

FEBRUARY 2022 IVSD NEWSLETTER

The year 2021 was a memorable one for Oshkosh, Wisconsin, the U.S. and the world. Hopefully we'll recover from some of the lost time and meet the future with a positive outlook.

The IVSD held its meetings masked and distanced for much of the year, as several of its employees felt some effects of Covid 19. Fortunately all are still with us.

Parts, materials shortages and shipping delays affected some of the repairs or additions scheduled throughout the year.

Here are some of the events that took place in 2021 and some of the expenses the district incurred:

January 2021--Jim Latta and Jerry Tribbey began researching a switch from landline dialers to cell phone dialers for the lift stations. The new dialers were installed in July. Latta also received bids for sandblasting and painting the portable generator trailer. That project reached completion in late August.

February 2021--The three lift stations received actual addresses assigned by Winnebago County and were added to the County GIS maps. The IVSD color map was also updated and can be viewed on the district news page (<https://townofoshkosh.com/ivsd-news-page/>)

March 2021--Latta ordered anodes for lift stations 2 and 3 and they were installed in June by Mike Meyer from MM Services. Latta wired all the anodes at the two stations. Tom Konrad indicated that Manhole #8 on Sherman Road should be checked after a City of Oshkosh employee reported it should be fixed due to erosion. An inspection in April indicated some corrosion, but the concrete around it was in good shape.

April, May 2021--Latta, after inspecting manholes from Lift Station 1 to the south end of Island View Drive and from Island View Drive west on Sunnyview to Sherman Road, suggested that manhole photos be sent to Great Lakes TV Seal to determine if rehabilitation was necessary. He thought it would be beneficial to take pictures of all the district manholes to help determine repair priorities.

June, July 2021--Latta and Konrad met with representatives from Sabel Mechanical to discuss repairs, timeline and costs for suction line replacements at Lift Stations 2 and 3. The repairs took place in July. Sabel employees found a piece of 4" PVC pipe in one of the pumps when it was removed for repair, and foreign materials were found in at least one check valve. In June Ron Harrell asked Jim Zinth to research our revenues versus expenses and our rate increases from the past 25 years. Zinth said he felt an increase was in order to help alleviate our costs. Harrell indicated the district should continue to discuss this and possibly look at increasing the rate at the beginning of 2022. Harrell cited rising energy costs, expensive replacement parts, increasing legal help and aging infrastructure as major financial hurdles.

August 2021--Zinth indicated the district had some significant expenses during the year so the commissioners recommended the fees should be raised from \$120 to \$150 per quarter. The increase

was made official in September and a note was included in the fall bills indicating the increase would take effect as of January 1, 2022.

After a special City of Oshkosh/Sanitary District Master Agreement meeting in July at the Town of Algoma Sanitary facility, all sanitary districts affected by the agreement were encouraged to come together and use the same outside legal counsel. IVSD signed a memorandum of understanding and joined the group.

September/October 2021--Another round of televising was proposed by Latta in the fall to continue to work on the Inflow and Infiltration problem in the district. The last time any televising had been done was 2017, with most being completed from 2010-2012. Latta and Tribbey thought the district should get on the spring schedule for one of the two televising companies and will try to pull the remaining manhole covers after a heavy rain or during the spring thaw to pinpoint problem areas.

November 2021--After a few months of discussion, the painting of the floors of the three lift stations commenced November 19 and concluded on the 24th.

December 2021--A list of parts and tools that are needed for the shop and truck was distributed to the commissioners. Each commissioner checked at their homes for any of the items on the list, and later Latta purchased some of those not donated. He also purchased a few stakes for staking manholes and replaced five previously removed stakes in various locations.

Major Expenses:

Anode purchase and installation at Lifts 2 and 3--\$6,751 plus our labor

Dialer purchase and installation--\$11,313 plus our labor. The new phone system will cost us \$360 per year per station, replacing the old AT&T system that was costing us \$170 per month per station. We should recoup the cost of the new system in a little over two years.

Suction line replacement/parts at Lift Stations 2 and 3 initial cost--\$13,000

Painting of portable generator trailer--\$1,785

Painting of Lift Station floors in 1, 2 and 3--\$1,467

Aging infrastructure and careless use of toilets and sinks continue to lead to considerable maintenance costs. Sump pumps that are connected to house laterals are prohibited and cause increases in flow and higher payments to the City of Oshkosh, costs borne by all residents.

Dan Cowling and Melanie Krawiec became ad hoc commissioners and attended several meetings to increase their knowledge of the district.

Kudos to the lift station operators (Jim Latta, Jim Merten, Jerry Tribbey, Troy Hamidi, Kyn Anthony and Joe Olszewski) who have kept the system operating well all year, to customers being diligent about what should go into the sewer, and to residents who have reported problems to the head lift station operator and/or commissioners.