

Utilities Section Newsletter

League of Nebraska Municipalities

June 2023

Transportation Summit to be held Aug. 23

By Lash Chaffin,
Utilities Section Director

Mark your calendars! The Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) in conjunction with the League of Nebraska Municipalities and the Nebraska Association of County Officials will be holding a Transportation Summit for ELECTED and APPOINTED OFFICIALS who are interested in developing a greater understanding of the process of getting some of the federal transportation funding that currently is becoming available from the federal government.

The Aug. 23 Transportation Summit will be held in Kearney at the Younes Conference Center North from 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Tentative agenda

General Session

- Infrastructure/transportation funding available to local agencies
- Keys to a competitive grant application
- What to do in advance of a NOFO being issued
- Upon NOFO being issued
- Federal requirements
- Broadband

Workshop Breakouts

- Tools for grant development
 - NOFO requirements walk-through
 - Examples of background material and data – previously submitted proposals
 - Benefit-cost analysis
- Letters of support
- Maps and visuals
- Software tools to aid in proposal development
- Narrative examples
- Grant checklists

- Post awards

- Grant agreement
- Project administration

This summit is extremely important because the U.S. Department

of Transportation (USDOT) is currently taking applications for the Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods (RCN) combined program with up to \$3.16 billion available under the Reconnecting Communities Pilot (RCP) and the Neighborhood Access and Equity (NAE) Grants. Additionally, USDOT is taking applications for up to \$5.575 billion in funding for

projects of regional or national significance under the Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant program. USDOT will use these two application pools to deliver more than \$8 billion to municipalities that apply in this funding cycle.



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TRANSPORTATION SUMMIT 2023

Join the Nebraska Department of Transportation, the Nebraska Association of County Officials and the League of Municipalities for the first ever Transportation Summit.

EVENT DETAILS

August 23, 2023 | 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Younes Conference Center
South 416 W. Talmadge Road
Kearney, Neb.

Meant for cities, municipalities, and counties, this event focuses on discretionary grant assistance.

Learn more about how to develop high-quality, competitive grant applications for the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) grant opportunities, such as key aspects of grant writing, identifying relevant roles and responsibilities in the grant development process, and much more.

REGISTRATION

To register, to go:
<https://go.unl.edu/transportationsummit>.
Registration is free and ends on Aug. 9.



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UTILITIES SECTION

Check out the League's
Facebook page at
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Lash Chaffin
Utilities Section Director
Rob Pierce
Utilities Field Representative

Classifieds

Sanitation Driver-Loader. City of North Platte is hiring a Sanitation Driver-Loader. Please refer to the City of North Platte’s website for the job description: ci.north-platte.ne.us/. A job application is on the City of North Platte’s website or you may get an application at the City Clerk’s Office at City Hall. Please submit completed job application by email to info@ci.north-platte.ne.us. Mail to: City of North Platte, Attn: City Clerk’s Office, 211 West 3rd Street, North Platte, NE 69101.

Apprentice Lineman. City of Benkelman is accepting applications for the position of Apprentice Lineman in the Electric Department. This position’s responsibilities include, but aren’t limited to: Construction and maintenance of overhead and underground electric distribution systems, operate a high lift bucket truck, digger

derrick, and other equipment, assists other city operations, and perform other duties as required, available for 24-hour emergency calls. Requirements include high school graduation, ability to obtain a CDL license issued by the State of NE within 1 year of hire. Excellent benefits package is included. Employment is contingent upon successful completion of a post-offer physical and drug test. The City of Benkelman is an EOE. Applications can be picked up at the City of Benkelman Office located at 126 7th Ave E, Benkelman, NE 69021 or by calling 308-423-2540. The City of Benkelman is an EOE.

Journeyman Lineman. Village of Morrill, Nebraska (Population 934) is accepting applications for the position of full-time Electric Journeyman Line Worker with a pay range of \$22-\$30 per

hour DOQ. This individual will perform skilled line work in the operation, construction, maintenance and repair of overhead and underground electric distribution and transmission systems. A Class B CDL with Airbrakes is required. Applications, with resumes, will be accepted until the position is filled. A complete job description for this position and an application is available at www.villageofmorrill.com or at the Village Office located at 118 S Center Avenue, Morrill, NE. This position includes an excellent benefit package including health insurance, retirement, vacation, sick leave, and paid holidays.

