

# Columbus Utilities Directors Update – 10/17/2024

## Past Month

### Electric:

- School has started for the Linemen who are still in the Apprenticeship Program
- Jake Boness, Jeff Hecht Jr, and Mason Moser volunteered to assist MEUW and other Wisconsin Public Power Providers in Florida to rebuild after Hurricane Milton.
- Conversions were completed removing more customers off of Substation #1.
- Substation #4 Repair work is still in a holding pattern as parts have yet to arrive.
- Substation #3 Transrupter project will be delayed as Sun Prairie Power Utility needed our copper bus work that we had available for the project. Forster Electric will handle the reorder and payment of the replacement parts for our project.
- Electric Utilities assisted contractors with the Waterloo Lift Station Project and will continue to do so once permanent power is ready to be restored to Lift Station.

### Water:

- We are still waiting on the results of a VOC test that was taken from Reservoir #1.
- Plant #1 remains offline.
- Hydrants are still being sandblasted and painted.
- Hydrants are being flushed as the flushing season nears its end.
- Lead & Copper Inventory and Sampling has been completed for the year.
- Service Line Material Inventory for Federal EPA and State DNR has been completed.
- During the Meister Park Lift Station Replacement Project, a water main that was poorly marked was struck by the excavation contractor. The repairs were completed as fast as possible yet the area north of Church Street across the river and the entire Meister Park neighborhood was without water for the day until 8:30PM October 2<sup>nd</sup>.

### Sewer:

- Our new Operator has started at the Plant Merle Noren. He comes with a vast amount of experience and expertise. We welcome him onboard and look forward to having him with Columbus Utilities for years to come.
- Effluent Disinfection Season has come to a close for 2024. The plant is no longer chlorinating or dechlorinating the plant effluent to the Crawfish River.
- We have been having some temperature control problems in the Admin/Lab area of the plant. Staff contacted Bassett Mechanical and they were able to assist us in making the repair.
- Our BOD incubator has been acting up. Staff has been able to regulate the temperatures in the incubator as of late but we are looking to purchase a backup unit, and Merle Noren mentioned his old plant had our exact unit sitting on a shelf so we may try and procure that Incubator from West Salem.
- The Vac Truck is currently on the auction block until October 30<sup>th</sup> @ 10:40AM.
- Rate Case is being finalized for the sewer utility.

## Upcoming Month

### Electric:

- Dalton would like to work on getting a few more conversions done while the weather holds out.
- Utility is going to finish the Highway K Project.
- Apprentices will be attending school.
- Hunting Season has started....We will be short staffed.

### Water:

- Hopefully get Plant #1 back online
- Complete Hydrant flushing.
- Remove seasonal water meters.
- State DNR testing
- Finish up on project work that is lingering with the streets projects and whatever may come up with Plant #1 Start-up.
- Hunting Season has started....We will be short staffed. I should say Craig will be here!

### Sewer:

- Continue to get the plant in an optimized state.
- Land Application of Sludge Cake. Empty out the hangar before winter.
- R&M will be Project Managing some of the Sewer Lining, jetting, and repair work that was planned.
- Finish Up Waterloo and Meister Park Lift Station Capital Projects.
- Begin working on 2025's plan of action on how we Optimize the Sewer Utility and our Documentation and Influent Tracking.
- Tony and Jeremy will be attending the WWOA Annual Conference in Appleton to obtain some quality CEU's and speak with vendors.

### Utility Overall:

- Complete and await approval from DNR on updated "detailed" version of Fireman's Park PCB Remediation work.
- Remove the soil from the Countryside Building and relocate according to the DNR's requirement.
- I will be continuing to train through CVMIC as well as attending online webinars on Stormwater, Pretreatment Programs, and other monitoring procedures.