

Manager's Message

I want to provide a quick reminder that everyone should see an increase in the Town's utility billing for water and sewer usage and base fees due to the 18% water and 2% sewer increases that went into effect for the January billing cycle. I discussed this in detail in last month's newsletter and I'm sure there will be additional questions that either the Utility Clerk or I can address as needed. The other fees included in the utility bill for street lights, sidewalks and trash did not increase so the overall 20% increase is for water and sewer rates only. The increases are due to higher treatment and deliver costs from the Central Weld County Water District and the debt service (loan) for the new wastewater facility.

I've been working with the Xcel Energy Regional Manager this past month to discuss utility and light poles along Main Street and schedule pole inspections this spring to allow the Town to install new Holiday decorations. The decorations will primarily be installed on light poles but some utility poles may be used depending on the condition and location of the poles. I also want to decorate 3-5 poles on Grand Avenue along with a few more along Sterkel Blvd if Xcel approves these locations. My goal is to decorate the light/utility poles for several Holidays throughout the year (i.e., Memorial Day, July 4th, etc.) and not just Christmas.

Another project the Town is working with Xcel to complete is an Energy Assessment or audit of electrical use in all Town facilities. Reducing costs and installing more efficient fixtures and uses of electricity is the goal, especially at the new wastewater treatment facility that requires a significant amount of electricity to operate pumps, blowers and other treatment equipment. Several efficiency considerations include the use of solar, installing motion light switches, upgrading windows and light fixtures, and monitoring how electricity is used in all

Town facilities to name a few ideas. By implementing more energy efficient practices and equipment the Town is hoping to cut energy costs and reduce budget expenses for building and facility operations.

The first few months of the year are typically used to schedule and coordinate budgeted capital projects which also consists of confirming cost estimates prior to soliciting bids. Improving Grand Avenue is our primary capital project for this summer and the updated engineers cost estimate is coming in at \$1.3 million dollars which is more than budgeted. I'll discuss this with the Board during their February 7th meeting and will likely solicit bids in March with the hope of receiving reasonable and competitive proposals.

Snow plowing of streets and sidewalks have been a discussion topic this winter with a fair amount of debate on how and when streets should be plowed. The Town's general policy is to plow primary routes (i.e. Main Street, Grand Avenue, etc.) once there's 2+ inches of snow and when snow depths gets to about 6" or more then side streets are plowed when time allows. Of course every town is different when it comes to snow plowing and many larger towns or cities don't plow side or residential streets unless we have extreme weather (i.e. blizzard). I've asked our Public Works Director to present a formal snow plowing policy to the Board for approval on February 7th and once adopted it will be available for review on the Town's website and sent out in the utility billing. As for sidewalks, snow needs to be removed within 24-hours of the last snow-fall regardless of accumulation amount.

Contact Information

Town of Platteville

400 Grand Avenue
Platteville, CO 80651
(970) 785-2245
Mon-Fri 8:00am-4:30pm
www.plattevillegov.org

Police Dept.

(970) 785-2215
Non-Emergency Dispatch:
(970) 356-1212
Emergency: 911

Public Works Dept.

(970) 785-6415

Recreation & Seniors

(970)785-2245 x. 1101
(720) 438-0711

Platteville/Gilcrest Fire Protection District

303 Main Street
Platteville, CO 80651
(970) 785-2232

Pioneer Museum

502 Marion Avenue
Platteville, CO 80651
(970) 785-6285
Mon & Wed 10:00am-3:00pm
Sat. 10:00-2:00pm

Public Library

504 Marion Ave./PO Box 567
Platteville, CO 80651
(970) 785-2231
Mon – Fri 10:00am-6:00pm
Sat 10:00am-2:00pm
www.PPLCO.us

Nantes Library (Gilcrest)

703 Birch Street
Gilcrest, CO 80623
(970) 737-1035
Mon-Fri 10:00am-6:00pm
Sat 10:00am-2:00pm
www.nanteslibrary.us

Manager's Message (cont.)