For Sale. City of Friend has Sensus Series B Electrical meters for sale. \$5 each. Contact John R. Schwab, City Clerk/Treasurer, 235 Maple Street, Friend, NE 68359; phone: 402-947-2711.

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Nebraska utilities history – Bayard

The Utilities Section Newsletter will continue to feature histories of both utilities and associate members. Any historical data and/or photos of your utilities, a specific facility, or articles already written are welcome, along with permission to print. If you have questions, contact Rob at 402-476-2829 or rob@lonm.org.

By Rob Pierce, Utilities Field Rep./Training Coordinator

Bayard was originally located in Cheyenne County which was organized in 1870-71 from land ceded by the Cheyenne, Arapaho, and Dakota Sioux (a part of the Cheyenne tableland portion of the Great Plains). Presbyterian missionaries passed through the area about 1836 and wagon trains by 1841. School sessions were held about 1855 in a sod school, the Pony Express trail passed through the area (1860), and by 1876, a bridge was built over the North Platte River. In 1867, the Union Pacific Continental Railroad along with western travelers followed the trail through the valley of Lodgepole Creek. Ranching began in 1869 and by 1882, over 200,000 cattle pastured here.

On April 21, 1888, a post office was established as the original town of Bayard was established in July 1888, which was located one mile west of the present site. The name Bayard apparently was supplied by landowners Millard and Jap Senteny who were from Bayard, Iowa. The *Chimney Rock*

Transcript newspaper was first published in December 1888 and was later named the *Bayard Transcript*. The Chicago, Burlington & Quincy (CB&Q) Railroad was completed to the area in 1889-90. The first line was built in 1889 from Alliance to Guernsey, Wyo. Bayard was incorporated as a village Nov. 13, 1890, and some of the businesses by 1891 included a hotel, a druggist, an ag implement, a general store, a hardware store, a blacksmith shop, and a newspaper. A wooden bridge was constructed over the North Platte River in 1895 and in April 1896, it was noted there were indications of gold found in the hills near town. The Burlington Railroad built a line along the north side of the river and erected a brick depot (1900) one mile southeast of the Bayard community. The townsite was moved to the Union Pacific Railroad tracks and was called “south Bayard.” The Lincoln Land Company turned to the Paine Investment Company of Lincoln to establish the town. School District #21 was started in 1900 and a new four-room schoolhouse was built at 1st Avenue and 4th Street. Once a

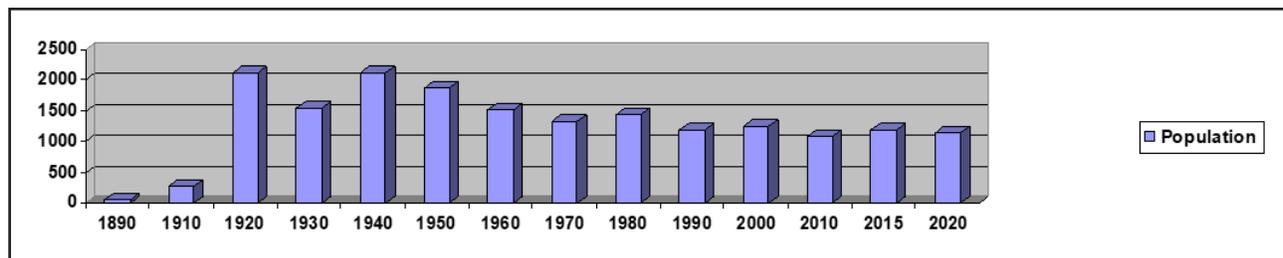


Bayard City Hall. 2007 photo.

part of Cheyenne County (formed in 1871), Morrill County started to organize in 1907. A special election was called for Nov. 3, 1908, with a vote to divide Cheyenne County. The proposal was approved and Gov. George L. Sheldon signed the proclamation to officially create Morrill County. The county was named after Charles H. Morrill, President of the Lincoln Land Company. In December, Bridgeport was determined to be the county seat. Like many other counties, once the June 29, 1904, passage of the Kinkaid Act took effect, settlers began filing on the 640-acre homesteads.

