



**News from Public Works Board, Water Policy Board, Municipal Wastewater Committee, and Staff Meetings**

- ✚ The Public Works Board approved the bidding of five trucks for several divisions in our department.
- ✚ The Board approved an agreement with the Vietnam Veterans for them to use the old lift station building near their memorial on Grand Haven Road and an agreement with the American Legion for them to use the old lift station building near their hall on Hoyt Street.
- ✚ Our electronics contractor was given permission to move ahead to convert Lift Stations A and B to our new system in conjunction with the work at Lift Station C next year.
- ✚ Whitehall Township, the Wastewater Committee, and Public Works Board approved the sale of the old Whitehall Plant property to Scott Erdman for \$1.325M, the appraised price of the property. Scott plans a number of energy-related activities on the site, including an ethanol plant.
- ✚ The Board granted an easement to Whitehall Township for gravity sewer on the old Whitehall Wastewater site.
- ✚ Permission was given to Wastewater staff to bid the quarterly calibration of our billing meters and re-bid the sale of our vactor truck.
- ✚ The Board accepted the \$75,101 bid for the Brown Bear.
- ✚ The sludge removal contract for Cell #4 was awarded to Jackson-Merkey Contractors. They should begin work in another week or so.
- ✚ Our Regional Water Policy Board passed a motion to use the County Health Department's rules when determining if a well can be upgraded or if the owner must hook up to our water system.
- ✚ Our parks division is working to winterize their systems and start their season of moving leaves.
- ✚ Wastewater staff has been meeting with MDEQ regarding our plant's maximum headworks capacity and local limits derived from those.
- ✚ Our Municipal Wastewater Committee discussed the replacement of the next three miles of 66-inch force main at the last two meetings and passed a recommendation to move ahead with the project. They also recommended that the System use County Revenue bonds as the payment mechanism.
- ✚ The Municipal Wastewater Committee also voted to recommend that the System take over the main Montague sewage lift station and Keating Lift Station in the City of Muskegon.
- ✚ Mercury minimization plans are due from our local dentists in the next month.
- ✚ Wastewater Aerated Settling Lagoon #4 is being dewatered in anticipation of sludge removal that should start by the end of the month. All the remaining drying bed sludge was hauled to our landfill this period. Several drying beds have been leveled and surveyed.
- ✚ A survey of the sludge depths in the storage lagoons showed a decrease in the amount stored there.
- ✚ Bids are out for the cleaning and video of the Ruddiman area sewer and are due on November 1<sup>st</sup>.
- ✚ Moving the water billing to monthly has really helped our Water Division assist residents in finding when they have leaks.
- ✚ The five Phase I Collection System Upgrade contracts and five large Water projects are essentially complete.
- ✚ The Phase II or Lift Station C contract is 45% complete with concrete pours this period at the headworks and the partial floor over the dry well. This project remains ahead of schedule.
- ✚ Installation of the fiber optic cable into the 66-inch force main will begin this Saturday. The monitoring will hopefully begin by the end of the month.
- ✚ The first rebuilt pump at Lift Station D should be running next week, and one of the 1,250 horsepower Lift Station C motors should be done as well.
- ✚ A helicopter has been schedule for next week to pull a motor and gearbox in Cell #2.
- ✚ The soybean harvest is almost complete with the best yields in recent years. Farm staff has begun corn harvest, but do not have many acres to cover since most of this crop was chopped for silage last month.
- ✚ The fifth cutting of alfalfa is about half done, awaiting dry weather to complete. Fortunately we have had warm weather, and the crop has not been killed by frost.
- ✚ The demolition work at our Business Park North is completed, and work on the sewer portion has begun.
- ✚ The design work for the Greenridge water and sewer project should be completed soon.
- ✚ Wastewater received the new computer server, and it will be in service soon.
- ✚ Our hauled waste volume for October is up from September so far and should total about 2.4 or 2.5 MG for the month.
- ✚ Landscape work is still being completed in the MacArthur Road area. An agreement was finally reached to remove the last house, and preparations are underway to accomplish that soon.
- ✚ A MDEQ "tabletop" emergency exercise was held at the Wastewater site this week with several agencies involved.
- ✚ The drawing was held for the wastewater site trapping, and the MDNR waterfowl hunt schedule began this week. About 250 of the 300 bow hunting permits have been issued.
- ✚ Negotiations have been moving forward in cooperation with Eagle Alloy to get a third party gas usage agreement with Sun Chemical. The benefit for our landfill and the foundry would be splitting the revenues for the gas produced on weekends.
- ✚ Retention basin discussions with MDEQ, our local conservation leaders, and staff have continued. Options of using unlined basins for the retention of both storm and waste water are being studied, as is the creation of desirable wildlife habitat. The main objections to the initial concept of retention basins were cost and incompatibility with community land use. Grants have been available for the storm water basins and wildlife habitat, and basins that look more natural and have other environmental benefits should have more community appeal. Another possibility is locating some sort of sports field within the basin. Our engineers are locating the applicable storm drains in the vicinity of the possible basin locations.



*Harvesting corn in Field 32 this week*

**Personnel**

Congratulations to **Mike Faino** on 5 years (I think I have it right this time) and **Randy Young** on 20 years of service this month. Please continue to pray for **Brian Bates** that he remains free of cancer and for **Mark and Pam Johnston** as they prepare for her bone marrow work. **Rodney Holland's** knee surgery was last week, and he is recovering fine.



*Leveling the sludge drying beds with a laser*



*Dewatering for sewer installation at the Business Park North project*



*One of our bow hunters with an eight-point buck from the wastewater system*



*Some of the final demolition work at the Business Park North project*



*The Brown Bear being loaded up for its trip to its new home in Indiana*



*Pumping Cell #4 down for sludge removal using our 12-inch pump*