



December 27, 2023 – Superintendent’s Report

ADMIN UPDATE:

You likely have seen recent news articles about the existence of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (“PFAS”), a class of synthetic organic chemicals that contain fluorine. PFAS are human-made chemicals commonly found in the environment, including in utilities and municipalities around Indiana. Because studies indicate that exposure to PFAS above certain levels may result in adverse health effects, the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (“IDEM”) is undertaking PFAS monitoring at all Community Public Water Systems throughout Indiana. The samples of finished treated water provided by Lawrence Utilities, collected by IDEM in July of 2023, contain PFAS amounts below IDEM’s current “reporting levels.” Although local PFAS levels do not exceed current guidelines and action is not mandated at this time, Lawrence Utilities is taking a proactive approach to protect the interests of the city and to avoid passing costs on to residents should PFAS treatment and remediation be required in the future. Lawrence Utilities, through its Utility Service Board, hired a consortium of experienced law firms to represent the interests of the City and Lawrence Utilities in relation to the presence of PFAS and in any legal action that may be necessary in the future. This consortium represents other municipalities and water suppliers in PFAS-related matters, throughout Indiana and beyond.

The Utility is seeking approval of Task Order No. 10 with American Structurepoint in order to begin investigating the condition of the sanitary sewers in the Maison Gardens apartment complex. A recent visual inspection of the complex was made in order to assist the management with trying to find evidence of a water leak and in the course of this inspection many sanitary sewer defects were noted. We believe it is necessary to take a fresh look at this complex to assess sanitary sewer condition and eliminate sources of clear water entering the public sanitary sewer system. The total cost for the engineering and associated field work is \$60,600. We recommend approval of this Task Order.

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 engineers and contractors as necessary on all Lawrence Utilities Capital projects.

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 repairs/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.