Administrators Report

March 5, 2012

Dam Access Road

After the special City Council Meeting regarding building the new access road to Flower Creek dam, city crews started preparing for the project. The crew cleared an area on city property, just up the road from the cross country ski parking area, for staging materials that will be used in building the access road and pad. Rock that was hauled from the River Road blasting area and stored at the snow dump will be used as a base material for the road. Gravel will be placed on top for a finished surface.

Special size material is being screened for the “Pad” area. The geotech has called for a certain size material for the base. 3” minus material will be placed in 8” inch lifts and compacted. City crews along with the help from the county crews hauled all the larger material and on Friday February, 24 started hauling the 3” material. This material is slow to produce as it all has to be processed through a screen. Corky put together crews to work two shifts, Saturday and Sunday to have enough material screened for hauling on Monday, February 27, 2012.

After working all weekend Corky was confident that they had produced enough material to build the road and pad for the new dam. I would like to thank Corky Pape from the city and Marc Mc Cully from the county along with city and county personnel, for all the effort they have put into this road project. They did an excellent job being under time restraints, not only from the construction schedule but also beating the weather and road breakup.

Water Treatment Plant

During the first part of February, we started having problems with the large compressor at the WTP. This compressor is a vital part in the operations of the plant and without it the plant cannot produce water. It controls all the air valves that open and close to regulate flows of water and also the chemicals that are injected during the treatment process. Jeff Haugen called a repairman out of Spokane WA to look it over. He told Jeff that it was not going to last much longer. Jeff started looking into costs for replacing the old compressor.

On the evening of February 23, the compressor shut down completely. A bigger problem after the compressor went down was that the alarm system failed to call out to the operators that there was a problem. The next morning when the operators arrived they found that the plant was almost out of water. Jeff Haugen called me early and said it was the lowest level he had seen in all the years he has worked at the plant.

Jeff Haugen and Phil Schad were able to get the small compressor going and started producing water. It took most of that day to get the level back up to normal. I called Tom Wood to let him know about our situation in the event we were to have a large fire in the city. Vic White was also made aware in case we could not produce water fast enough and had to go to a boil order.

A new compressor has been ordered and is about 3 to 4 weeks out. We did find a loaner in western Washington to replace the old one until the new one arrives. The small compressor is only for emergencies and cannot run full capacity for an extended period of time.

Jeff called Devin Bucher from Kalispell to come and address the problem with the alarm system. Devin came over on Monday the 27th of February and spent the afternoon trouble shooting the problem. The issue lies in the software in the PLC. Devin is putting together a new program and will install it into the computer. Once this is complete, Devin is confident that there should not be anymore issues with the call out, alarm system

Riverfront Park Utilities

I have met with all the utility companies that have lines or fiber to be relocated in order to make the new road at Riverfront Park. There are three utilities involved, Frontier Communications, Flathead Electric Coop and Montana Sky Net. Also we will have to relocate the power box that supplies the pavilion and the sprinkler system.

Montana Sky Net has a pedestal that will have to be moved. They will need to place the pedestal in a new location, closer to the property line northwest of the present location. They estimate the cost to be $2560.00 for the move. (See attached)

Flathead Electric Coop will remove the existing pole and place the transformer on the pole behind the DTSAR building. If they use this pole it will be a lot less expensive. The cost is $1699.00. The issue with the location of the existing pole versus putting in a new pole, is the DTSAR building will have to have power rerouted underground. Also the power to supply the pavilion and any future power needs such as lighting will have to be laid underground to a power box on the north side of the street.

Ron Miller from Strom Electric will have a quote on doing the power rerouting for the pavilion and street lighting. Ron also suggested that we replace the existing power supply with a larger 400 amp breaker panel. This will take care of any larger concerts or events that require a lot of power.

I met with Frontier Communications and they explained to me how to make changes to remove their pedestal, but I am still waiting on a quote from their engineer.

OU-1 Construction

Construction is beginning again for the season at Riverfront Park. There was a preconstruction meeting held on February 28th at 8:00 am to discuss the project. First part will be cleaning up the riverbank from the Highway 37 Bridge north to the boat ramp area. All the trees will be removed and hauled away. The river bank will be cleaned and rip rap will be put in place to hold the bank secure. I have included in your packets the agenda from that meeting.

Departments

The Wastewater plant is still producing sludge with the new dewatering press. The crew is starting to get more comfortable with how it operates. They are keeping track of how many hours they are running the press each week, along with the amount of polymer that is being consumed. Mike Voorhies who has been off with knee surgery will be back on the 5th of March so they will have a full crew at the plant.

With all the material in place at the dam site, city crews will be concentrating on the everyday projects, filling pot holes, changing meters, repairing equipment and getting ready for spring.

At the Water treatment plant, Jeff, Chris and Phil will be able to sleep better once we get the new software and the alarm system updated and functioning. They have had some sleepless nights not knowing if the plant was operating or not. I appreciate their constant monitoring of the plant; while the system was not working properly.

Jim Hammons