



March 28, 2023 – Superintendent’s Report

ADMIN UPDATE:

Tonight, the Utility is seeking approval of Change Order #7, for the 2022 Sewer and Manhole Rehabilitation Project. This CO will extend the time to the substantial and final completion dates and also adds the cost of an additional manhole that was determined to be needed in the field. We recommend approval of CO # 7.

The Phase I Contract ‘A’ Water Treatment Plant Improvements Project will be closed out with the final pay apps that are on the claims list for tonight’s meeting. All the punch-list items have been completed and everything is working as designed. We will be communicating the date of our grand opening ceremony as soon as we complete the planning.

We have started the process of installing the two wells in the Fort wellfield. This past week we have removed the trees that were located inside the footprint of the well sites. Next steps will be to complete some bridge repairs that are noted on the recent load rating analysis performed in order to be completely sure we can handle the loads imposed by the well drilling rigs. IDEM permitting is also being started as well as the siting of the two additional wells south of 71st Street along with a request to IDNR for construction in a floodway release for those wells. Soon we will be sitting down with our engineer, BLN, to begin the Build-Operate-Transfer process we will utilize to construct these two wells.

The Utility is seeking approval of Change Order #3 for the Maple-Zoeller-Wallingwood water main replacement project. The contract start date was delayed until 2022 by agreement because delays in receiving materials would have pushed the start date into the winter months of 2021 and we did not want water main and street excavation work started at the onset of winter. The substantial completion date was moved from 11/18/2021 to 11/30/2022 and the final completion date from 12/09/2021 to 12/16/2022. As of now we are still awaiting favorable weather to complete some final punch list items to be done that require suitable weather, including minor re-grading of ditches in some areas and some meter pit adjustments. We recommend approval of CO #3, which was supposed to have been submitted some time ago but which I overlooked.

The Utility has begun a process of re-examining the Inflow & Infiltration (I&I) impacts of certain private developments in the City, where it is believed that excessive amounts of I&I are being introduced into the sanitary sewer system and contributing to our ongoing SSO issues. The first two areas we will be investigating are Maplewood Mobile Home Park and Jamestowne Apartments. Initial contact letters have been sent to both complexes and we are awaiting response. The investigative work will include a combination of video inspection, manhole inspection, smoke and dyed water testing. Once the investigative work is completed, we will notify the owners of the defects found and the appropriate fixes required and a timeline by which to complete them or face further enforcement action under the city’s sewer ordinance.

Recently, developers have been approaching the city and utility with proposals for new developments with flows intended to discharge into the Indian Creek Interceptor (ICI). To be clear, I am referring to larger developments such as residential subdivisions, multi-family or congregate living facilities, hotels/motels, or any other development for which large sewage discharge volumes may be anticipated. As you know, we are presently under an EPA order to address chronic Sanitary Sewer Overflow (SSO) issues in our sewer system. While we are working on our Sanitary Sewer Corrective Action (SSCA) plan to address these issues, it should be pointed out that this plan does not specifically address issues affecting the Indian Creek Interceptor. The ICI has wet-weather capacity issues already noted in our sanitary sewer hydraulic modeling. While some of these developments would probably operate just fine in normal dry-weather conditions, wet weather is a problem and flow volumes in the ICI are significantly increased during wet weather and contribute to problems further downstream of LS 402 in the State Park. All the flow from the ICI ends up at LS 402, which then flows to the gravity portion of the East Marion County Interceptor (EMCIS) sewer system that flows through the older part of the city to eventually exit Lawrence on 46th

Street east of Mitthoeffer Road. The significantly increased flows in the ICI thus contribute to the problems with SSO's in the older parts of Lawrence. A study of the ICI will need to be performed in order to determine where exactly the excessive flows are coming from, and what, if any other, existing conditions may be contributing to the problems we experience with the ICI in wet weather.

Our sewer ordinance, in Section 5-1-6-6; Right to Limit Sewer Capacity, it states: Except to the extent that it may be preempted by state or federal laws, rules or regulations, the Department may deny the issuance of a construction permit if it is demonstrated that there is insufficient dry or wet weather capacity in any or all downstream sewers, lift stations, force mains and treatment plants, including capacity for pollutants, to accommodate the waste load expected to be generated as a result of the proposed development.

