



Mayor's Letter

February 15, 2024

Infrastructure Update

WELL UPDATE. This week Hydro was on site to remove the test pump and 4 inch temporary column pipe and install the final pump, motor, check-valve and 6 inch column pipe. They disabled the well and removed the pipe and test motor on Monday. Given their past history, as you would expect, they then had to stop working for the week because they didn't have the new parts to put in the well. So, they disabled our well which supplies 70 percent of our water despite them knowing that they couldn't begin the installation without the new parts. Just another example of the miserable planning and project management that we have experienced with Hydro. Their electrical subcontractor



will be onsite to install the controls and power connections from February 20th-23rd. In our weekly meetings since early January, the subcontractors have assured us that all parts and component deliveries were on schedule and they would complete their work by February 23rd. Of course, this week, they just notified us that one of the necessary parts will not be DELIVERED to them until March 16th. More excuses, more poor planning, more delays. Based on the over-all level of ineptitude, I now expect the final acceptance of the well at the end of March, 330 days late.

WASTEWATER PLANT Engineers are working on the final design and permitting for the Wastewater Treatment Plant expansion. We are tripling the operating capacity from our current 100,000 gallons per day to 300,000 gpd. This

project is very complex, so the Town (meaning me) will be the general contractor. We have already awarded the bid to AUC for the construction and installation of the additional 200,000 gallon package plant. The plant is composed of several components; the digester, aeration basin, settling tank, clarifier, chlorine contact chamber, sludge holding tank, and dewatering tanks. AUC is currently fabricating the components, delivery and installation is scheduled to begin September 30th. The blower motors and aeration system are the most critical factors in sewer plant operations. If you don't get the air mixture correct, the system can go anaerobic and then you smell the stink. The blowers are also what generate the noise. In the picture above, you can see construction of our new blower building is underway. The building will house the new larger energy-efficient blowers and it has been designed to eliminate any noise.



We have also poured the foundation for the new Public Works Building. Construction of the new steel building will start next month. The front third of the building will have offices, conference area, laboratory, kitchen, and full bath. Above the office area will be our parts inventory control room. The rear portion of the building will be used for equipment storage and shop area. Finally, there will be a parking lot and new access road, along with fencing and gates to limit access. We will also stub out plumbing for sewer and water on the north side of the building for potential future recreational facilities in Witt Park.

WITT PARK One of the challenges to the wastewater facility expansion is that the lift station that services Lakecrest, Hillside, Peninsula, Parkwood, and Green Meadow is located in the middle of the plant. It must be demolished to make room for the new construction. We have completed construction of a larger, more efficient lift station on the northeastern edge of the plant. Next month we should complete connecting the new lines (including boring under the dirt mountain) and installing the pumps and controls. Transferring operations to the new lift station and demolishing the old one will follow. Once this is complete we will build the new security fencing. At that point, we will landscape the berm and wrap it around the back corner to hide the plant from view from Peninsula. This is also when we will remove the dead trees, grade the berm area, and restore the lake access trail.

GROUND STORAGE TANK Earlier this month I met with representatives from Aquastore who were in LWV for their initial site visit. The scheduled delivery date for the construction materials is June 1st. The tank will



be 16 feet tall, which will be similar to our existing steel tank. The tank will hold 300,000 gallons or about eight times the water in our fiberglass tank. The construction should take approximately two to three months. Our work is done. We have already completed the plumbing of the fill lines from the new well to the tank. We have also completed plumbing the larger suction lines and the new high-volume pressure pumps have been installed. A new larger gas chlorination system has also been installed.

When the new tank is online, we will remove the 32 foot tall fiberglass tanks. One will be donated to the MDD for use in the Rocky Point Water System. The second tank will be moved to the wastewater plant for use in our recycled water project. I will discuss that project in a future Mayor letter.

REMOTE READ METERS Last Fall we started a pilot program with Zenner to evaluate their remote-read water meter program (hardware and software). We installed 30 meters with transmitters and Zenner installed a data collector (antenna) on the Rocky Point water tank. We experimented with the equipment for the last five months. Councilman Cling Bushong worked long and hard with Zenner and MuniBilling (our software provider) to integrate the readings into our monthly billing process. During the pilot we were able to notify Rocky Point customers on several occasions that the software detected a leak. They were able to immediately fix their problem.

Now that the pilot program has been successfully completed we will continue the project. This month we will replace the meters in the Last Resorts Water System (now part of Rocky Point). We are currently installing remote read meters for all of the new construction in South Oak. Later this summer, we will begin replacing the meters inside Lakewood Village (all new construction already receives a remote read). The replacement program will start in the Shores and then progress throughout the town in a phased rollout. The new system is fully automated, we will read meters from Town Hall. Residents will access their meter online to monitor their usage remotely and set alerts

We're all about continuous improvement. There's never been a better time to invest, live, and raise a family in Lakewood Village

Dr. Mark E. Vargus
Mayor

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark E. Vargus".