



City of Pataskala Utility Department Chris Sharrock, Utility Director

➤ Utility Department Updates

• Resolutions

- Resolution 2019-066- A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT WITH TRUDEAU'S FENCE COMPANY FOR THE LIFT STATION FENCING PROJECT
 - Two of the department's lift stations do not currently have fencing installed around them.
 - Lift Stations are required to have fencing installed for safety and security purposes in accordance with OEPA guidelines
 - Trent Howell (systems superintendent) gathered three quotes for this project, the lowest being Arrow Fencing. After multiple attempts each week for 8 weeks to schedule the work with no success, we have decided to move on to the second lowest bidder in Trudeau's Fencing Company.

• 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
 - Design currently being worked on by Hull
 - A design meeting took place on 4-29 between Hull, Prime, Fluidyne and the Department
 - Questions about the need for blowers to use on the Jet Aerations system were answered
 - Oxidation Ditch walls to be increased in size, adding more capacity to the Oxidation Ditch
 - Surveying took place on May 13

- Design completion and PTI submittal to the EPA was completed on July 12
- The construction loan application paperwork has begun with an estimate being used for the cost until the bidding process occurs to keep the process moving forward
- Meeting with Hull, Prime and City Staff on 7-29 to discuss changes/ additions needed in the design
 - These included a safety shower in the phosphorous reduction chemical feed room, concrete sidewalk around Oxidation Ditch to allow for pump transfer to a level surface for easy loading onto a truck, and some adjustments for operational preferences
- The upgrade was re-nominated to the OEPA for next year's financial assistance program should the review process by the OEPA take longer than anticipated, possibly causing the loan award date to be pushed into 2020
 - The month of August is the only time when a re-nomination is possible, so we took this measure as a safeguard against having to start the process all over should the award date be pushed to 2020
 - The OEPA financial manager assigned to the loan is retiring and will be handing the review over to a new manager
 - She has assured us that they will still move forward with the intent to have the loan awarded in 2019

• **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.
- Painting
 - Operators are continuing the process of painting the pipes inside of WTP1 as part of the routine maintenance
- Lead and Copper Program
 - The City has consistent lead measurements of zero and copper measurements well below the established action level. Based on

this information, we have requested that our lead and copper monitoring program be changed from annual to triennial

- Still waiting on a response from the OEPA on our request

- WTP2 wastewater

- We are currently looking into the cost involved to take the wastewater generated during the water treatment process at WTP2 to the District
 - This would allow us to eliminate an entire permit and all the sampling, monitoring and man-hours associated with it, should the costs of construction and sewer service from the District warrant it

- **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.

- Lift Station Fencing

- The Lift Station Fencing project has a budget of \$30,000 for 2019
- Trent Howell received several quotes for fencing at the River Forest and Sugar Mill lift stations
 - Able Fencing- \$13,114
 - Trudeau Fencing- \$12,872.45
 - Arrow Fencing- \$9,660
- Arrow Fencing has not returned our calls for the last 8 weeks. We are requesting to move forward with Trudeau Fencing with Resolution 2019-066 as their bid is over the \$10,000 mark

- SL-RAT

- The systems team is continuing to use the SL-RAT system to inspect the sanitary sewer mains for blockages
 - This system uses sound waves sent from one manhole and received at the downstream manhole to determine how clear the line is between them
 - This will allow the department to quickly inspect sewer lines and decide which lines need thoroughly cleaned and which lines do not

- Valve Exercising

- The systems team has begun the annual valve exercising program
 - This process involve an employee traveling to each and every main valve in the Distribution system, locating said valve, closing the valve completely and finally re-opening the valve completely
 - Valve exercising keeps our valves in good operating condition and prevents them from seizing up. It also minimizes the chances that the valves will fail when needed in an emergency situation
 - The goal of the Utility Department is to exercise half of the distribution system every year
- Mill St and Main St water lines
 - Earlier this year, a leak was discovered in the Mill St water main underneath the Mill and Main intersection. The Mill St water main was cut and capped to stop the leak
 - This created a “dead end” on the Mill St water main. There are two customers on this dead end where the water main cannot be flushed
 - The plan was to use the new water tap for those properties that were installed with the Main Street Water Line Project to get them service from another water source, and install a hydrant for flushing near the created “dead end”. Upon further investigation, it was discovered that these two properties did not receive a new tap with the Main Street Water Line Project.
 - The Department will now connect the existing water line on Mill Street to the water line on Main Street to correct this issue. This will not only eliminate the dead end, but will also provide us with a second feed point to the Old Town area west of Main St
 - This work will require the closing of the intersection of Mill and Main as the water lines are located in the road. The job is tentatively scheduled for Oct 1 to Oct 3. No customer yards will be disturbed in doing this work and no boil alert will be required.

