City Administrators Report

June 2, 2014

Rural Development Visit

On Thursday, May 22, 2014, Dan Johnston from the Missoula office of Rural Development (RD) came to visit the Wastewater Plant to view the operation of the new screw press and other upgrades. He spoke with all the operators at the plant and discussed how the upgrades have made a difference in their operation.

They explained how the press only needs to work about half the time to keep up with the volume that is coming into the plant. They haul one load of sludge a week to the landfill and don’t have to use the drying beds other than winter storage, when the land fill is to wet to drive in. This cuts down on the odor that was always a problem with the drying beds.

The other big change they discussed was the UV system. The plant was set up to run chlorine gas into the clarifiers to treat the water before being discharged into the river. The UV system kills the E. coli in the water now, and the crews don’t have to change out the gas cylinders any more – plus the savings of buying the gas.

More discussion included the next phases of upgrades at the plant: the head works, and a new grit collection system with a secondary clarifier.

After the wastewater meeting, Dan wanted to see Flower Creek dam. I pointed out the areas that seemed to have more leakage than in the past. Dan said it is definitely time to replace the dam.

Alleys

Last week the street crews used the Zipper to smooth out the alleys that were in the worst shape. Some that were cleaned by the EPA are holding up pretty well, but several were in really rough shape.

A problem we encountered was the lack of material or gravel left in some of the alleys. It has been pounded out over the years and displaced along the side, making it hard to get any material to work with. In some cases, all we accomplished was bringing up large rocks to the surface.

But for the most part, the Zipper worked great for reclaiming the material. Once we zipped the alleys, they were smoothed out and watered down. After the water soaked in, we sprayed Mag Chloride on them to keep the dust down and to help bind the material together. Then they were rolled and compacted.

The weather did not help, as the rain keeps them soft and would not allow the material to dry. Once the Mag dries, it holds up well, and the traffic keeps the surface compacted. The alley with the material displaced will have to be redone with gravel in the future.

Departments

Wastewater has almost all the sludge that was stockpiled over the winter months hauled to the landfill. They have been busy getting problem line serviced with the jet truck. Speaking of jet trucks, they have been spending some time researching the cost of replacing the old truck we have now.

The truck is in rough shape and needs replaced. But the cost of a newer truck can run into the hundreds of thousands of dollars. They are costing out trucks that would work for our operation here in Libby, and plan to present it to the Sewer/Water committee.

The Water treatment plant has a new operator. Ken Rayome was hired and is working with the operators. Ken worked for the City last year helping with the sidewalk project. The valve replacement is still ongoing at the plant; there was an issue with the last shipment being damaged and returned. The new valves should be here this week, and then 4-G’s out of Missoula will schedule a time to come up and install them.

The new irrigation system has been installed and is working on Lincoln Boulevard. The seasonal planted grass last week, and in a few weeks things should start looking good. The baskets are ready and should be up soon.

Jim Hammons