The population reached 261 in 1910 and by August, the fire department had 30 volunteer

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Nebraska utilities history – Bayard

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firefighters (three companies of 10 men each). Equipment included two-hand hose carts with 500 feet of hose, a hook and ladder wagon with 90 feet of ladders and 12 buckets. The Great Western Sugar Company built a \$2 million factory near the town in 1916-17. The plant used a 660-kilowatt (kW) generator, a 96-kW generator, a 130 horsepower (HP) steam engine, and two 1,000 HP steam engines (five boilers) along with a 40,000-gallon elevated water storage tower. The plant also had

a Lawrence five-inch centrifugal pump which was electric driven for a capacity of 500 gallons per minute (gpm) with water pressure between 60-90 pounds per square inch (psi). In 1916, the Inter-Mountain Railway Light and Power Company was planning to extend electric current to Minatare by the end of year but due to coal shortages, meeting the power demands was a problem. Water mains (four- and six-inch) were laid in 1916 and again in 1919. A graded elementary school was completed in 1917 and on Oct.

23, 1917, the Village of Bayard, through an ordinance, became a city of the second class to be governed by a Mayor and Council.

The population by 1920 increased to 2,127, a high school was completed, and by August, some of the businesses included four hotels (Grand Hotel, Ideal Hotel, Harrison Hotel, and Bayard Hotel), an ice company, a Union Feed mill, a hospital, a laundry business, three banks, a lumber yard, markets, hardware stores, coal dealers, grocery stores, five

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Nebraska utilities history – Bayard

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restaurants, garages and filling stations. The railroad had a 35,000-gallon wooden water tower located just off the CB&Q Railroad tracks along with a permanent railroad depot. The municipal water system consisted of three wells, about five miles of (four- and six-inch) water mains. Water was pumped by one electric driven 20 HP Monistee Iron Works centrifugal pump with a capacity of 250 gpm and a Deming pump driven by 15 HP electric motor along with a 20 HP kerosene engine with a capacity of 190 gpm. Storage capacity included a 50,000-gallon standpipe located at the northeast corner of Block 6. The water system had 34 double fire hydrants with an average daily consumption in the summer of 200,000 gallons and 120,000 gallons in winter. A public library building was located on Long Street and the unpaved streets were slightly elevated with electric lighting. A new municipal building was erected (1920-21) for \$75,000. A transmission line was to be constructed by Western Public Service Company from Bridgeport to Bayard in 1924 along with an electric transmission line (1925-32) built from Scottsbluff to Ogallala, tying in the small towns along the way. The municipal water plant in 1928 had water rates at \$1 per 5,000 gallons.

In 1931, the city signed a 25-year contract with the North Central Gas Company. The population, which had decreased to 1,559 in 1930 increased to 2,121 by 1940. On Jan. 2, 1942, Consumers Public Power District ac-

quired all Nebraska properties of the Western Public Service Company. By 1950, the population was 1,869, the North Central Gas Company operated the gas system, and the electric system was supplied by Consumers Public Power District. The municipal water system in 1956 had 415 meters with rates of first 5,000 gallons (gals.) at \$0.25 per 1,000 gals, next 5,000 gals. at \$0.20 per 1,000 and excess at \$0.15 per 1,000 gals. with \$0.05 per 1,000 with a discount allowed for the first 10 days of the month. The electric system had six miles of line, 711 meters, and was supplied by the Bureau of Reclamation at wholesale cost of \$0.007 (an average) kilowatt hour (kWh). On Aug. 9, 1956, Chimney Rock was designated as a historic natural site by the federal Government. Layne-Western drilled a new municipal water well in 1957-58. From 1956-1959, the city tried to use condemnation to take over but the gas company refused to become a wholesaler, thus the issue went to the State Railway Commission, the State Supreme Court, and then the Federal Power Commission. After the attempt to take over the gas system, a contract was signed with North Central Gas Company. The new franchise was for 15 years rather than the 25 years and rates were established somewhat lower for users.

By 1960, the population was 1,519, the water plant had 519 meters in service with a meter deposit of \$5 and in 1962, the municipal electric distribution system had 726 meters. The municipal sewer system was maintained from a one mill levy amounting to \$1,698.

