

# City of Mosinee

June 2017

## DOG COMPLAINTS RAMP UP AS SUMMER RETURNS



We receive numerous complaints of dogs being walked throughout the City, in city parks and on our new recreation trail that are not on leashes. We also receive complaints about owners not picking up after their dogs.

When walking your pet, please remember that your dog, **MUST BE ON A LEASH.**

Please also remember, Section 10-6 of our City Ordinances also states that owners or persons in charge of any dog or other animal shall not permit solid fecal matter of such animal to be deposited on any street, alley, sidewalk, city park, boat landing, ballfield (softball, baseball and soccer) or other public or private property, unless such matter is immediately removed therefrom by said owner or person in charge. The City has numerous Pet Pal Stations throughout the City which contain bags that pet owners can use to pick up after their dogs.

### **BUILDING PERMITS ARE REQUIRED FOR THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS:**

The following projects require a building permit:

- New Single Family House, Duplex, Apartment, Commercial, Manufacturing Building
- Additions to existing buildings
- Upgrades to electrical / plumbing services
- Garages / Sheds
- Interior remodeling (new walls, bathroom & kitchen upgrades, finishing basement, etc)
- Siding
- Roof (no charge for permit – permit required)
- Decks, Patios, Porches
- Fences, Swimming Pools (Greater than 18” deep), Driveways
- Moving buildings into/thru City

Visit the Building Permits section of our City website:

[www.mosinee.wi.us](http://www.mosinee.wi.us), call City Hall @ 715-693-2275 or stop at City Hall for more information.



# City of Mosinee

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Dear Mosinee Resident:

I hope you are enjoying the pleasant days of spring with summer almost officially here. While we are busy at the City on many different issues, I wanted to dedicate this monthly update to provide residents with additional information on our water utility. Earlier last month, following a press release the City issued regarding copper levels in drinking water, WAOW ran a story that raised concerns for several residents.

Unfortunately, there is a limited amount of time for each TV news story that cannot possibly capture all of the detailed information relevant to our utility. Therefore, following the story I asked our Public Works Director to prepare a detailed written summary for residents, a copy of which is available at City Hall and the on the homepage of our website, [www.mosinee.wi.us](http://www.mosinee.wi.us). I would encourage all residents to read the summary in full. I would like to take this opportunity to highlight some of the main points in hopes of addressing residents' concerns.

First, as our Public Works Director reports, the water being distributed to our utility customers is completely safe. Numerous tests are performed daily to ensure high quality water is being produced. That being said, our water is expensive because the source we have available is poor and a significant amount of work goes into the treatment process. Our technology from the 1990s was outdated and, in 2015, the City completely reconstructed the water treatment facility on the west side and modified and improved the treatment process at a cost of millions of dollars.

Following the redesign and upgrade of our water treatment facility, we were able to significantly reduce the corrosive nature of the water being placed into the distribution system by removing iron, manganese, and organic compounds. As our Public Works Director reports, the plant has been functioning very well and is producing water that normally contains no iron, minimal amounts of manganese (below DNR aesthetic standards) and removes organic carbon compounds which contribute to odor and taste concerns and could potentially form disinfection byproducts in the distribution system.

The WAOW story concerned copper in the drinking water. Please understand that the water being produced at the water treatment facility and being pumped out of the City's east side wells does NOT contain copper or lead. Increased lead and copper levels occur when water sits in a home plumbing system for an extended period of time. Water samples for DNR and EPA purposes are collected from homes and we are required to let the water sit in the service line and home plumbing system for at least six hours. The first draw of water is analyzed – i.e., a worst case scenario. The WAOW story failed to report that out of 40 samples collected, 5 contained copper above the EPA action level of 1300 parts per billion and, consequently, we failed EPA compliance by one sample which contained 1400 parts per billion of copper. The City continues to fine tune its treatment process to ensure that the water is as non-corrosive as possible.

From the treatment process, we move to the City's distribution system. The City has contracted with outside engineers and devised computer generated models and system mapping to clean and flush our water mains in sequence. The process, known as unidirectional flushing, is designed to flush dirty mains with water from mains that have just been cleaned. The clean water starves microbiological growth on the dirty mains so it falls off and is flushed out.

The final component of water distribution is the water service line that brings water to your home and business in the City. Many homes in older parts of the City are served with lead water service lines. Copper pipe serves the majority of homes and businesses in the City. These are not items that the City has the authority to address. Rather, they are the privately owned parts of the system. However, as mentioned in previous updates, the City applied for and secured \$300,000 in federal funding to start a lead service line replacement grant program and has applied for a second round of funding. The program provides homeowners with up to a \$1,500 reimbursement for replacing lead service lines with approved contractors. Additional information, including an application, can be obtained from City Hall.

I think I speak for all City staff and the Council when I say that water quality has and will continue to be one of our top priorities. I assure you that it is an issue that staff works on daily and the Council addresses regularly. Should you have any questions I encourage you to please reach out to me, your Council representative, or City Hall.

Mayor Jacobson