

## HERMITAGE

# Board approves 'emergency' repairs to 50-year-old sewer

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By Joe Pinchot, *Herald Staff Writer*

Hermitage Municipal Authority members on Wednesday approved what they are calling an emergency repair project to replace sections of sanitary sewer line on Rombold Road.

Officials still will advertise for competitive bids, but will shorten the time in which contractors can bid and accelerate the planning process.

City workers televised the line in reaction to sewer backups experienced during the Feb. 28-March 1 flooding and found that sections of the more than 50-year-old clay pipe had cracked, while others had collapsed. City Manager Gary P. Hinkson told city commissioners in March that three homes on Rombold, across from Shenango Park Apartments, had sewer backups.

Authority consulting engineer Joseph P. Pacchioni said Wednesday that the poor sections of line cause the overall rate of flow to slow. The fix is to remove the subpar line sections over the 1,500-foot stretch from Mercer Avenue to Bobby Run, and replace them with plastic ones, he said.

Commissioners last month awarded a contract to pave Rombold and several other streets in the area. Pacchioni said he wants to have the sewer line work done before the paving. Hinkson said there is a little time to play with. "We can hold off until fall," Hinkson said. "We really need to get this work done before we can pave."

Pacchioni said he believes a contract can be awarded in July with construction later in the month and in August. He estimated the work will cost about \$150,000.