The population decreased to 1,338

in 1970 and in 1974, the electrical generation was owned by the Bureau of Reclamation and distribution by the city. In 1997, the Great Western Sugar Company processing plants closed in Scottsbluff, Gering, Bayard, and Mitchell. In 1979, the electrical distribution system was owned and operated by the city and supplied by the Department of Energy and Municipal Energy Association of Nebraska (MEAN).

In 1980, the population was 1,435 and the gas system was operated and supplied by Kansas-Nebraska Natural Gas Company in 1982. A new city well was drilled in 1984. In 1987, a new bridge was constructed over the North Platte River and a wastewater treatment project was underway. The population decreased to 1,196 in 1990 and in 1991, a new junior/senior high school opened on East 8th Street. In 1995, the city received a \$67,310 grant for closure assessment and the closing of the old landfill. The electrical system in 1998 was supplied by the Department of Energy, MEAN, and the Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD). The city operated a facultative controlled discharge lagoon system designed for 0.195 million gallons per day (mgd) which is located two miles south of the community.

By 2000, the population was 1,247, most streets were hard surfaced, and new playground equipment was being installed in 2001. The municipal water system has two active wells along with miles of mains and a water storage tower. In 2009, Waste Connections provided collection

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Nebraska utilities history – Bayard

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service which was then hauled to the Gering Transfer Station (2009). The natural gas system in 2008 was operated and supplied by SourceGas. The city was installing/replacing water meters in a 2009 project which cost about \$26,600. The project also included main replacement and a new well. The population in 2010 was 1,097 and in 2016, the city installed a Reverse Osmosis (RO) water treatment facility. By 2015, the natural gas system was operated and supplied by Black Hills Energy. Starting in 2018, the gas system was supplied by ACE. Today, Bayard has a population of

1,140, has been incorporated since Nov. 13, 1890, a League of Nebraska Municipalities and Utilities Section Member.

References: Nebraska Directory of Municipal Officials, 1956, 1958, 1960, 1962, 1964-75, 1977-87, 1990-2021; Nebraska Municipal Review, 1928, 1995, 2008; Utilities section Newsletter, 1959; Pages of History, Nebraska High Schools, 1854-1994; Perkey's Nebraska Place Names, 1995; Nebraska Place Names, 1925, 1960; Water Resources of Nebraska, December 1936; Nebraska's Forest Service Newsletter, April 2002; Sargent Era newspaper, 1896; Public Power Magazine, Vol. 51,

Number 1, January-February 1993; Nebraska Our Towns... The Panhandle, 1988; Maps Tell A Story, 1991; NEDED Website, 2005; Wikipedia website, 2018; City of Bayard website, 2021; The Crete Democrat Newspaper, 1891; Lincoln Journal Star Newspaper, 2007; Nebraska State Gazetteer & Business Directory, 1890-91; History of Hamilton & Clay Counties, Nebraska, 1921; Nebraska Blue Book, 1928, 1942, 1946, 1978; Sanborn Map, August 1910, August 1920; Directory of Electric Utilities in the United States, Federal Power Commission, 1941 and the Utilities Section solid waste survey, 2015.

Municipal Parks

By Rob Pierce, Utilities Field Rep./Training Coordinator

This year, the weather has taken more drastic temperature changes than I remember from the past. We had a mild winter in some areas of Nebraska while others had heavy snow. The southeastern portion of the state, including Lincoln, has experienced extreme drought with one report stating the worst since records were kept. Spring has been somewhat mild as far as temperature but things are beginning to heat up.

Hopefully, the public is out enjoying the city/village parks as each year municipal employees work hard to get them ready for use. The parks and recreation areas need to be inspected prior to use. All park structures such

as the restrooms, bandstands, drinking fountains, picnic shelters, grills and all playground equipment may need attention. Many may remember the 2004 "Alexa Check" sessions and brochures following a fatality due to a collapsed wall. Completed inspection sheets for each area should be filled out and corrections made. Some of the organizations that can help out with training, inspection forms, and inspection kits include the Nebraska Recreation & Park Association (www.nerpa.us) and the National Recreation and Parks Association (www.nrpa.org).

A couple other organizations' websites that may be helpful when it comes to parks and recreation include the www.playgroundprofessionals.com and a grant group that may be helpful with grants

is the www.thegranthelpers.com. Some of these groups have material available (may require membership) such as checklists, etc. I hope everyone is gearing up for a summer of outdoor activities as I know I am!

