



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

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➤ **New Items**

• **New Operational Updates**

- RFQ for the WRF Capacity Expansion Project
  - There were three firms that submitted to the RFQ for the WRF Capacity Expansion Project.
  - Review and Scoring of the three firms took place on January 17<sup>th</sup>. The top two scoring firms have been contacted by the utility department to participate in an interview.
    - Following the submittal scoring and the interviews, Strand has been chosen as the best firm to complete the design of the WRF Expansion Project.
      - A scope and pricing meeting has been scheduled for Feb 15. Once a scope and price are agreed to with the administration, it will be presented to council for consideration.
- Creek Road Force Main Upgrade Project update
  - The preconstruction meeting for this project is scheduled to take place on February 21.
- Leaks
  - 520 Chateaugay Drive
    - Failed saddle was replaced on 2-3-24.
  - 250 Lookout Lane
    - Failed saddle was replaced on 2-4-24.
- Turn offs for non-payment
  - Turn offs are scheduled to take place on February 21.
- End of Year Reports
  - The Annual Sludge Report has been filed with the OEPA ahead of schedule.
  - The Annual Metrics Report has been filed with the OEPA ahead of schedule.
- Utility Service Technician
  - Brandon Gibson started with the department on 2-12-24 as the Service Technician.

## **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
  - Blowers have been delivered.
  - Design for the blowers has been completed.
  - Currently waiting for the contractor to start site work.
- 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 with clean, safe water that meets or exceeds the requirements of 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 the 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.

- Leaks

- 520 Chateaugay Drive
  - Failed saddle was replaced on 2-3-24.
- 250 Lookout Lane
  - Failed saddle was replaced on 2-4-24.

- Sewer Lining Project

- The sewer lining project has been completed. The project utilized OPWC and House Bill 168 funding to help complete the project.
- Visu-sewer is getting organized to complete the last leg of this project.

- Fire Hydrant Painting

- I received an email from Iva O'Ryan with Licking Hights High School. Iva supervises a community service project for the school, organizing kids to paint fire hydrants for the Utility Department. This project has been running for a few years, and is working very well. The Utility Department is very grateful for all the time and effort that Iva and the students put into this project.

- **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 for non-payment

- Turn offs are scheduled to take place on February 21.
- The Billing Team is focused heavily on cross training to ensure that the Billing Clerk is ready to step in for the Billing Manager when she takes leave to have her baby.

• **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 permit is currently out for public comment.
- RFQ for the WRF Capacity Expansion Project
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  - Review and Scoring of the three firms took place on January 17<sup>th</sup>. The top two scoring firms have been contacted by the utility department to participate in an interview.
    - Following the submittal scoring and the interviews, Strand has been chosen as the best firm to complete the design of the WRF Expansion Project.
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- Creek Road Force Main Upgrade Project update
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- Utility Service Tech open position
  - Brandon Gibson started with the department on 2-12-24 as the Service Technician.
- 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.
- End of Year Reports

- The Annual Sludge Report has been filed with the OEPA ahead of schedule.
- The Annual Metrics Report has been filed with the OEPA ahead of schedule.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Sharrock  
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