- We will work with the Public Service Department for the road closure notice and procedure

- Leaks

- A saddle for an empty lot across the street from 63 Forward Pass has failed
 - The saddle and service line to this lot were replaced by the Systems Team and the Ventura Bros on Sep 12

- **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.

- Rate Increase

- The billing team has begun to field questions about the rate increase as the bill insert explaining it went out for the first time
 - Stephanie Tallman and Danielle McGee have done a great job of explaining to each customer what the increase will look like based off of their individual bills
 - The majority of the customers have been completely understanding when they see how little the increase equates to in “dollars and cents”

- **Training**

- Class 1 Water Supply License

- Trent Howell, John Burr and Connor Johnson have begun the OTCO Class 1 Water Course. Classes are every Monday for 14 weeks starting on September 9

- Class 3 Water Supply License

- Ryan Brown is currently taking the American Water College Class 3 Water Supply correspondence course

- **Director**

- Rate Structure

- A letter from the Director and a FAQ page have been added to the City website explaining the new rate structure
 - A brief note has been added to the bills and will remain on the bills until after the customers see the new rate structure in the bill due in March 2020.

- Every other month between now and then, the letter from the Director will be included with the bills to the customers
- Fanin & Deagle
 - There have been discussions of possible service areas to trade between the City and the District that would allow the City to serve Fanin & Deagle for both water and sanitary services while allowing the District to serve several locations currently in the City's service area
 - These discussions are still ongoing
 - A resolution was passed at the Special Council Meeting on Friday September 6 approving a contract between the City and the District
 - The District is in the process of reviewing this version of the contract
- Construction
 - Scenic View Estates
 - The City has reviewed multiple approaches to providing sanitary service to this property. The developer wishes to install a private force main system. The Department is weary of the potential for the OEPA to require the City to assume responsibility for this system in the future, should the HOA/ private parties fail to maintain it.
 - The Utility Committee created a list of concerns that they would like to see addressed in order for the pressurized sewer system to be acceptable
 - This list was presented to the Contractor on Aug 30
 - The contractor was very receptive to the concerns presented by the Utility Committee and agreed to all of them
 - Scott Fulton and I are currently working on drafting the necessary language to ensure that these concerns are addressed
- Construction Specifications and Drawings
 - A review was done to update our Construction Specs and Drawings so that they will reflect our current standards
 - Hull is currently updating
- I & I water
 - The EPA has included a requirement to develop and implement a plan to address our I & I water getting into the collections system

- I have advertised the RFQ for the design of a plan and the eventual implementation of that plan at a pace decided by available budget beginning on June 2 and June 9 in the Advocate and posted the request on the City Website
 - 6 Submittals were received by the deadline of June 21 at 4pm. A panel of staff members will review the submittals and will select a firm to begin price negotiations with in the following weeks
 - Strand Associates Inc. was selected
 - The City and Strand were unable to come to an agreement on a price. In accordance with the ORC, we have contacted our second highest ranked firm, GPD Group, to begin the price negotiating process with them.
 - GPD Group is currently working on creating a scope and price for services to be reviewed by the department
 - This process is being hindered by the OEPA reviewing our comments in regards to the NPDES permit. Until we hear back from the OEPA, it is impossible to know what we will be required to do, and therefore impossible to build an accurate scope and price
- Safety Program
 - Monthly Safety Talks are being conducted by the superintendents
 - As a part of the monthly safety talks, the plant and systems superintendents intend to conduct one “hands on” training covering a different operational aspect each month
- Backflow Prevention Taskforce
 - The taskforce held a meeting on Sep 9
 - An add on to our billing program allows for the tracking of the backflow device inspections in our system
 - Stephanie Tallman discovered that we have a training session on the backflow portion of the billing program available. She is scheduling this training for John Burr (our certified backflow employee)

- Next meeting scheduled for October 4
- NPDES Permit
 - The comment period for the NPDES Permit at the WRF has been extended to August 30
 - This comment period is a chance for the City to work with the OEPA to make changes to the permit so that a final copy of the permit that is reasonable and acceptable to both parties can be developed
 - I sent the response for the draft permit to the OEPA on behalf of council on Aug 20. Still waiting on the OEPA response
- Budget
 - I am working with Jamie Nicholson and BJ King on the preparation of the 2020 Budget for the Utility Department

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