City Administrators Report

January 6, 2014

Water Treatment Plant

On December 26, 2013, John Weikel from Montana Rural Water was in town to help our water plant operator put together an O&M plan for the plant. This was one of the final requirements that DEQ had put in the consent order for the plant.

John and the operator went over the original manuals, and picked out all the information that was needed to put together a more condensed manual. It includes the daily, weekly, and monthly maintenance schedule that is required to keep the plant operating properly.

Another part of the consent order was to replace the filter media, and the valves that are not functioning properly. Because of the complexity of the installation of the valves, Mike Fraser contacted several contractors to get costs on the work. 4G out of Missoula was the lowest, and they are already in town working on the new hospital project.

They will begin replacing the valve when the hospital project finishes this month.

Snow Plowing

We are fortunate this winter with little plowing or removing snow. However, the streets have been very icy and slick at times, requiring large amounts of Ice Slicer road salt and Magnesium Chloride liquid deicer. We have ordered more of each to get us through the winter.

We have found another product to use if we get into a bind - a gravel sand mixture that has passed the county’s air quality standard. This product will work well for areas in the south part of town; e.g. the hills on Cedar and Maple where vehicles have a hard time getting traction, even when we put down Ice Slicer.

This product will require sweeping once the ice and snow conditions are alleviated and we can clean the streets.

Raw Water Main

Now that a determination has been made on the raw water main, Jeff Cicon will put together a Resume Work Order for Noble Excavating to begin exploratory digging in areas of the main to determine if the main is the same diameter and thickness all the way from the old chlorine station to the plant.

This has to be done to make sure that when the main is slip-lined, they won’t run into problems. Pipe bursting will be used for the first section to the old chlorine station. A new underground vault for injecting chemicals will be installed near the gate on Knutson Drive. This will only be used if needed to inject chemicals upstream from the plant. This gives the chemicals time to react before they reach the plant.

In the spring, Noble will begin installing the rest of the meter pits. Depending on funding, we hope to replace sections of the mains in 4th Street, 6th Street, and Lincoln Boulevard.

Departments

Although this winter has been mild for snow plowing, crews have been busy dealing with more water leaks. Fortunately, they have occurred in alleys and in areas that are not heavy with traffic. This slower time has helped the crews work on equipment maintenance for the coming year.

Wastewater has been moving along smoothly, no pun intended. The dry winter makes it easy for the crew to keep hauling the sludge to the landfill. During the winter months, the crews normally cannot haul to the landfill because of the wet conditions, so they store the sludge until the weather warms and the ground dries up. Last year, they finished hauling all the stored sludge in June.

Finally, I want to congratulate Brent Teske for being elected to the Libby City Council and welcome him on behalf of everyone here at the City.

Jim Hammons