



# VILLAGE OF POPLAR GROVE

*"A Great Place to Call Home"*

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200 N. Hill Street, Poplar Grove, IL 61065

Phone: (815) 765-3201 – Fax: (815)765-3571

<https://www.poplargo-ve-il.gov/>

## Public Works Report, December 2023

- Staff responded to a few salt events throughout December and some minor snow issues.
- Washed and fluid filmed (protective coating) all winter equipment and trucks.
- Started working on an updated tool and equipment inventory.
- Performed generator repairs based off of the fall preventative maintenance list provided by our generator service company – replace belts, fluid, and filters.
- Serviced all small engine equipment – replaced/cleaned spark plugs, and cleaned carbs. This includes saws, blowers, string trimmers, and a few other small engine tools.
- Worked on electrical panel, and pump at Well 4.
- Changed lights, and repaired a service latch on top of the Arboretum water tower.
- Repaired and patched a sanitary service on Park St and another one on Edson St. Including a water service repair done just this past Thursday, 1/11, this brings us to a total of 2 water services, and 4 sanitary service repairs since we bought our new excavator. Had we not had this excavator, these all would have been contracted out costing the Village an estimated \$60,000 to \$70,000. Essentially, the excavator will end up “paying for itself” within a year.
- Took our tractor to Peabody’s for our new boom mower installation. The mower itself is on and operational, but they are waiting on the delivery and installation of the wheel counterweights before it is fully completed.
- As I have communicated in emails, and at previous meetings, our new F750 5-yard has been delayed. Lindco received notification from their plow supplier that there were delays in part for the plow itself, and would not be available until the end of February beginning of March. Once Lindco receives the plow, it should only take them a week or so for installation of the plow. As long as there are no further shipping delays with the plow, I’m expecting the truck to be delivered in mid to late March.
- The Shop is coming along on schedule and budget, as we have had minimal change orders to this point. We have been issued pay apps from Larson through December, and Carina will have those numbers referenced in her report. As far as the construction itself - the interior is being painted, office walls have been constructed, garage and man doors installed, electrical conduit is progressing, and plumbing is being done currently. As we moved along, the shop is locked and secured. If any members of the board would like to see the progress inside, please reached out during working hours and I would be happy to set something up with our contractor. Larson’s

staff are currently the only ones with keys, so it will have to be done while they are available to be on-site.

- I spent a couple of days at the end of the month working with Carina and Barb on financial document requests.

A few more things to note.

Call-outs become increasingly likely during this time of year, between the snow and cold causing issues with our infrastructure. Anyone reviewing payroll will notice an uptick in staff call-out pay.

Winter weather is officially upon us, and staff worked more than 75 hours over the last week. This was a difficult week with multiple storms, falling temps, and blowing winds. All these things considered; I think the staff handled this week exceptionally. Although not “perfect”, I feel strongly that our roads were better maintained than many other neighboring municipalities – which is impressive considering we are a 5 man crew without the ability to run multiple shifts as some surrounding areas can. Between emergency repair work, daily work, and now snow storms our current Public Works staff has proven to be well-rounded and a great group of workers.

Lastly, as you all are aware, I will be on vacation from January 31<sup>st</sup> to February 5<sup>th</sup>. I have full confidence in my staff to handle any situations that may arise while I’m gone. All emergency calls will go to Stephen during this time. We have talked extensively about processes while I’m gone, so I do not anticipate anything to lack. Staff also has Ion and Jasons numbers with Test, as well as Chris Dopkins should there be any questions that need to be answered by them.

As always, don't 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.