



VILLAGE OF POPLAR GROVE

"A Great Place to Call Home"

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Public Works Report, January 2025

- 2 staff members spent an early week of January vacuuming inlets. While we typically do this on an as needed basis, it was good to have the time available for a Village wide in depth clean out. While performing the vacuuming, staff also noted necessary repairs to inlets. I will be compiling this information into a work list for spring.
- Cold patched Village wide. We are still currently waiting on a repair part for the burner on our hotbox. Once the hotbox is repaired, we will be able to do some more long-term patching this winter. We were able to repair the faulty amperage issues, but the burner and ignitor require some OEM parts to repair.
- Staff also fabricated a dump trailer for use with the hotbox.
- Changed blades on batwing and boom mower.
- Cleaned up scab trees, bushes, and other overgrowth from Village owned berm at Woodstock Rd and Ridgestone Rd in Prairie Green. There are two other berms that require some clean up. All should be done by spring, improving some of the entrance aesthetics to the neighborhood.
- Staff underwent a series of Julie training sessions. Locate laws are changing this year, and these training courses will keep us up to date on all new requirements as we are locators, utility owners, and excavators.
- Change door locks at 100 S State property. When the dog grooming business abruptly moved out, she also threw away the keys to the locks. Both doors were replaced, and the Village now holds multiple key sets for the property.
- Repaired and reconfigured our pump hoist for use on the skid steer, rather than the tractor. This will allow for more maneuverability as well as lifting power for pulling pumps for cleaning at lift stations.
- Pulled faulty pump at Dawson Lake Road lift station, cleaned and re installed.
- Repaired a water service in Trails of Dawson Creek – this service has since proved to be a damaged public side service line, and a requires a new HDPE line to be bored in its place. Due to the equipment needed for the work (bore machine) this will be contracted out to NTrak Group.
- Swept curblines to remove excess salt.
- Cleaned up and removed sod damage from plowing in Bel Air subdivision.
- Replaced soap and hand sanitizers in Village Hall. With the expiration of the Cintas contract, we are replacing these items in house. We will see a significant cost decrease by making a one time

purchase on the equipment, and purchases refills in house. I expect this should cost the Village roughly half of the required contract with Cintas for the course of a year.

- Moved sludge to drying bed. Sludge is to the point where it will have to be removed from beds and spread sometime this year. Chris and I have been looking into a new land app permit, but finding local fields to spread on has proven somewhat difficult.
- Multiple salt events throughout the month. We are currently around 50% of the minimum requirement for contracted salt purchases but should have enough events in February to reach that point. Based on the mild winter so far, I'm anticipating only having to purchase the required minimum for salt on the season – barring a drastic uptick in snow events.
- We did have one minor plow event in January. This event went smoothly, with no issues to really report. Our seasonal position worker is fitting in well and has demonstrated the ability to not only handle snow events, but also assist staff seamlessly in other operations as well. He has proven to be an ideal fit with our crew.
- I worked through multiple residential water billing issues. We were able to determine that there was a handful of residents that saw a jump in bills due to only being charged a minimum usage for the December billing cycle, causing the balance to reflect the actual amount in January. Between myself, Jeff, and Owen all the residents affected were contacted and the situation was explained in detail. For a few others with abnormally high bills, after multiple discussions I was able to determine the cause of the increase in each situation. As we discussed last month, it usually has something to do with a leak or a water system in the house malfunctioning.
- Met with our new Government Affairs rep for ComEd. The primary focus of that meeting was introductory, but we also discussed some of the needs between the Village and ComEd. I was able to reiterate the need for light pole repair, and Aubrey will be looking into expedited repairs throughout the Village. She also informed me that the street light outage portal had some errors over the course of last year, which led to many of the reports not making it to maintenances end for ComEd. These issues have since been rectified, and the portal remains the best way for residents to report any street light issues.
- Preliminary work on updating the Public Works end of the Village website. In making it more informative and user friendly, I'm hoping to provide more accessible information for the residents in regard to what our department does and what we are responsible for.
- Met with Thomas' and their representatives to discuss the airports potential home expansion. These talks were preliminary and will be ongoing, but the potential for new development is intriguing.
- Met with Lennar development about their interest in Poplar Grove market as well. They feel that Poplar Grove is primed for new housing and are reviewing potential options. Being that this is also very preliminary, we will see how their interest progresses throughout the year.

As always, do not hesitate to contact me with any additional questions or concerns. I am always open to going into more detail on past, current, or future projects and work my department is doing.