



## City of Pataskala Utility Department Chris Sharrock, Utility Director

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### ➤ Utility Department Updates

#### • Key Items

- COVID-19 Wastewater Sampling
  - The month of January's sample results have shown a gradual, but steady decline in virus count
  - No immediate action is suggested from the LCHD
  - The department, along with the administration, is working very closely with LCHD regarding these sampling results
- WRF Upgrade
  - Kirk Brothers is on schedule with the WRF upgrade for the most part
    - They did decide to take the week of Feb 8 off due to the cold temperatures
  - Change Order 2
    - A change order was approved to accommodate the programming that our SCADA system will require to control the chemical feed process for phosphorous removal in the amount of \$8,740
- Leaks
  - 5094 Watkins Road
    - A saddle failed at this location. The saddle and service line were replaced on Feb 4
  - 5522 York Road
    - A saddle failed at this location. The saddle and service line were replaced on Feb 11
  - 42 Middle Ground
    - A saddle is suspected to have failed at this location. The saddle and service line are scheduled to be replaced on Feb 11
- Sewer Cleaning
  - Our list of "trouble areas" in the sanitary collection system was cleaned the week of Feb 8
    - This list is cleaned twice a year, regardless of any problems being observed

- The Creek Road Lift Station was cleaned out on Feb 4
    - This lift station is the main station feeding the WRF and gets very dirty. Grease and “flushable” wipes are what make up most of the issue. This station gets cleaned twice a year.
- SR 310 Interconnect
  - Southwest Licking and the City of Pataskala have agreed to utilize the design engineering services of Hull Inc. for the SR 310 Interconnect
    - This is the interconnect agreed to in the current Water and Sewer Agreement between the two entities
    - This project is being completely funded by an escrow account contributed to equally by both entities
- Cybersecurity
  - On Feb 8, there was a news story about a water plant in Florida that was hacked. The hacker was able to adjust the dosing of a chemical used in their treatment process. Luckily, an operator at the plant noticed the changes and corrected the issue before the hack was able to become effective.
    - In response, I asked our SCADA technicians to look at our system for any security issues. None were found.
    - We also increased the layers of secure protection regarding any chemical dosing pump used in our treatment system
- OPWC application for Jefferson Street Waterline
  - After discussion between Utilities and Public Service departments, I decided to add a complete roadway resurfacing to the project, as the excavation and equipment used for the waterline project will effectively destroy the existing road. This changed the dollar amount requested as a grant from OPWC to a level that made me feel as if we were not presenting an attractive application. I also verified that the COVID-19 pandemic did not impact the department finances as much as was originally feared. Those two facts led me to increase the portion of the project that would be funded locally on the application in the hopes of having this project selected for funding assistance.
    - The amount of local contribution was increased to \$254,235 and submitted to OPWC for review as an amended application
    - Finance will need to adjust the amount transferred to the OPWC fund to reflect the current and accurate numbers. Those adjustments are included in the supplemental being presented to council
- Roof Repair at Old Town Hall

- Feazel roofing came out and installed a new copper piece to the Old Town Hall roof. The old piece came off in a windstorm at the end of 2020
- Regulatory Reports
  - ODNR
    - The annual well withdraw report was mailed on Feb 9. It is due Mar 1
  - SSO (Sanitary Sewer Overflow)
    - The annual SSO report was submitted to the OEPA on Feb 5. It is due Mar 1
  - ASR (Annual Sludge Report)
    - The annual sludge report is currently being completed. It is due Mar 1
- **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
    - The Construction for the WRF Upgrade project has begun
    - We are holding our mixed liquor solution in the digesters in order to keep the "bugs" alive during the upgrade construction
      - This solution will be used as a starter colony to bring the plant back online after the upgrade is complete
    - Construction on multiple aspects of the project continues
      - VFD's have been installed at the WRF and are being installed at the two main lift stations to the plant
      - The backup chemical feed building foundation has been poured and the building is set
      - The extension of the concrete walls in the Oxidation Ditch are underway
      - The temporary water line has been installed by Kirk Brothers
      - The splitter box excavation is nearly complete
        - Construction and piping work will follow
    - Kirk Brothers is on schedule with the WRF upgrade for the most part
      - They did decide to take the week of Feb 8 off due to the cold temperatures
    - Change Order 2