It seems Memorial Day was the deadline for most municipalities to have their swimming pools open along with all summer help hired. Make sure to review the labor requirements for any minors and temporary employees to be for hire. If you have questions on permits, certifications, pool design and construction along with safety issues such as lighting safety procedures, go to the following website: http://dhhs.ne.gov/publichealth/Pages/puh_enh_san_swimming_swim-index.aspx.

Nebraska utilities history – Humphrey

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By Rob Pierce, Utilities Field Rep./Training Coordinator

Humphrey, located in Platte County, had early settlement in the Tracy Valley area by 1868. A post office was established Aug. 28, 1871, on the Leach farm (located about three miles north of the present townsite). The post office was named for Humphrey, NY after the hometown of a pioneer woman and the first postmistress. The Omaha, Niobrara & Black Hills Railroad Company began construction in 1879 on a line running from the Union Pacific main line at Duncan to Norfolk. On Nov. 25, 1880, a townsite was surveyed/platted by James E. North when the Omaha, Niobrara and Black Hills Railroad was extended to that point. The post office, which was served via stagecoach, was moved several times (farm to farm) until being settled next to the railroad depot in the new townsite. By 1880, some of the businesses included a general store, two drug stores, a dry goods, Commercial Hotel, a

saloon, a grain elevator, a lumberyard, a blacksmith, and a livery. School sessions were held in a small frame school building. In 1881, two additions were platted and lots were sold in 1881 and by the spring of 1882, some businesses included a brickyard, a grocery store, a furniture/undertaker business, Citizen State Bank, and the *Independent* newspaper in 1884. On Aug. 14, 1883, a petition was filed for incorporation as a village. In 1884, the St. Francis Parochial School was established and the weekly *Democrat* newspaper in 1886. The Fremont, Elkhorn, and Missouri Valley Railroad, now a part of the Northwestern System, was built through Humphrey in 1886 running east and west. In 1886, the Northwestern endeavored to start a town a mile east of Humphrey to be located on the farm now occupied by Chas Herzberg. They constructed a platform there, but when they built their tracks to Humphrey, this failed and they built their depot on the present site. A public school was established in 1889 and a two-sto-

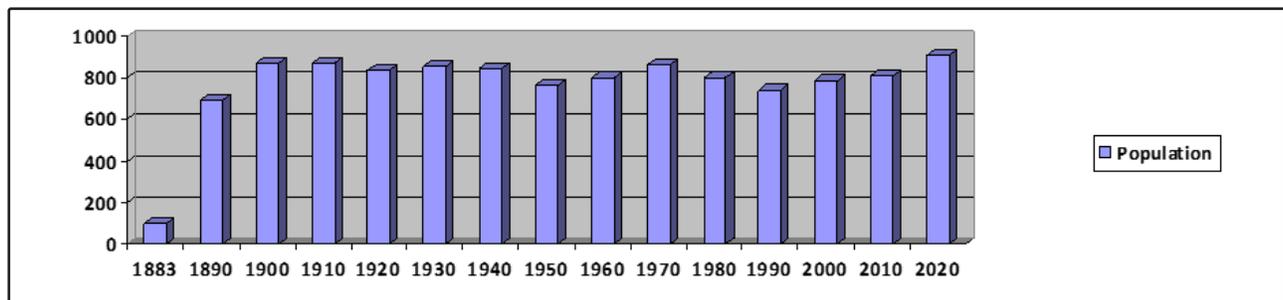


Humphrey water tower. 2013 photo.

ry pressed brick and stone school building was built (\$8,000).

