



Memo

Reference: Current and long-term goals of the City.

Date: 12-18-19

In the Utilities side we have been following a long-term vision to position the City to be able to sustain what we can, replace what is needed and prepare for expansion into the future. It is multi-pronged and intricate process requiring timing of several projects over years to unlock the end goal.

We started the process with the sewer system. Over a decade ago, we constructed the new wastewater facility. We set it up to meet upcoming regulations that are just coming to fruition. Even though we had shown little growth the layout was designed anticipating the area needed to double the plant capacity. Over this time two of the main lift stations servicing our industrial park were upgraded. One was completed using funding from a large grant to completely replace the old 1923 structure. We increased the capacity of the other to meet industry needs. We are currently moving to establish an ongoing sewer main renewal program to address problem areas. The cycle however is beginning again. We already have needs affecting the wastewater facility to address due to growth-related issues.

As for the water side the distribution system was divided into two different pressure systems. The #59 well received a facility upgrade that included a new pressure system. This system provides better flows and pressures along the hills in the NE, NW & SE that are required for expansion in these areas. The #80 well was rehabilitated to increase its water output and slow its sand production. This was done to help offset the increased water usage from the new industry. We conclude with the current #42 well project. It addresses a well casing issue and increased capacity lost when the 1942 reservoir was shut down. It is currently substantially complete and the well is working. What all this well work has done has delayed what is the eventual need for a new well project. It was staged in this way to offset the shutdown of the west tower for updating and painting on its exterior last completed in 1986. As for the water distribution system we are in full swing with our first project of our ongoing water main renewal program.

This leads us to the area of Streets. We are currently setting up a process through software to help us coordinate and track work needs and output. We have adjusted some funding in areas to address base issues such as collapsing storm culvert and road panels. We are setting up timing of intervals required for maintenance work on certain road types. While looking at ways to find or free up funds for a road replacement program. Working to put in place timing of repeatable work such as sign replacements, sweeping, mowing, potholing etc. We continue addressing ongoing stormwater related issues, crosswalk areas, tree trimming along with increased removals. The fine tuning of our yard waste area that has been a great success and service for the community. Finally, we continue to monitor all areas, adjust our services to meet needs and work to make Oelwein the best that it can be.

Victor Kane

From the Desk of
Oelwein Utility Superintendent Victor Kane