

## Service Director Update

June 2023 Update

The water plant is out to bid! Our schedule is as follows: July 17<sup>th</sup>, Pre-bid meeting at 10 AM; August 10<sup>th</sup>, Bid opening at 11 AM; September 11<sup>th</sup>, Bid award at council meeting.

Andrew Moretto was released for light duty on June 4<sup>th</sup>. Still on light duty until released by the doctor. Kris will be out July 7<sup>th</sup> for a few days as his second child will be delivered that day.

Nature Preserve Project final contract from the State has been signed and the availability of the monies has been extended one year. Now in the design phase. **Bid packages will be out in the next couple of weeks. Construction to begin after 9/30 due to the Indiana Bat nesting from April 1 to September 30<sup>th</sup>.**

The two vandalized infant swings at the park have been replaced. As soon as we have all hands on deck we will build the fall zones. Everything is in place and waiting for us.

Currently pecking away at the fence toppers on the ball fields. Looks good. Kris has been doing most of this at the end of the day.

Meeting John Most, Tuesday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, at 10 AM at the park to look at the parking lot as this has been a point of discussion for council. **John inspected the lot again and after brooming off the lot it was worse than expected. Mayor Martin has a new quote.**

Utility software has been installed. We are working through the little bugs, but we've also taken three credit card payments. It works nicely and should be ready for full usage in January. Each credit card payment has a 3.5% convenience fee for the customer. They all had no problem with that. **Once the new website is up and running, we will be ready to go.**

New Welcome signs are being installed. The first one was installed on Park St. We will have them all installed in the next couple of weeks. Signs were funded by memorial donations in memory of John Tucker to the Marshallville Community Improvement Corp.

Kris has tweaked the softeners, and our April TDS at the WWTP was 960 ppb. An incredibly low number for our water which comes out of the ground around 900 ppb. **Continuing to get low numbers.**

We have started our electric rate study with Courtney & Assoc. Our rates haven't been examined or raised since 2004, and we need to be sure we are covering costs. This study does not indicate a rate increase is in the offing. It only looks to see if we are meeting our fiscal responsibilities. **The requested data has been sent to them for analysis. We are continuing to provide the necessary information as requested.**

The utility guys are working hard to intercept rags and flushable wipes (which really aren't flushable) before they clog our sludge pipes, which is happening about weekly due to the increased use of these items. They've been testing some grating and rag interceptors. MCW is building a cage for us to try to catch as many rags as possible before they enter the aeration tanks. This will be completed in about six weeks. Stay tuned. Automatic bar screens are available for about \$250,000. If this solution works it will be about \$2600.00

Everyone has heard AEP's electric rates are going up approximately 50% this summer. We buy our electric from Orrville and get 11% from our solar field. Our electric rates are to remain fairly stable, even though Orrville buys electric from AEP as needed. Orrville has an attractive, long term, purchase agreement that has locked the rates in for a couple of years. The large AEP increase should have minimal effect on our rates.

Remember, we welcome any and all council members to come down to the utility department to get a glimpse of a typical day.

We lost a transformer at 15 ½ E. Church Street due to a squirrel causing an arc on July 1<sup>st</sup>. Orrville replaced it for us. We will have it tested to see how much damage it caused to it. Also, instructed Tom Guthrie to order six, 25 Kw transformers to have in stock. The lead time is approximately 36 weeks. We have enough in reserve to handle our needs, but with the large lead time we are replenishing our reserve stock.

The Woodford water hydrant at Memory Park has reached the end of its life. We've purchased a new one, and, as time permits, it will be installed this month. It has to be hand dug.

The Exit sign on the north wall of Klusch Hall had an electrical short. We tracked it to a bad connection in the light. It has been replaced and connections tested.

Also, had a mass of flying ants hatch out near Klusch Hall and entered the building. Kris and Andrew applied insecticide rated safe for interior use, and after two applications, inside and out, the problem has been resolved (for now).

Applied to Toro for their Ventrac grant for 501c3's within 40 miles of one of their production facilities. Waiting to see how we fared on this grant application. I applied under the Marshallville Community Improvement Corp. as it is a registered 501c3.

We take a lot of questions about what "we" are going to do with the Historical Society's buildings. "We" aren't doing anything about them, but those who keep asking could become part of "them" by attending their meetings on the first Saturday of each month at 8 AM at the Legion and work on a solution plus it's breakfast day at the Legion: win/win!

Reminder to let citizens know when they complain about paying utility bills. They are received on the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month, due the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month, a late charge is added the 16<sup>th</sup> of the month, and shut off is the 26<sup>th</sup> of the month. We are amazed at how many people we deal with monthly (usually the same people) who are surprised when bills are due. Also, payments can be dropped off at the night deposit at the bank or at the town hall AND they are credited on the last business day. If the 15<sup>th</sup> falls on a weekend, they can be paid on the following Monday. We have chronic late payers that, when averaged out with late fees, pay the equivalent of approximately 15 utility bills a year with all the added fees. If they were just paid on time, they would only pay 12 like most of our customers.

On another positive note, I'm with the utility guys a couple of hours a day. It's definitely not said enough, but if you have ever had the opportunity to spend a typical day with the utility department, Kris, Andrew, Gail, Tom, and Mark you would see how well they do their jobs, and from the time they arrive to the time they clock out they are busy. I'm proud of the way they go about their daily jobs. If you see them let them know. I certainly know they deal with a lot on a daily basis. Running a water, sewer, and electric utility is a big job without adding all the other daily items the town requires.