

Date: October 18, 2023

To: Glenn Steckman, City Manager

CC: City Clerk

Cheryl Thompson, Administrative Assistant

From: Cole Cushman, Public Works Supervisor

Re: Quarterly Report, Fiscal year 23 -24, 1st Quarter

Road Crew

The Road Crew had a busy quarter with lots of ups and downs. We removed one block of asphalt on Lomen Ave between D and E streets. This pavement was in really rough shape and beyond repair. We've started adding slightly coarser, clean rock to parts of the roads which are prone to be soft or tend to blow out when wet. This has shown to be promising. The Road crew has spent some time working on post-Merbock projects, including the South Wall area, Gold Ave & West E st, cleanup down Front St and East End Park. The Road Crew has had a number of challenges with the equipment this quarter. The trucks have been rotating through the shop for a wide variety of reasons including alternators, a starter, DEF issues, electrical issues and a tie rod. The graders have rotated through with battery issues, wear parts, hydraulic leaks and a very loose steering column. The loaders have had hydraulic issues, aftertreatment issues and a broken parking brake. The excavator was down with hydraulic issues for a couple weeks as well. Our mechanic has really done an exceptional job getting things fixed and back on the road. Late in the quarter, the road crew worked on getting the new hockey rink area leveled and ready for the installation of the dasher boards.

Building Maintenance

The Building Maintenance crew was short on the Foreman position for this quarter and has been trying to keep up with the day to day needs plus get new projects accomplished. They've had to step outside of their respective comfort zones to learn new tasks. They were able to replace the front steps to the Morgue with a wider, more accommodating set. Hopefully, this will keep pickups from hitting the handrails. They were also able to pressure wash and stain the Morgue. The crew spent a good amount of time working on the public works building by getting things pulled out and put into storage for the eventual repair of the building. We had a visit from OSHA this quarter, with inspections of the Public Safety Building, Richard Foster Building and City Hall. Naturally, there were some items that needed attention, and the crew has been working through this list to make the buildings safer and more compliant. The crew was supplemented for part of the summer with some high schoolers with Jill Peters' Summer Work Program. With the assistance and guidance of ADFG, these kids started building a driftwood buck and rail fence at the cemetery for muskox deterrence. Most of the north leg is complete. One of these kids built from scratch the new causeway gate. Building Maintenance designed and installed a thaw pipe in the West F st culvert by Crowley for the road crew. It is hoped that this will work better for this particular application than the heat trace which has never really done what is needed here.

Landfill

The Landfill and Mono fill did well with the ADEC inspection this summer, scoring a 98.3 and a 99, out of 100, respectively. The tire shredder was once again put into use and another 1000 or so tires were shredded. The landfill's dozer has been down all summer and is expected to be down for a good part of the winter. While pushing last year's winter trash, the skid-plate under the motor was snagged by something and was spun up into the crankcase oil pan. The operator saw the alarm for low oil and drove directly off the trash pile. But that was too long and the motor is seized. We expect to be able to rebuild it over winter.

Moving Forward

Both crews are getting ready for winter. Coming into the snow season we have all three end-dumps up, with one functioning as our sander. With the sole exception of the landfill dozer, all equipment is up and running. Boilers are back up to temp, truck beds and buckets are painted, sand is made. Hopefully this winter doesn't bring us too many surprises.



Interdepartmental Cooperation