

Service Director Update

March 2023 Update

Water plant design work is in progress. EPA engineers have a conference call on 1/12/23 with our engineers to discuss the water plant design approval. The EPA seems pleased with the design as per the conference call. If all goes as planned we should put this out to bid in April/May. EPA continues to have few issues with the design.

Insurance inspection with PEP went very well. Impressed with our loss history and likes us being proactive to prevent issues.

Fire extinguishers were also inspected and passed village wide by Koorsen.

WWTP and water plant have been running well. Still cleaning rags and flushable wipes out frequently.

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. The trails have been GPS located and marked. Bidding will go out this spring/early summer. Construction to begin after 9/30 due to the Indiana Bat nesting from April 1 to September 30th.

The low service pump has been replaced and working as it should in the water plant.

Meeting John Most, Tuesday, March 14th, at 10 AM at the park to look at the parking lot as this has been a point of discussion for council. John suggests grinding and patching the area as needed and sealing the entire lot. He estimates that will give another 10-15 years of service. He will be sending a 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. Still working through some software bugs, but our credit card system has been used several times. Once the new website is up and running, we will be ready to go.

The guys are patching holes in the streets as weather permits.

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.

Remember, we welcome any and all council members to come down to the utility department to get a glimpse of a typical day. Tough to manage with no idea what goes on each day.

The lift truck has had its annual inspection and Terex. It's now at Joe's Garage for its annual DOT inspection. It is back in service and passed inspections with a few repairs done to it.

Received our PEP \$1000.00 grant. Purchased new fence topper for the ball fields. That arrived 3/29 and we will get it installed. The wet weather has slowed the field maintenance for the ball players.

Working on a grant application for Toro for their Ventrac grant for 501c3's within 40 miles of one of their production facilities.

The "beaver pelts" our snowplow kicks up are being cleaned up. The state plows Main St, and they have a lot of "beaver pelts" along it. Residents can call ODOT, but those aren't our responsibility.

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 1st of the month, due the 15th of the month, a late charge is added the 16th of the month, and shut off is the 26th 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 15th falls on a weekend, they can be paid on the following Monday.