

**January 2018**

Dear Mosinee Resident:

I hope this monthly update finds you well, and I hope you had an enjoyable holiday season. I am excited for a great 2018 in Mosinee and I hope you are too. I would like to take this opportunity to share some of the final action at the City from 2017 with you.

First, during our December Council meeting, we had an opportunity to hear from our outside financial consultants on options for ensuring the long-term financial stability of our utility. As you may recall, several years ago our residents faced a substantial water rate increase. The financial state of the utility at that time combined with the cost of large capital improvements to address DNR mandates were factors in the rate increase. The utility was also left with substantial IOUs to the general fund which, in turn, resulted in downgrades to our general fund ratings.

It has been our focus at the City, and one of my top priorities, to put our utility in a financially stable and independent position. That started with a modest repayment plan to the general fund. Very soon, we will be retiring a considerable amount of debt from a 2005 issuance that will allow us to either substantially increase this payment or do a borrowing to immediately pay off the general fund and increase its cash reserves. We were also briefed by our financial consultants on the benefit of smaller adjustments to water rates over time to essentially track inflation. The failure to consider this over time can be a factor contributing to larger rate increases in the future. These and other topics were considered by the Council at our December meeting, and we will continue to discuss them at upcoming meetings in an effort to make the best decisions for the future financial health of our utility.

As part of our December meeting, our Utility also presented its 2018 budget to the Council. This budget included proposals for capital expenditures. Capital expenditures budgeted for include an emergency pump for our location at Freemont and Edison, repainting of the Florence Street water tower, and an allocation to investigate an alternate water supply to the Central Wisconsin Business Park.

In other news, I am happy to report that the Council has approved an offer to purchase vacant, city-owned land in the Central Wisconsin Business Park. We hope to soon welcome Wisconsin Mechanical Solutions as a tenant to our business park. Wisconsin Mechanical Solutions is a heating and cooling mechanical business that will be situated on a parcel of land in the 1000 block of Indianhead Drive. This represents the fourth addition or expansion to our business park in year 2017.

As part of our Public Works meeting items, another topic of discussion at our December meeting was the repair and replacement of sidewalks in our Downtown business district. In 1998, as part of the Highway 153 reconstruction project, the City installed decorative, brick sidewalks in our downtown area. After two decades, those sidewalks are in need of repair or replacement. Prior to making a decision on the style of replacement, staff will be considering cost alternatives and will also be reaching out to property owners in the downtown for input. With the Wisconsin Department of Transportation plan to repave from the bridge to Rangeline Road in 2020, now is a good time to be considering other repairs, like sidewalks, in this area.

In Community news, I would like to thank all of those community members who donated a coat to our winter coats program. Several people in need of a coat came to City Hall to select one and my wife and I were also able to distribute overflow to other areas in Central Wisconsin. It is a bitterly cold time of year and there are many people out there who just cannot afford a coat. For those of you who donated, I am sure you made someone very happy this year. While our donation period is closed, we still have a nice selection of coats at City Hall. Therefore, if you are aware of someone in need please ask them to stop down to select one. I want to wish you all the very best in 2018 and I look forward to updating you regularly throughout the year.

Mayor Brent Jacobson

## STREET PARKING RESTRICTED

Parking is not allowed during the hours of 2:00a.m. and 6:00a.m. on any street or highway from November 1 to April 1 in the City of Mosinee. For more information, please contact the Mosinee Police Department – 715-693-2000

### NOTICE – DOG/CAT OWNER

Dogs and Cats are required to be licensed by March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2018. The license period runs from January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018 to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2018. State law requires that all dogs must be licensed yearly AND City ordinances require cats to be licensed yearly. Before a license can be issued, you must furnish a rabies vaccination certificate to show proof of vaccination against rabies.

## Christmas Tree & Brush Pickup

The Mosinee Public Works Department will pick up Christmas trees and brush the week of January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018 - weather permitting. Please have your tree or brush placed near the curb or in the alley. Plastic bags, stands, wire, etc. must be removed from the trees. Trees that have plastic bags, stands or wire on or are buried in snow will NOT be picked up. If you have any questions please call the Mosinee Public Works Dept. at 715-693-3840 or email to: [publicworks@mosinee.wi.us](mailto:publicworks@mosinee.wi.us)



## Recycle Christmas Lights

Habitat for Humanity of Wausau is collecting Christmas lights. Every year tons of light strings are thrown away and end up in landfills across the country. Habitat for Humanities collects all kinds of light strings – old or new, working or not. Worn out extension cords are also collected. Habitat for Humanities recycles the copper and plastic from the strings and uses the proceeds to assist low-income families in our community. **A drop box is available at City Hall – 225 Main Street.** For more information please call City Hall – 225 Main Street or HFH at 715-848-5042.

