

Town Manager Report - January 2024

The Town's public works employees had their hands full this month. They helped removed all the Town's annual Christmas banners for the season and put them in storage. They also adjusted and repaired pump #1 at the lift station on State Road 16 because it was not pumping correctly. In addition, they actively prepared for winter storm "Finn". There were no issues to report from this storm.

Pump#2 at the master lift station was pulled out and sent off for repairs. We do not know yet, if it can be repaired or have to be replaced. We should know how to proceed with this pump after our vendor looks it over, by the end of this month.

The Town had a significantly large Clay County Utility Authority (CCUA) bill and the public works employees found that the magmeter was no longer working. This meter was about 16 years old and will have to be replaced. CCUA is working with the Town and reduced the bill because of our excellent record keeping. CCUA will continue to accept our records for billing until the meter is replaced. This new meter should be received by the end of this month.

The Town Hall generator has been running hot and we are currently waiting on new parts which should be installed by the first week in February.

Public works had to repack a valve at the corner of Lewis Avenue and Hoffman Street because the top of the valve was leaking and was noticed by a resident. The packing went bad on the original valve and had to be replaced.

Public Works also went through the old storage sheds located at the water tower to try and save some old maps and Town documentation. The maps that had been salvaged have now been electronically copied onto a memory stick and put into the Diamond maps program.

Public works repaired a water line break, reported by a resident on Gwinn Street, due to a fitting on a service line breaking. While fixing the initial repair a second leak was found across the street and another fitting had to be replaced.

Last month, I reported the Town had received a \$100,000.00 grant from Resilient Florida for the engineering of storm water issues within the town limits, which will be required. This month, The Town Clerk, Water Administrator and myself, along with Andrew Greene with Florida Rural Water Association (FRWA) attended the Resilient Grant Kick-Off Teams meeting for this grant which spelled out the requirements and processes of this grant.

Andrew Greene with FRWA has been helping the public works department calibrate all of the Town's water meters and checking for any lead service line inventory. The Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is requiring these checks to be turned in by October 2024 and there are no exceptions. The Town's report will be finished in February and turned in way ahead of schedule.

The Town's Engineer along with a surveyor came to the Town to walk and physically see the area where the old water lines will be replaced for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). The town

should know about the surveyor information in about thirty days. Hopefully, this project will be started by June of this year.

The town staff planted new flowers at the front of the Town Hall primarily for a Clay County Tourism film shoot which highlighted the J. C. Penney Scenic Highway; Town Hall and the Town's Museum this month. This was going to be done anyways for the spring and will be maintained.

The town staff has completed all the fiscal year 2023/2024 - 1st quarter reporting and Josh Young is now the Town's full time water operator for the Town. He is a valuable employee and is greatly appreciated for all his hard work, studying and dedicated efforts in saving the town money, with this new position.

I have attended all of the Town's required meetings for this month.

BY: David Cooper
Town Manager