



**Borough Manager's Report
Assembly Meeting 17 January 2023**

- ❖ The library was recently ranked as a “Star Library,” by *Library Journal*, a trade publication for librarians. It received 4 stars, which ranks it in the top 3% of libraries in the nation based on checkouts, visits, program attendance, public internet use, Wi-Fi sessions, and library website visits. This is the seventh time our library has ranked since the awards began 15 years ago.
- ❖ Curiosity Creates, the library’s weekly afterschool program, has restarted thanks to a generous donation from Kris Norosz and the Rasmuson Foundation.
- ❖ The news of the \$1.6 million award for the clear well replacement came through at the right time. Staff reported the current tank sprung a leak after the first of the year! Thanks to the motor pool who was able to respond and weld a patch in place and stop the leak. We will be looking to hire an engineer to develop plans and specifications for the clear well replacement.
- ❖ Protect those water meters! Freezing conditions will break the frost bases on the meter and stop water from entering a home. If you have a water meter that is leaking water, you can call either the public works office or the water plant to have the Borough replace the frost base.
- ❖ PND Engineers are working on routing and construction options for the Pump Station 4 Force Main project. Although a design study for the project was completed in 2020, recent focus on housing/land shortages are driving the department to consider a changed route that would enable at least a limited number of Borough lots to be more easily developed in the future. Additional considerations for procurement of private lands that are adjacent to the pump station would make a large difference for the new pump station.
- ❖ McG/Dawson is working on procuring insurance and bonding for the Blind Slough Hydro project. The pre-construction meeting is scheduled for January 18th to iron out various schedules and processes that will enable the contractor to move rapidly to procurement of materials and supplies for the job.
- ❖ During the outage of December 28th, the smaller service generator at the power plant had a component failure. Staff ordered parts right away and will install them upon arrival. We have implemented a contingency plan to power up the power plant and municipal building in the event of an outage.
- ❖ There are several plumbing projects needing to be addressed, including an update to the Elderly Housing kitchen commercial sink and drainage infrastructure, with an anticipated completion date of end of January.
- ❖ On Dec 20, 2022, the DNR Commissioner granted the borough’s appeal regarding two parcels located adjacent to Olsen’s Log Dump and the Woodpecker Cove LTF, however the Commissioner chose to “postpone conveyance” of the two parcels rather than “approve the parcels for conveyance”. The result being the two parcels will be considered again in a future DNR decision for conveyance to the borough.

- ❖ The Commissioner's decision lifts the administrative stay on all lands included in this decision that was in place during the appeal period. The borough now has management authority over 1,421 acres approved for conveyance. The next step is for the borough to request survey determinations from DNR.
- ❖ A request to waive the survey requirement was submitted for 13 waterfront lots in Thomas Bay, and survey determinations were requested for several lots that have been previously surveyed by the US Forest Service. The remaining selected lands included in this decision are generally a portion of a larger selection, so it seems prudent to wait until the surrounding land is adjudicated before requesting a survey determination.
- ❖ The DNR has worked through issues surrounding the conveyance of the majority of the Thomas Bay Subdivision to the borough. They are preparing a new draft patent for the borough to review. Requested the DNR consider including all Thomas Bay parcels approved for conveyance in one patent deed even though the subdivision was split across two separate DNR decisions. They have not responded yet.
- ❖ Molly submitted address points to the FCC broadband map. Many areas had been left off the original FCC map. The FCC is gradually accepting this new data. We are still trying to get additional information from the State Broadband Office and/or FCC about how to best provide additional comments on coverage.
- ❖ Derrick is working with home health about doing a fall prevention plan.
- ❖ SH Dredge is progressing. Hard digging has the contractor looking to the USACE to provide direction per the contract. USACE reps are coming to town to evaluate project 1/17-19 and take samples. Western has roughly 7500 cubic yards dumped (as of this morning) of a goal of over 60,000. SH boat owners call and talk to Glo concerning any travel plans. There is a loose schedule for owners to move their vessels out of the contractor's way.
- ❖ Since we have a break from plowing, the crew is working on replacement of the old wastewater parts shed located adjacent to motor pool. The old structure has been demolished and site prep and pile driving are in progress.
- ❖ The Sanitation dept is short-handed since one staff member is out of town for training and another had to take personal leave on short notice. The Streets crew is pitching in to help collections stay on track until we are back up to full strength.
- ❖ The LEPC met on Jan 12th and the Presentation from FEMA about the Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) was on Jan 14th.
- ❖ Aaron was able to get the PVFD yearend report completed.
- ❖ Stephanie Payne has completed certification to be an American Red Cross First Aid/CPR/AED Instructor. Please contact her at Parks and Recreation for more information or to set up a class.
- ❖ Parks and Rec has updated their gym schedule to accommodate the Youth Volleyball season. Please see their website or Facebook for the Spring Schedule – which also includes another night of Open Volleyball on Monday and Wednesday nights! Open Volleyball welcomes all the community to join.
- ❖ Parks and Recreation will keep the Movie in the Pool nights going due to great turnout and fun! Next movie night will be Thursday, Jan. 19th at 6p. Cost is \$5 per person – membership scan is not needed.