- A change order was approved to accommodate the programming that our SCADA system will require to control the chemical feed process for phosphorous removal in the amount of \$8,740
  - 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 first round of sampling began the week of Oct 12
        - We will collect two samples a week as a part of this program
      - The results of the COVID-19 wastewater testing is currently being posted to the Ohio Corona Virus dashboard found here: <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/dashboards/wastewater>
    - The month of January's sample results have shown a gradual, but steady decline in virus count
      - No immediate action is suggested from the LCHD
      - The department, along with the administration, is working very closely with LCHD regarding these sampling results
- **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, Well 8
    - Well 8 at WTP1 is not producing the same amount of flow that it usually does
    - Mount Drilling came out to diagnose why well 8 at WTP1 is producing less than it used to
      - He found a hole in the pitless adapter and some failed gaskets
      - The work will require some excavation to replace the pitless adapter
      - They have provided a quote for \$21,814 to make the necessary repairs
    - Mount arrived on January 27 to perform the necessary repairs

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- **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.
  - COVID-19 procedures
    - The systems team returned to a full schedule on May 18
      - In the event that a service order is requested that would require one of our technicians to enter a residence, we will make every attempt possible to walk the resident through our procedures over the phone. If this will not suffice, our technicians will respond in person. They will wear a mask and gloves the entire time that they are in the residence.
        - We will reserve the right to reschedule the service order should the customer display symptoms of COVID-19
        - We have 2 no contact thermometers. We will take the temperature of any customers requesting that we enter a residence. If their temperature is above 99.9 degrees, we will reschedule the service order.
      - These measures will continue to be in effect until further notice.
  - Jefferson Street Waterline Project
    - The Design phase of the Jefferson Street Waterline Project is underway by Hull and Associates Inc.

- This design is being completed in anticipation of submitting the project to OPWC for funding assistance during the construction phase
- All existing Utilities have been located and the actual design of the new water line has begun
- The OPWC application was submitted on November 5 for review
- OPWC application for Jefferson Street Waterline
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- Valve Exercising Program
  - The Systems Team has resumed our Valve Exercising Program
    - This program forces us to fully open and then fully close all of our water valves in the system
      - This program will cause some valves to fail during operation. These valves will need to be replaced on an emergency basis. Finding and removing valves that are ready to fail is the intent of this program.
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- **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.
- **Director**
  - Construction Projects
    - Heron Manor
      - Reviewed plans for the Heron Manor development
        - A requirement was made to install a full size generator for the Settlement Lift Station after the completion of phase 3. Due to some phasing changes, we will require the generator to be installed after the completion of the first 63 lots
      - Currently reviewing plans for phase 3
        - Submitted comments on 12-29-20
        - Those comments included a reminder that a standby generator is required at the Settlement Lift Station before they can begin Phase 3 building construction
    - Heritage Town Center Phase 2
      - Reviewed Plans and submitted comments
      - Attended a pre-construction meeting on May 14

- Water line chlorination and bacteria testing is complete
- Bryn Mar Crossing
  - I have reviewed the construction plans and submitted my comments to the planning and zoning department
- New Vehicles
  - The two new trucks ordered by the department for this year are on a delay due to the COVID-19 situation
    - One of the two trucks was delivered on October 30, the other is expected soon
- 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 and includes practice exercises of the Water Contingency Plan
      - Each month, a different member of the department will lead this training
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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "C. Sharrock", enclosed within a light blue rectangular border.

Chris Sharrock  
Utility Director  
csharrock@ci.pataskala.oh.us  
O: (740) 927-4134