

Water Department Report 11-1-21

1. We have marked hundreds and hundreds of Miss-Dig locate requests.
2. We continue to use our remote access to the Sensus software to identify leaks in customers' homes and notify them, saving them a great deal of money and heartache. Generally speaking, they are very appreciative of our efforts. This has been a great P.R. tool for us over the years.
3. In mid-June we received permission to enter customer's homes for non-emergency issues for the first time since the start of the pandemic. Since then, Craig has been working hard to address the many meter-read issues that had accumulated since the start of the pandemic, and together we have been changing old water meters with a focus on properties where we will be potholing as part of our 3-point inspection. We recently received an order of MXU's that had been on back-order for 2 months. Some have been installed on homes already to fix meter read errors resulting from bad MXU's.
4. With compliance sampling, we have taken and received results for all of our required samples. Everything came back well within the regulation limits and we have had no issues with Disinfection Byproducts, PFAS, Automated Partial Chemistry, and SOC's and VOC's.
5. Craig has been working on design and construction of shelving and other storage for the enclosed trailer to house all of our dig-related equipment and supplies safely.
6. To date I have turned 97 out of 270 hydrant isolation valves in the distribution system. I will get to as many as I can before winter.
7. With help from the DPW, Craig tapped the 12" water main on Carroll St. to provide a water service for the new Scarecrow Charities building.
8. Craig vactored and reset the valve box for 322 N. Detroit St. and we have since been able to change the malfunctioning meter at that location. The valve box was located in the sidewalk and was on quite a bad angle.
9. I updated the backup-up batteries on the Base Station located at the Front St. water tower, which were 11 years old. We are still waiting on a replacement rectifier to ship to us to return to full redundancy on the unit.
10. We participated in the annual Big Truck Day in conjunction with the Buchanan Library. As usual, the kids had a blast climbing in all the equipment and especially honking the horns.
11. We have begun the long process of pot-holing 314 addresses over the next 3 years. So far, we have surveyed 17 of those addresses after getting off to a late start waiting for the DWAM grant details to be finalized. We realize that we have a big task ahead of us in the coming years. Also, I have submitted the first two reimbursement requests for receiving the DWAM funding.

12. I spent a good amount of time dealing with the BS&A transition between attending trainings and working with tech support to gain remote access to the system from our office. It definitely took more time than expected to get everything set up.
13. I submitted our annual Certificate of Distribution to EGLE for our 2020 CCR. This was my first time doing this, as Deb had taken care of it in the past. It was pretty straight-forward and went well.
14. On Sunday, 8-22 we were called in along with DPW and Cemetery to address the hydrant isolation valve that had the very slight leak on the corner of Front and Main. We declared a boil order, depressurized the water mains in a 5-block area, and excavated. We restored water service that night, but had to depressurize the following night as well. We were able to restore water service for good at around 10:00 Tuesday morning after working all night, and replace the hydrant on Thursday. Also, we were able to lift the boil order for the now 6-block area on Thursday. The cost of this repair was well over \$6000 in parts alone.
15. On Sunday, 8-29-21 we were called in along with DPW and Cemetery to repair a water leak on W. Third St. between McCumber and Miller. It ended up being something none of us had ever seen before, as a copper water service had bonded itself to an abandoned iron gas main. The water service began leaking into the gas main, pressurizing it. Fortunately, the leak was showing itself near to the service that need fixed and we were able to locate and repair it.
16. During our September bacteriological sampling round, we had Well 4A test positive for Total Coliform, negative for E. Coli. The well was placed off line until it could be shock-chlorinated. I obtained 2 quotes, of which Peerless Midwest was the less expensive at \$2570. They shocked the well and pumped it off two days later. After obtaining 2 negative bacti samples, the well was put back on line. As a result, Well 1A ran as the lead well for 21 out of 22 consecutive days. This serves to illustrate just how vulnerable we are with just 2 main production wells, and just how important it is to get the new well installed along with the iron removal facility to allow it, along with Well 5, to join the regular rotation.
17. We repaired leaks in service lines on Polis St. and Howe Lane. The DPW was a big help on the Polis leak as we were pressed for time. We also replaced curb stops W. Front, N. Redbud, W. Front again, and N. Detroit with the help of the DPW. We also replaced a curb stop on Remus Drive.
18. Craig has been promoted to Lead Man at the DPW, and as such has taken on additional duties including interviewing and hiring seasonal help for leaf season along with much more.
19. We completed our fall round of hydrant flushing the first week of October. The results looked very much like they had in the spring, with the water being the cleanest it ever has, and requiring less time to flush than ever before. It looks like removing Well 3 from service has made all the difference in the manganese build-up that took place over the years. We did have one

20. I worked with Tim Jesswein to gather and provide data for the BTFD ISO survey concerning hydrant location, water main sizing, flow and pressure data, and points of contact.
21. We had to deal with a house on W. Front St. which had a leak in the service line past the curbstop which the landlord had been slow to have fixed. The result was a great deal of frustration of the part of myself and Mike Baker in trying to get the owner to comply in a timely fashion to the substantial leak while also doing right by the tenant who was caught in the middle and needed water. We have been looking at the potential of an ordinance which would compel the owner to take timely action or face consequences.
22. Craig and Mike arranged for a demonstration on a saw for cutting water main pipe when doing jobs like the one at the corner of Front and Main. The saw we looked at was very impressive and represents a remarkable improvement in safety over our circular saw, which is extremely dangerous to operate in a trench.
23. I have trained Craig on both compiling the monthly MOR reports and submitting the reimbursement requests for DWAM grant activities in an attempt to increase redundancy within the department.
24. I spent time working with Ann Tuite and Richard Martin of Buchanan Tree Friends along with Rich Murphy to help locate areas for tree planting that would not interfere with infrastructure access in the future, especially along E. Third St.
25. On 10-12 we spent the entire day working alongside DPW and Cemetery to complete the massive storm clean-up efforts.

Scott Desenberg, O.I.C