



## **Council Report**

### **City of Pataskala Utility Department**

#### **Chris Sharrock, Utility Director**

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#### ➤ **New Items**

- **New Operational Updates**

- WRF Upgrade

- As mentioned in the previous council report, we are coming to this meeting with a supplemental to cover the costs of the additional blowers design, purchase and installation. These blowers are what has been identified as necessary to correct the issues at the WRF. Those costs are estimated to be \$250,000. We will then pursue reimbursement for the financial damages incurred from the design firm. This concept was discussed at the December Utility Committee meeting.
      - The acquisition of the equipment as well as its design and 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 that could result in fines or findings and orders from the EPA.
      - 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 contract change order will also come to council as soon as possible.

- WRF Expansion
  - The process to apply for an expanded permit at the WRF is still ongoing. The EPA has stated that they are conducting a study on the receiving waters and will not be able to review any applications until that study is complete. They have stated that the study should be completed by Feb 13.
  - Discussions with SWLCWSD about the State 208 Plan requirements are ongoing.
    - The State 208 Plan requires us to discuss regionalization with SWLCWSD and to provide a letter documenting that discussion and an agreement on the requested expansion from Pataskala before any permit expansion can be granted. At this point, SWLCWSD has concerns about the increased flow numbers that we are seeking.
      - Discussions with the EPA on how to navigate the State 208 Plan are ongoing.
    - It is important to note that until the permit is expanded, we are very near the point of denying service to new development in our service area.
- New Billing System Software
  - The training for the new billing system software is in full swing. The new system is very different from the old but is identical to the finance system that we use in all other aspects of the Administration. This should streamline the Utility Billing to Finance Department interactions. We still have an anticipated “go live” date of April 2023
- WTP1 Iron Filter 2
  - The repair crew came out on Jan 11 to analyze the leak and see if repairs can be made. That analysis was not yet completed at the time of this report. Updates will be provided to council at a later date
- Meter Reading
  - Meter Reading was conducted on Dec 30
- Leaks
  - 5248 York Road
    - A saddle failed at this location. The saddle and service line were replaced on Jan 3
  - 39 Bend View Drive
    - The curb box at this location was inaccessible. SWLCWSD needed access in order to change the meter as a part of the service territory swap program. The curb box was corrected on Jan 5

- 2 Inch Waterline Upgrade Project
  - The project is essentially complete. Yard repairs will occur in the spring once weather permits
  - A final walkthrough with the Utility and Public Service Departments occurred on Jan 11
  - This project is expected to be significantly under budget. Final numbers will be provided to council when they become available.
    - I was very pleased with the work done by LAW (the contractor). They were very flexible and provided great customer service to our residents.
- Scenic View Estates
  - Phase 1 of the Scenic View Estates project is complete
  - A final walkthrough with the Utility and Public Service Departments occurred on Jan 9
- Settlement Lift Station Generator
  - The generator is installed. A startup/ training meeting for the Utility Department is expected to be scheduled in the next week. This generator installation was a requirement for Heron Manor Phase 3, however supply chain shortages led to the decision to include it in the requirements for Heron Manor Phase 4. Acceptance of Heron Manor Phase 4 will not occur until the startup/ training meeting takes place
- Sewer Lining Project
  - Phase 1B of the sewer lining project began on Jan 9
  - This phase of the project is expected to last about a month, weather permitting
  - The contractor is notifying each resident whose sewer line connects to the portion of the main being lined at least 24 hours in advance to the work taking place
    - While the lining is occurring, we are encouraging residents to limit their usage as the liner will temporarily block their sewer line connection. Once the liner is installed, an opening is cut to return service to each connection. This work all takes place on the same day, limiting the inconvenience to our customers. This is explained in the notice provided by the contractor.
  - As a reminder, this work is being partially paid for by two grants. One through HB 168 and one through OPWC.
    - The grants total \$500,000 and the local share is \$250,000 coming from our Sewer Capital Improvements Fund

- Service Provider Swap
  - SWLCWSD has installed their equipment in the houses that will be a part of the service provider swap.
    - As a reminder, this swap affects the Highland Hills, Scotland Ridge and Highland Estates customers.
  - The change over is scheduled to take place on Feb 9. Residents have been informed of this date and the billing process that will occur because of the swap.
    - Beginning Feb 10, all usage by these customers will be billed by SWLCWSD.
  - Working with C.J Gilcher and the staff of the SWLCWSD on this project has been great.

➤ **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
  - As mentioned in the previous council report, we are coming to this meeting with a supplemental to cover the costs of the additional blowers design, purchase and installation. These blowers are what has been identified as necessary to correct the issues at the WRF. Those costs are estimated to be \$250,000. We will then pursue reimbursement for the financial damages incurred from the design firm. This concept was discussed at the December Utility Committee meeting.
    - The acquisition of the equipment as well as its design and 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 that could result in fines or findings and orders from the EPA.

- 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 contract change order will also come to council as soon as possible.
- 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.
  - The repair crew came out on Jan 11 to analyze the leak and see if repairs can be made. That analysis was not yet completed at the time of this report. Updates will be provided to council at a later date

- **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

- The generator is installed. A startup/ training meeting for the Utility Department is expected to be scheduled in the next week. This generator installation was a requirement for Heron Manor Phase 3, however supply chain shortages led to the decision to include it in the requirements for Heron Manor Phase 4. Acceptance of Heron Manor Phase 4 will not occur until the startup/ training meeting takes place

- Leaks

- 5248 York Road
      - A saddle failed at this location. The saddle and service line were replaced on Jan 3
    - 39 Bend View Drive
      - The curb box at this location was inaccessible. SWLCWSD needed access in order to change the meter as a part of the service territory swap program. The curb box was corrected on Jan 5

- Creek Rd L/S

- 30% design delivered
      - Comments returned to Strand and implemented.

- Sewer Slip lining

- Phase 1B of the sewer lining project began on Jan 9
    - This phase of the project is expected to last about a month, weather permitting
    - The contractor is notifying each resident whose sewer line connects to the portion of the main being lined at least 24 hours in advance to the work taking place
      - While the lining is occurring, we are encouraging residents to limit their usage as the liner will temporarily block their sewer line connection. Once the liner is installed, an opening is cut to return service to each connection. This work all takes place on the same day, limiting the inconvenience to our customers.

This is explained in the notice provided by the contractor.

- As a reminder, this work is being partially paid for by two grants. One through HB 168 and one through OPWC.
  - The grants total \$500,000 and the local share is \$250,000 coming from our Sewer Capital Improvements Fund
- 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
- 2 Inch Waterline Upgrade Project
  - The project is essentially complete. Yard repairs will occur in the spring once weather permits
  - A final walkthrough with the Utility and Public Service Departments occurred on Jan 11
  - This project is expected to be significantly under budget. Final numbers will be provided to council when they become available.
    - I was very pleased with the work done by LAW (the contractor). They were very flexible and provided great customer service to our residents.

• **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.
- Meter Reading
  - Meter Reading was conducted on Dec 30
- New Billing System Software
  - The training for the new billing system software is in full swing. The new system is very different from the old but is identical to the finance system that we use in all other aspects of the Administration. This should streamline the Utility Billing to Finance Department interactions. We still have an anticipated “go live” date of April 2023

- **Director**

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- 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 border.

Chris Sharrock  
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