Based on this language, I will not be issuing allocation for any new developments that I feel will exacerbate existing, or cause new, SSO's to occur in our sanitary sewer system. In order to free up development potential in the ICI portion of the sanitary sewer system, the city and its utility need to establish and follow through on a long-term commitment to make the necessary improvements to the sanitary sewer system that will free up adequate capacity to handle these new developments. I do not feel it would be prudent for me to arbitrarily make this commitment on behalf of the city or the utility at this time. In addition, it must be noted that a big part of this look at the ICI will necessarily include a re-visiting of the issue of the portion of the ICI that is under Indian Lake. As you may recall, back in 2013-2015 the utility had an engineer design a new lift station with the intent of decommissioning the pipe under the lake and pumping the sewage from the upstream end of the lake all the way south to 46th Street, between Mitthoeffer and German Church roads, where the EMCIS leaves Lawrence. Back then, the price tag for the lift station was estimated to be between \$14 and \$18-million dollars. In addition, there were no serious looks at potential alternatives and their feasibility or practicality to determine if there even was a reasonable alternative to the lift station. The current \$20-million sewer bond issue, funded by our recent sewer rate increase, was secured in order to fund projects that will be recommended in our SSCA plan to address the SSO issues driving the EPA Order. Thus, a proper look at the ICI, including the pipe under the lake, will require a significant investment in time and money, and the recommendations for corrective action from that study will surely include the necessity for additional bond issues in order to generate the funds necessary to do the work.

I know this decision will not make me real popular in the developer world, but my main priority is the safe and proper operation of the sanitary sewer utility, and at this time I do not feel it is in the best interests of the city to sign off on new larger developments discharging into a sewer system that we know has issues with capacity. Of course, we will continue to work diligently to find and address I&I problems in the system, such as what we are doing with Maplewood and Jamestowne, mentioned above. But these fixes will not happen overnight and in the meantime, we must still focus primarily on resolving our existing SSO's with projects aimed specifically at the known chronic SSO's, as well as the ongoing I&I removal projects we will be performing as the new rates generate additional working capital to perform more internally funded capital improvement projects.

OPERATIONAL DATA:

Sanitary Sewer System

- Performing routine maintenance and upkeep on lift stations and grinder pump stations.
- Performing routine maintenance on the gravity sanitary sewer collection system.
- Working with Engineer and Contractor as needed for the 2022 Manhole and Sewer Main Rehabilitation Project (SWIF/ARPA)

Water Distribution Underground Operations

- Performing routine inspections, emergency shut outs for repairs, valve exercising, valve box repairs, and fire hydrant testing/inspections.
- Performing routine water line repairs, service line repairs, fire hydrant replacements, vehicle repairs, and maintaining street and sidewalk cuts until final restorations can be made.
- Working with engineers and contractors as necessary on all Lawrence Utilities Capital projects.
- Performing testing and inspections as necessary for private projects in the city.

Water Plant/Well activity

- Performing routine maintenance and daily tasks to make sure water treatment plants are operating properly.

Business Office/Service Department**February Totals**

- 15,260 Active accounts.
- 954 Work orders completed.

BILLING ADJUSTMENTS:

8418 Somerville Drive – customer is requesting a sanitary sewer adjustment for \$394.88 due to a service line leak. We recommend approval. Three-month adjustment small main line leak and leaking valves inside home (12478, 28861 and 26056 Gal)

5226 Grapevine Drive – customer is requesting a sanitary sewer adjustment for \$1131.40 due to a service line leak. We recommend approval. One month adjustment (169287 gal); large hole in service line; the other two large consumption months were billed at the summer sprinkling rate, so no additional discount was issued.

8218 East 46th Street - customer is requesting a sanitary sewer adjustment for \$608.41 due to a service line leak. We recommend approval. One month adjustment crawl space line leak (91143 gal.)

4420 Maple Lane – customer is requesting a sanitary sewer adjustment for f \$376.48 due to a service line leak. We recommend approval. Leak in service line in crawl space 2 months adjustment (40559, 20270 gal)