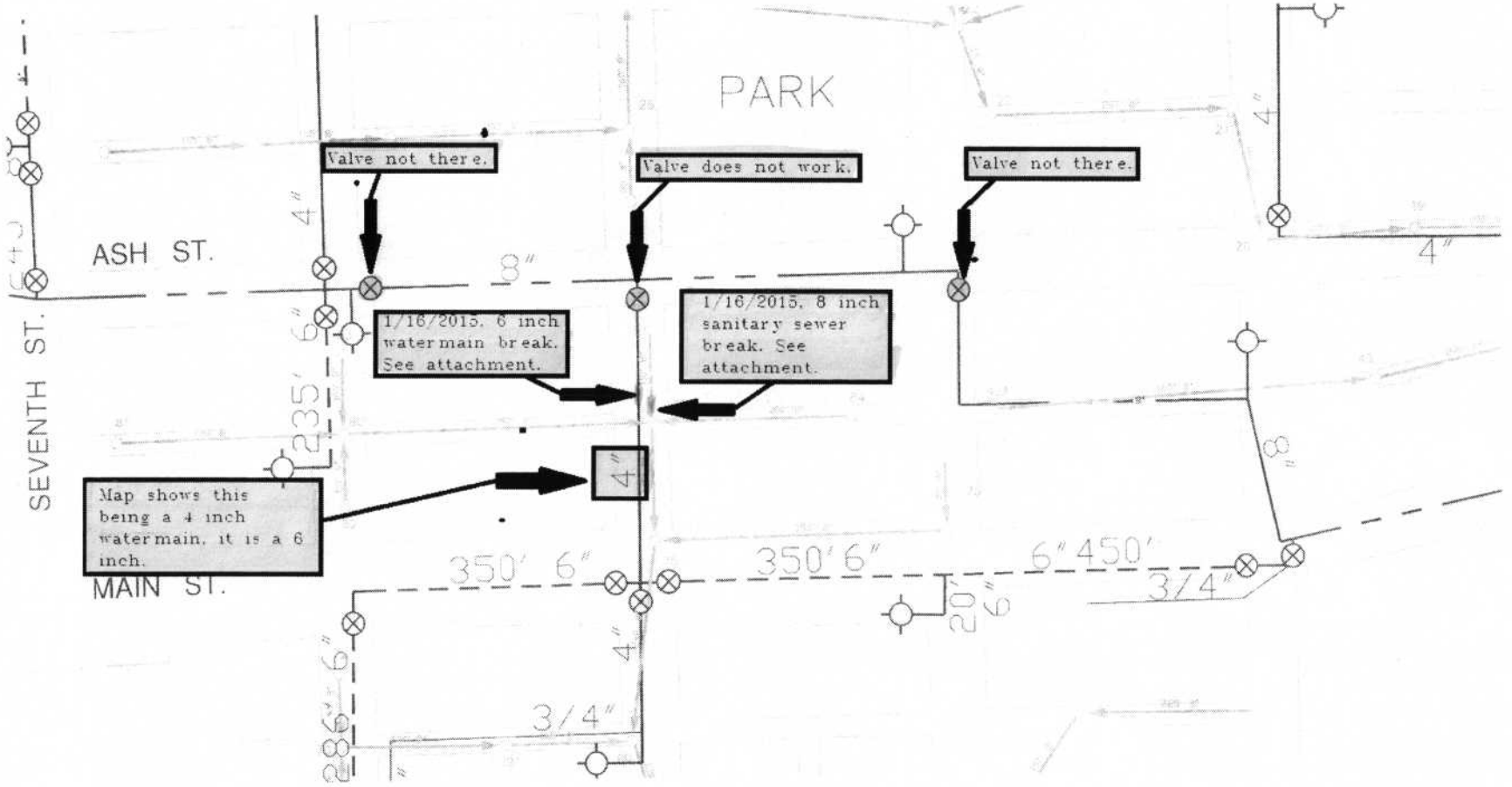
8:45pm – The water had stopped and we started working on the main. We cut out about a 3 foot section of water main, and replaced it with the new pipe we had. We used 2 Dresser fittings to attach the pipe.

9:30pm – The water main has been repaired. We slowly started turning the water back on. We also opened a hydrant on Cedar Path, one by Chris Mccaulson's house, and one by Jim Scholze's house. We let those hydrants run until the air and discolored water had stopped, about 20 minutes. After those were shut off we opened a hydrant at the intersection of Hyw 16 and the shop road, and one down on Brooklyn.

10:00pm – With all the hydrants producing good clean water and were shut down, we finished opening the valves at the reservoir. We turned both well #1 and well #2 on to hand to start refilling the reservoir.

10:45pm – Tim Davison left the site, leaving his excavator and the mini excavator at the site to help block off the hole.

11:30pm – We opened the rest of the valves that we had shut and left our bobcat at the hole and picked up our tools and went back to the shop.


PARK
ASH ST.
SEVENTH ST.
MAIN ST.
Valve not there.
Valve does not work.
Valve not there.
1/16/2015, 6 inch water main break. See attachment.
1/16/2015, 8 inch sanitary sewer break. See attachment.
Map shows this being a 4 inch watermain, it is a 6 inch.
4"
8"
6"
235'
350' 6"
350' 6"
6" 450'
3/4"
20'
286' 6"
3/4"