The population was 691 and by 1890, businesses included a hardware, a millinery, a shoemaker, Grandville Hotel, a carriage/wagon maker, a meat market, a bakery, a cigar manufacturer, and Humphrey Tubular Well Works

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Nebraska utilities history – Humphrey

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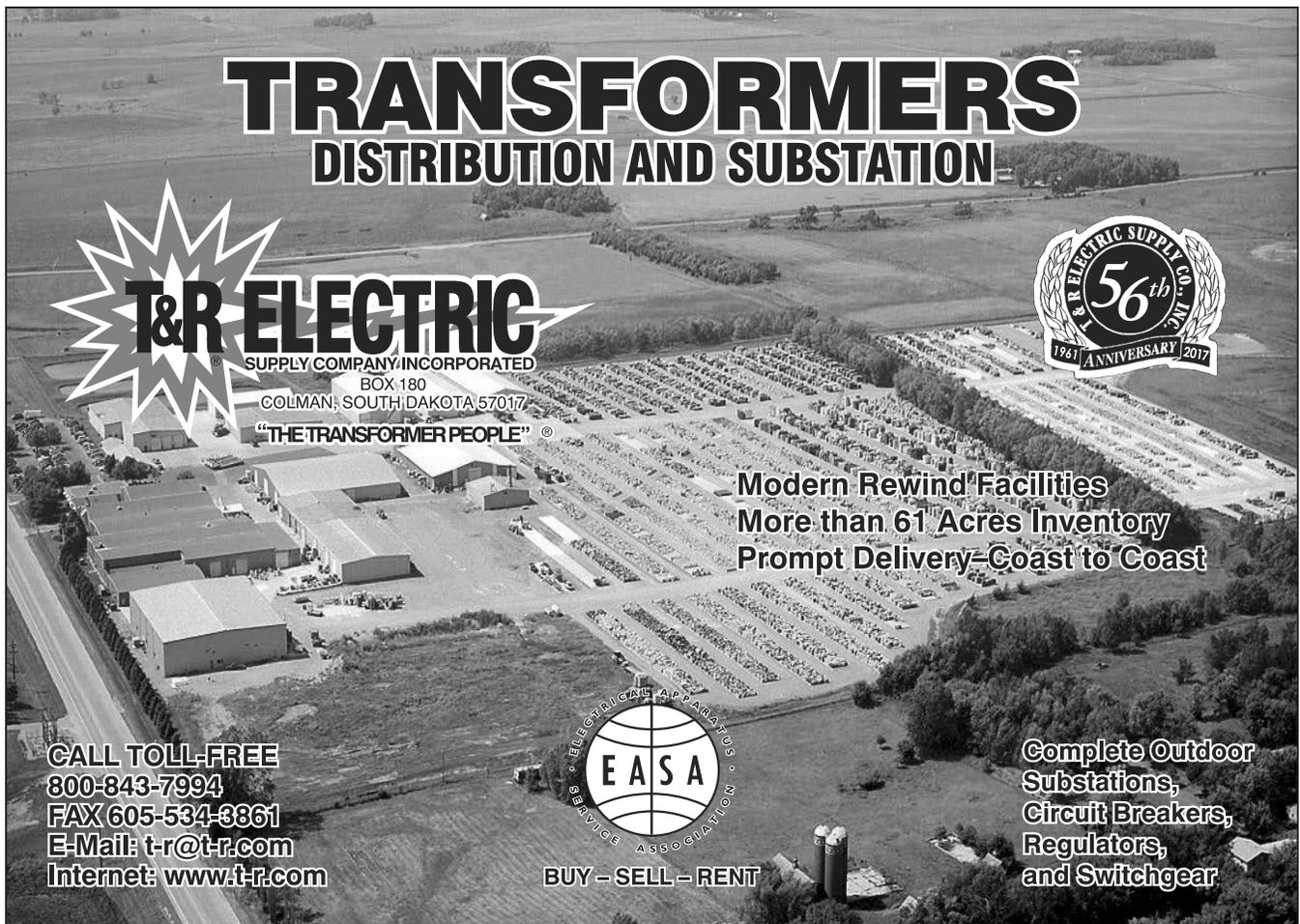
Company. On April 3, 1894, an ordinance was proposed to issue \$8,000 bonds for a waterworks system, which was deferred until December 1899. The village did not have a formal fire department, but three independent groups provided fire protection service. On Dec. 10, the Engine Company No. 1 was organized and on April 29, 1897, the Hook & Ladder Company No.1 was organized. In December, \$6,000 bonds were issued to construct a waterworks system,

which was completed in 1900. Well water was pumped to a 100 feet steel standpipe by the electric company. On Feb. 5, 1898, the Humphrey Cemetery was laid out and by 1899, the Humphrey Roller Mill was built.

