



City of Pataskala Utility Department Chris Sharrock, Utility Director

➤ Utility Department Updates

• Key Items

- Utility Committee Meeting
 - We held a Utility Committee meeting on Mar 15 at 5:30 pm
- COVID-19 Wastewater Sampling
 - The month of February sample results have remained at a stable level. This is very similar to what we are seeing across the county, state, and nation.
 - 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 has returned in full force following the recent weather delays
 - They are currently working on the splitter box construction, piping improvements, electrical conduit installation, and pulling wire
 - We had a conference call on Mar 10 to discuss the necessary SCADA connections for the new equipment
- Leaks
 - 396 Pataskala Ridge
 - A service line failed at this location. The service line was replaced on Mar 1
 - 360 Pataskala Ridge
 - A service line failed at this location. The service line was replaced on Mar 11
- Meter Reading
 - We conducted meter reading on Mar 1
 - We had around 180 meters that did not send the electric reading to our equipment
 - This is most likely the result of dead batteries in the radio transmitter unit. We have begun replacement efforts for these units.

- Jefferson Street Waterline
 - I have decided to push the start of this project off until the spring of 2021
 - The funds will not be released until July 1 at the earliest
 - COVID impact on the state budget could delay this date
 - This means that a contractor would not be able to start until Aug 1 at the earliest
 - The Street fair would mean that a contractor would not be able to start until the end of August at the earliest
 - This would still allow us enough time to install the waterline before the winter, but would not allow for the roadway to be resurfaced until the spring of 2021
 - I believe that we will get better prices on the bids if we bid it out at the end of 2020 for a Spring 2021 start as contractors begin filling their schedules
 - The delayed start time will not impact our Grant funding
- Middleground Sanitary Sewer
 - There is the possibility to accept a small section (9 house) of SWL sanitary sewer service into the Scenic View Estates sanitary sewer system
 - This would allow SWL to eliminate two of their lift stations
 - We would not need a lift station or any infrastructure improvements to receive this service
 - SWL and Scenic View Estates are working out the details and the cost
 - We will only accept this service if there is zero cost to the city
- Strontium
 - The strontium levels in our waste stream at WTP2 continues to sporadically fluctuate, making permit compliance difficult
 - We have increased our sampling process to try to identify when, where, and why the strontium spikes at random intervals
 - In the meantime, we are using a holding tank/ dilution water system to reduce the concentration levels to within our permit restrictions.

- **Legislation**

- Ordinances

- Ordinance 2021-4384
 - An ordinance to amend section 925.01(Water Regulations) Rule 1, Rule 4, and Rule 15
 - These proposed changes to the codified ordinances are intended to bring the ordinance language in line with our operational practices
 - Ordinance 2021-4385
 - An ordinance to amend section 921.02 by adding language to specifically identify the property owner as the individual/entity to be invoiced
 - This proposed change to the codified ordinances is intended to bring the ordinance language in line with our operational practices

- **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 is underway
 - We are holding our mixed liquor solution in the digesters 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 complete
 - Excavation for the splitter box and the piping work for it has resumed and is well underway
 - Kirk Brothers has returned in full force following the recent weather delays
 - They are currently working on the splitter box construction, piping improvements, electrical conduit installation, and pulling wire

- We had a conference call on Mar 10 to discuss the necessary SCADA connections for the new equipment
 - 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 February sample results have remained at a stable level. This is very similar to what we are seeing across the county, state, and nation.
 - 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

- We are waiting on a shipment of acid to arrive to finish the scale breakdown of this well
 - Strontium
 - The strontium levels in our waste stream at WTP2 continues to sporadically fluctuate, making permit compliance difficult
 - We have increased our sampling process to try to identify when, where, and why the strontium spikes at random intervals
 - In the meantime, we are using a holding tank/ dilution water system to reduce the concentration levels to within our permit restrictions.
- **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
 - If 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 OPWC application was submitted on November 5 for review

- The Jefferson Street Waterline Project has been recommended by the District to the State for funding assistance
 - The State will have to officially recommend acceptance as well, however recommendation from the District is usually a good indicator that the State will recommend
- Should the State also recommend approval, the City will receive \$259,882 in grant money for the Jefferson Street Water Line Project
 - This project will include a complete resurfacing of Jefferson Street and Depot Street from Main St to Township Road
- I have decided to push the start of this project off until the spring of 2021
 - The funds will not be released until July 1 at the earliest
 - COVID impact on the state budget could delay this date
 - This means that a contractor would not be able to start until Aug 1 at the earliest
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 - This would still allow us enough time to install the waterline before the winter, but would not allow for the roadway to be resurfaced until the spring of 2021
 - I believe that we will get better prices on the bids if we bid it out at the end of the year for a Spring 2021 start as contractors begin filling their schedules
 - The delayed start time will not impact our Grant funding
- Valve Exercising Program
 - The Systems Team has resumed our Valve Exercising Program
 - This program forces us to fully open and then fully close all 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.
- Leaks
 - 396 Pataskala Ridge
 - A service line failed at this location. The service line was replaced on Mar 1

- 360 Pataskala Ridge
 - A service line failed at this location. The service line was replaced on Mar 11

- **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
 - We conducted meter reading on Mar 1
 - We had around 180 meters that did not send the electric reading to our equipment
 - This is most likely the result of dead batteries in the radio transmitter unit. We have begun replacement efforts for these units.

- **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
 - Bryn Mar Crossing
 - I have reviewed the construction plans and submitted my comments to the planning and zoning department
 - Following their resubmittal, I submitted additional comments to the planning and zoning department
 - Scenic View Estates
 - Plans being developed for review
- New Vehicles

- The two new trucks ordered by the department for 2020 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
- 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
- Regulatory Reports
 - CCR (Consumer Confidence Report)
 - I have begun work on the CCR for 2020. This report is due to the OEPA by July 1
- Middleground Sanitary Sewer
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- Utility Committee Meeting
 - We held a Utility Committee meeting on Mar 15 at 5:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,

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

Chris Sharrock
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