

Memorandum



Date: September 9, 2026
To: Buchanan City Commission
From: Craig Miller
Subject: **Maintenance work to water towers**

Background

The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) requires communities to contract for regular inspections of their water towers to identify deficiencies and any needed corrective actions. The City of Buchanan secured the services of Dixon Engineering to perform the required inspections. Dixon is widely considered one of the leading water tower engineering firms in the state, and its services are used by communities throughout our region.

During the inspections, Dixon Engineering identified several items that must be addressed to bring the facilities into compliance with applicable EGLE requirements.

The first compliance item involves the overflow pipe discharge on each tower. Each discharge must be modified to point downward and maintain an air gap of 12 to 24 inches. In addition, a flap gate or duckbill check valve should be reinstalled at each discharge point.

The second compliance item involves the exterior ladders. A vandal guard must be installed on the exterior ladder of each tower to satisfy EGLE requirements and improve site security.

The City developed a specification package for the required work, distributed it to several prospective bidders and plan rooms, and posted it on the City's website. The City received one sealed bid from Pittsburg Tank and Tower to complete the work. Below is an overview of the bid received.

Repair Item	Location / Size	Cost
Overflow discharge modification	4-inch pipe	\$5,480.00
Overflow discharge modification	6-inch pipe	\$6,730.00
Vandal guard installation	E. Front Street Tower	\$6,070.00
Vandal guard installation	Moccasin Street Tower	\$6,070.00
Total Cost:		\$24,350.00

Recommendation

Staff recommends the City Commission authorize the City Manager to execute the necessary contracts with Pittsburg Tank & Tower Maintenance Co. to schedule and complete the required corrective work as part of the City's ongoing water tower maintenance program, at a total cost of \$24,350.00.

Completing these repairs will address the items identified during the recent inspections and help ensure both water towers remain in compliance with applicable regulatory requirements and continue to be properly maintained.