



**Council Report**  
**City of Pataskala Utility Department**  
**Chris Sharrock, Utility Director**

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➤ **New Items**

▪ **New Operational Updates**

▪ WRF Upgrade

- We are going to officially tell Verdantas that we believe they are in breach of contract for the design of the WRF Upgrade.
- We will be coming to council at the January 16 meeting with a supplemental to cover the costs of the blowers and their installation. We will then pursue reimbursement for the financial damages incurred. This concept was discussed at the December Utility Committee meeting.
  - The acquisition of the equipment and its installation could take several months. On May 1, the EPA's limits at our WRF will become more stringent for the warmer months. To ensure that the equipment can be acquired and installed as quickly as possible, we will be requesting an emergency for the supplemental to waive the three-reading requirement. We will be requesting the emergency with the goal of avoiding permit violations when the limits change on May 1.
  - The equipment and the installation will be acquired through the same companies that did the original WRF upgrade work. Because we did the bidding/ RFQ process at that time, we will not need to do another one now. We will be treating this as a change order to the original contract.
    - A resolution to approve this contact change order will also come to council at the January 16 meeting.

▪ WRF mechanical issues

- Due to the extreme cold weather we had several equipment failures at the WRF
  - The internal water lines froze and busted
  - One of the motors for a Clarifier failed

- Our crew at the WRF responded quickly and are operating the plant the best that they can until all repairs can be made
- Turn Offs
  - We do not do turn offs in December
- Leaks
  - Emergency water line leak at 167 Lookout Lane on Dec 23
    - Replaced failed saddle and connected to existing service line
      - Due to extreme cold, I instructed crew not to dig on both sides of the street and pull a new line. We will finish replacing the service line at a later date
  - Emergency water main break at Main and Depot Street on Dec 28
    - A circular crack was discovered on the cast iron 6" main where Depot connects to Main Street
      - Spenco was called in on emergency status to make the necessary repairs. No boil alert was necessary
  - Multiple customer lines froze, requiring a response from us
  - The response from our Utility Crews during extreme and dangerous cold weather to these leaks was superb. I am very impressed with the level of service that they provide to our customers.

➤ **Ongoing Items**

• **Water Reclamation Facility**

- Daily Operations
  - The operators maintain exceptional daily operations of the WRF, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. They consistently do an outstanding job of turning the City's wastewater into clean, safe water that is discharged into the South Fork of the Licking River
- WRF Upgrade
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  - We will be coming to council at the January 16 meeting with a supplemental to cover the costs of the blowers and their installation.
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- WRF mechanical issues
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    - The internal water lines froze and busted
    - One of the motors for a Clarifier failed
  - Our crew at the WRF responded quickly and are operating the plant the best that they can until all repairs can be made
- COVID-19 Wastewater Testing
  - Pataskala Utility Department was selected to participate in the COVID-19 wastewater testing program
    - This program looks for the virus RNA in the waste stream, giving a more accurate and nearly real-time representation of the infection rate of the community that we serve
    - The results of the COVID-19 wastewater testing are currently being posted to the Ohio Corona Virus dashboard found here:  
<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/dashboards/wastewater>
  - The Utility Department will continue to participate in this program as long as it continues to be fully funded by the State

- **Water Treatment Plants**

- Daily Operations

- The operators maintain exceptional daily operations of both Water Treatment Plants, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. They consistently do an outstanding job of providing the City's customers clean, safe water that meets or exceeds the requirements from the OEPA.

- Water Plant 1 Iron Filter 2

- There is a small leak somewhere along the bottom of one of the iron filter tanks at WTP1. Repair will require removal and replacement of the filter media, structural repairs, and recoating of the filter tank surface.

- **Distribution and Collection System**

- Daily Operations

- The systems team maintains exceptional daily operations of the entire distribution and collections system, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. They consistently do an outstanding job of providing customer service to the residents, maintaining the city's infrastructure, and responding to emergencies of various types.

- Settlement Lift Station Generator

- As a part of Phase 3 in Heron Manor, a standby generator for that area's lift station is to be installed
    - The generator has arrived and has been installed onto the pad
      - The gas meter and electrical work still need to be completed before the generator can be used. This is expected to happen in the next couple of weeks

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  - The response from our Utility Crews during extreme and dangerous cold weather to these leaks was superb. I am very impressed with the level of service that they provide to our customers.
- Creek Rd L/S
  - 30% design delivered
    - Comments returned to Strand and implemented.
- Sewer Slip lining
  - The department applied to OPWC, and was awarded a grant to help fund this project
  - This project will be funded using \$250,000 from HB 168, \$250,000 from OPWC and \$250,000 from the Capital Improvement Fund.
  - Camera work will begin in December and the lining work will begin in January.
- SCADA Prop Study
  - The study on the effectiveness of our SCADA radio system is complete. J&K Communications is currently reviewing the data in order to make a proposal for us to upgrade that outdated system

• **Billing Team**

- Daily Operations
  - The billing team does an exceptional job of processing the payments for water and sewer service, scheduling the service work that needs done as well as providing excellent customer service 8 hours a day, 5 days a week.
- Turn Offs
  - We do not do turn offs in December
- Utility Billing Software
  - Training for the new software has begun.
  - Schedule to go live April 27<sup>th</sup>

- **Director**

- WRF Expansion
  - The first step in a plant expansion is to increase the permit amount of discharge allowed by the OEPA discharge permit. This process requires several studies to be completed including increased loadings, increased flows, and alternative treatment options to name a few.
- Safety Program
  - The department requires two safety meetings each month
    - One is done at the team level by the Superintendents covering general safety issues
    - The second is done with the entire staff
      - Each month, a different member of the department will lead this training
- OPWC application
  - The application for the standby generator project was submitted the first week of November.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'C. Sharrock', enclosed in a light blue rectangular box.

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