VILLAGE OF POPLAR GROVE

"A Great Place to Call Home"

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January 2021 Public Works Report

General:

I continue to work on the budget process in relation to our water, sewer, and street departments. Outside of budgeting typical expenses and line items, I will be working with our Village Engineer on evaluating roads/infrastructure and narrowing down what we can get done with this year's MFT funds. We also have outstanding projects from FY20-21 that were put on hold, due to COVID, that need to get completed. This month I met with Engineer Dopkins and President Costanza to go over upcoming projects and needs.

All Public Works staff completed their annual sexual harassment training, as required by law.

After numerous calls from residents and attempts at getting Comed to repair or replace the intersection lights at Woodstock/76 and Orth/76, I have finally gotten somewhere with at least getting the correct information regarding the ownership/responsibility of the lights. It turns out the lights are actually owned by IDOT. I contacted IDOT Belvidere, who referred me to IDOT Dixon. I spoke with the lady in charge of lighting and signs for our region and she stated unless it is a simple bulb or ballast replacement, the lights will not be repaired until at least July because of budget issues. I find this unacceptable and relayed to her this is a safety issue. I informed President Costanza what had transpired and he is going to reach out to someone within the State and see if he can get the process sped up.

Comed has sent correspondence regarding potential developments and current developments in Poplar Grove and their new front easement requirement. Office staff is looking through ordinances, resolutions, and plats to see what developments can be grandfathered in to rear lot easements and which ones cannot.

Staff removed the lights from the Village Christmas tree and pavilion. A lift was also rented to remove the lighted pole decorations on State St.

Streets/Storm Sewer:

Staff responded to numerous snow/ice events this month. I have included a spreadsheet that tracks any related activity to snow and ice removal from Village roadways. It does not include the numerous hours that go into cleaning up after snowfall events. This includes plowing/salting all Village owned properties, including treatments plants, wells, lift stations, our public works shop, and Village Hall. Staff has already responded to more snow/ice related events this year than all of our 19-20 snow season. We also try and clear as many bus stops, storm sewer inlets, and fire hydrants, as time allows, between snow events. All processes related to snow events and equipment repairs have taken up a good majority of staff's month.

The intersection light at Greenbriar Blvd and Woodstock Rd has been upgraded to an LED fixture to better illuminate the intersection.

We have taken 250 of our 575 tons allotted through the State bidding process. There is another 100 tons on order and we will need to take at least 80 percent of the 575 tons before May.

Work was done to almost all of our plow equipment/trucks this month. Major repairs included new brakes on red 05 International, a power steering gearbox on white 05 International, pitman and idler arm replacement/alignment/new tires on service truck, a new salter controller for the 1 ton.

NTRAK's work at Main and Washington is at a standstill. Welch Brothers delivered and installed the vault lid we have been waiting on, but Comed still has yet to hook the power up at the pole. We have filed our paperwork with Comed for a new service installation. The pumps and railings also still need to be installed in the vault.

Parks/Buildings:

Bufalo Contracting inspected the roof of all Village owned properties in the northern part of town due to a storm that had high winds and hail. There is damage to Village Hall, the NWWTP main building, and Well 3. The dog groomer rental property and the pavilion at Memorial Park did not sustain any damage. The same storm also blew down one of our light poles at Village Hall and it had to be replaced by McGilvra Electric. All of the damage has been turned in to our insurance company and an adjuster has been out. UPDATE: Our insurance company has approved the claims. I have a meeting setup with Bufalo on 2/9 to go over the claims and what work needs to be done.

Our insurance company was out to do annual property inspections and advised that a railing needed to be installed in our Public Works building loft. Staff purchased lumber from Menards and constructed the railing.

I continue to work with our design professionals on our new public works facility. We are currently working on site improvement plans and waiting to get notification that the County has received our grant money.
This building is a long time coming and we want to make sure that it is done correctly the first time. Input is also being taken from public works. Staff got a tour of Machesney Parks new public works building to collect ideas and input from them as well.

Fencing for the dog park is still sitting at Dach Fence's shop. Unfortunately, we did not get a good frost to harden the ground before the snow fell and it was too soft for them to drive out there without damaging the newly seeded park. We are still hoping to get the posts in before spring. UPDATE: The dog waste stations, garbage cans, and benches purchased by the Eagle Scout have all been delivered and are in storage in our shed at Village Hall.

Water/Sewer distribution:

The blower purchase that was approved by the Board, for the SWWTP, has been installed. Ion informed me an additional blower at the SWWTP has gone bad. I will include the purchase of this new blower in this year's upcoming budget. Ion did say that after watching the blower installation this month, that any additional blower installation could be handled by TEST.

The SWWTP grit room radiant heater, that was approved by the Board, was installed by Comfort Solutions this month.

Staff moved sludge for Test so they could fill the drying beds again.

Locates were done as required by law and are coming in daily. We also marked and called in our locates.

Meters were read and all un-reads were gathered manually.

Other work performed by staff included: door notices, water turn ons, water turn offs, meter installs/replacements, MXU replacements/installs, bbox adjustments/repairs, final reads, consumption/water quality/pressure complaint appointments.

If there are any questions, please feel free to contact me at MHilden@villageofpoplargrove.com or 815-742-0418

Mitch Hilden
Director of Public Works