



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

➤ **New Items**

• **New Operational Updates**

- Service Area Swap with SWL
 - As of Feb 9th SWL has taken over the service areas outlined in the agreement, trading for the rights to service The Forest Ridge Development
- Turn Offs
 - Turn offs for non-payment will be conducted on Feb 21
- Leaks
 - No comment
- Sewer Lining Project
 - Both phases of the sewer lining project are underway. The contractor has been very responsive to customer questions and concerns
 - In conjunction with the sewer lining project Spenco is upsizing a section of main sewer line in the parking lot of the Dairy Hut
 - The section of main that is being removed is 12” diameter and is being replaced with a 15” diameter pipe to match the rest of the existing pipe
- Bulk Water Fill Station
 - The water main and the electric line have been installed to where the station will be located
- Meter Calibration
 - All of the water and sewer plants meters have had their annual calibration
- OPWC application
 - We did not receive the grant from the OPWC for the generator project
- MaryAnn Figgins
 - MaryAnn was elected to serve as the Operator Training Committee of Ohio (OTCO) Vice President on Feb 10, 2023

➤ **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
 - 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.
 - 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

- Meter Calibration

- All of the water and sewer plants meters have had their annual calibration

- **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.

- Leaks

- No comment

- Creek Rd L/S

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

- Sewer Slip lining

- Both phases of the sewer lining project are underway. The contractor has been very responsive to customer questions and concerns
- 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
- In conjunction with the sewer lining project Spenco is upsizing a section of main sewer line in the parking lot of the Dairy Hut
- 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
 - Turn offs for non-payment were conducted on Feb 21
- 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**

- **WRF Expansion**

- Until the WRF permit is expanded, we will not be able to provide sewer service for any additional significant development projects within the Pataskala Utility Department sewer service area
 - This excludes developments who are already in the process
- 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.

- **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.
- As of Feb 9th SWL has taken over the service areas outlined in the agreement, trading for the rights to service The Forest Ridge Development

- **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
 - We did not receive the grant from the OPWC for the generator project
- MaryAnn Figgins
 - MaryAnn was elected to serve as the Operator Training Committee of Ohio (OTCO) Vice President on Feb 10, 2023

Respectfully submitted,

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

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