

TO: Mayor Angelo and Members of the Board of Trustees
FROM: Aaron Caplan, Director of Utilities & Engineering
DATE: May 13, 2021
ITEM: Utility Report

ORDINANCE
 MOTION / RESOLUTION
 INFORMATION

Wastewater

Our new general permit has been issued and we are allowed to start using the new outfall pipe at the WWTF. We have a contractor who has begun work to make the switch to the new outfall. As of Thursday morning, we are not sure of an exact date of the switch over. We are reviewing the new permit with our WWTF operator to understand the new regulations. They did include approval of raising the BOD allowed into the plant to 1,535 lbs. However, it isn't official until the improvements that the town submitted to have done for the rerating are done. This includes adding the additional blowers and moving one line.

In discussions with CDPHE violations department we came to an agreement to review everything after the town starts using the new general permit and we can determine how to close out any items of concern at that time.

Electric

95% of the new electric meters are installed. We were short about 50 meters. The town did not have notes on what meter forms were at what locations. We use six different types of meters and wanted to be careful on how many meters of each type were ordered. The meter company has declared force majeure because of disruptions to supply chains and is estimating the meters not to be available until July.

The initial integration of the new meters into our current billing did not go smoothly. The company that we use for billing did not seem to properly test the integration process. Staff have manually been going through accounts checking for billings that appear that they could be incorrect. In addition to this, and as was to be expected, many of these ancient meters were showing signs of running slower than they should have been. There were discrepancies between what the meter itself was showing and what the old smart meter system was showing in its computer system. There will be some customers who start seeing higher electric bills longer term, separate from any errors that can be corrected for this past month.

The solar feasibility study with CU Denver concluded with a report that prioritized three locations for a solar farm to supply a portion of the town's electricity. The UEB will be reviewing the report and looking into grant funding options to move forward. Some of the locations that were prioritized would require a special town election to use the property for a solar farm.

Water

The focus in the water department is working on the fire flow capabilities of the fire hydrants on 1st Ave. We have tested hydrants just above and below and they have sufficient pressure for needed fire flows. We have also been able to feel pretty confident about the location of some of the water mains that were not correctly documented in our records and have come up with a possible solution to improve the water pressure and loop the water lines. Our engineers are looking to see if this is a viable option and then we will get a cost estimate.

We have begun inspection of another large Pressure Reducing Valve (PRV) in the water system and found that there are issues with this one also. This valve is even bigger and more expensive than the PRV that was just replaced in 5th Ave. However, we did come in under budget on the last PRV replacement and budgeted for the replacement of two valves this year. We will see what the cost comes in at for this work.