

Administrators report September 2024

A large part of the month has been consumed with the boil advisory and the boil order. The blue water tower by the school and the large white tower up on Skyline Hills have been power washed on the exterior. The blue water tower was inspected visually on the inside with no issues found, However,



we will need to drain it next summer for its scheduled maintenance during the summer school break. The big white tower up on Skyline Hills was drained and cleaned. There were no issues or recommendations found in association with the maintenance side of the project, however a routine water sample that was taken just ahead of that did show a trace amount of bacteria prompting a boil advisory. The well was shocked with chlorine and re-tested. The samples have been cleared.



There were several tense days as utility contractors performed work along Coy Avenue. The guys marked the water lines associated with the corner of Coy and Allen only to discover that our city maps were wrong and that the 6" main water line was not where it was supposed to be. The

contractor(s) skillfully navigated the intersection, however, as they moved down Coy Ave they struck the water main rupturing the line. Fortunately, our crews had the necessary components to repair the line in under two hours. The low-pressure event triggered a mandatory boil order until the lines could be flushed and tested. This event closed several restaurants for four days. We will see a sharp decline in our sales tax revenues due the businesses lost revenue.

We will need to look for funding sources for an updated infrastructure map. There may be a partial source available through Taney County Regional Sewer District in 2025. They might pay for the sewer line locate part of the project. That would leave us footing the bill for the water line side and the fire hydrant side of the project. This project would help us comply with the DNR lead and copper pipe inventory mandate.



The electronic monitoring system site work has started on the first 10 locations. Dave and Matt escorted the electrical contractors to the first 10 locations this week. We are still working on the finalization of the funding through the County's wastewater tax.

As an ongoing planning effort, we are working on a strategy to deal with a long term power outage. In my opinion the hardest situation we could face, infrastructure wise, would be such an event. Due to the topography of the city, the operation of our lift stations would be challenging. Particularly in an ice or deep snow event, getting our pump truck or a mobile generator to most of the locations would be difficult to say the least. Only one of the lift stations has a on standby generator. The city wells have on demand generators so the towers will still be able to provide water to the city. The towers themselves have nearly half a million gallons of reserve holding capacity. In addition to the lift stations, it is recommended that we look for grants or other funding sources to install a standby generator for all of City Hall, or at a minimum, one that will power the Fire station bays which would serve as incident command in the event of an event.



The Oremus plant has come a long way. It has undergone a deep cleaning. The guys have mapped the underground valves and pipes and have color coded them for easy location and operation. They have created a wall mounted users guide so just about anyone can locate and operate a valve in an

emergency. Also, this will allow future new hires to have the institutional knowledge be passed for generation to generation. They have been working on the sand filter and should have it up and running this week.

Our new flow meter has arrived, once installed, it will track the output of the Oremus Plant electronically, this was one of the suggested improvements that came out of our study day with DNR.

Improvements to the downtown plant this month included repairing the erosion to the streambank from the August flood and the infrared light bank was also repaired. The crews have been working on the list of improvement items at both plants.



Moving forward, I think it would be good if the board engaged in some emergency management training. This will require some time commitments individually. The Federal Government offers training that you can do on your own time called NIMS 100 (National Incident Management System). It will take you about 2 hours to complete the course. In the event there is a natural disaster, you, as elected officials, have important rolls to fill in the aftermath and recovery effort. It will cover the creation of an incident command center, the chain of command, the handling of volunteers and the importance of creating parameters and curfews. I would be glad to work alongside Chief Bowers in facilitating training sessions moving forward, however this will take some time to prepare for.