By 1900, the population increased to 869 and on Jan. 3, Hose Company No.1 was organized. The city hall in 1902 was a brick building trimmed in stone which cost \$7,200 to build. The fire protection equipment was housed on the lower floor of the building.

A franchise was granted in 1902 for the Humphrey Electric Light & Telephone Company to install a telephone and electric light plant. A two-story building was built (2nd floor Telephone Co.) with the electric light plant and machinery occupying the first floor. The village had no fire department by 1915 as fire protection service was provided by independent organizations. These organizations had 60 volunteers, a chemical engine, two hose carts, and an alarm bell.

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Nebraska utilities history – Humphrey

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The Humphrey Electric Light & Power Company had a 90 horsepower (HP) boiler, 75 HP steam engine with a generator rating of 30 kilovolt ampere (kVA). The municipal water system in 1915 consisted of two wells, two pumps/engines with a capacity of 210,500 gallons per day (gpd), two miles of mains (four- to eight-inch diameter), and 24 hydrants. The system cost \$12,000 to install with maintenance costs at \$700. In 1917, plans were discussed to install a new oil engine and generator and the population increased to 835 by 1920. On April 3, 1922, the Nebraska Gas & Electric Company filed an application for the authority to construct a transmission line from Norfolk to Madison to Humphrey to Cornlea to Lindsay to St. Edward to Genoa and then to Fullerton which was granted June 29, 1922.

The population was 854 by 1930 and Humphrey was a member of the League of Nebraska Municipalities in 1934. The Loup Public Power District was established in 1933 and on Jan. 1, 1935, Humphrey's electric distribution system was operated via transmission

lines. The population was 841 by 1940 and by 1943, the electric distribution system was owned and operated by Consumers Public Power District.

The population decreased to 761 by 1950 and the village owned and operated the cemetery which was maintained by lot sales and a tax levy. By 1956, the fire department had 30 volunteer firefighters and the municipal sewer system and disposal plant was maintained by a tax levy. The natural gas system was furnished by Central Nebraska Gas Company. The electrical distribution system and 381 meters in service were owned and operated by Consumers Public Power District with a meter deposit of \$10. The cost of street lighting in 1956 was approximately \$120 per month, and the cost of current for pumping water for the first 3,000 kilowatt (kW) at \$0.025, then \$0.015 for the next 27,000 and \$0.01 for all additional. The water system (1958) had 285 meters in service, a meter deposit of \$5 and a minimum charge of \$6. A new city hall project and a swimming pool project were planned in 1958.

The population was 801 in 1960,

the garbage was collected by the village, and a community building project was underway. The electrical distribution system was owned and operated by Consumers Public Power District with a meter deposit of \$10 and the cost of street lighting was approximately \$135 per month. The natural gas system was supplied by Western Power & Gas Company in 1962 and the municipal sewer collection system and disposal plant was maintained by a tax levy of \$1,500. The public water system had 300 meters in service and a minimum water rate charge of \$1. The village auditorium was maintained by a two-mill tax levy and income from rentals. By 1968-69, the electrical distribution system was owned and operated by Loup Public Power District. Humphrey became a city of the second class by 1969 and the school added a new lunchroom in 1968 and a gymnasium in 1970. The population was 862 and the electrical system was operated by Loup Public Power District. A construction project was underway in 1976 on the wastewater treatment facility and the population was 799

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Nebraska utilities history – Humphrey

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in 1980. The wastewater lagoon treatment facility was completed by 1981 and designed to serve a population of 1,200. In 1982, the natural gas system was operated and supplied by Cengas and by 1985, by Minnegasco.

By 1990, the population was 741 and in 1994, the natural gas system was operated and supplied by Peoples Natural Gas. The water system in 1999 was supplied by wells located south of town with an average daily demand of 135,000 gallons. The three-celled facultative lagoon was located north of town and was designed for 0.12 million gallons per day (mgd) then gravity irrigation to cropland. By 2006, the natural gas system was operated and supplied by Aquila and then by 2009, by Black Hills Energy

The population was 808 by 2010 and a \$2.5 million water project in 2011-2012 included a new 250-million-gallon spheroid water storage tower and new

water mains in the new subdivision on the east side of town. The municipal system in 2014 had two active and three inactive wells, serving 472 residential and 70 commercial services, all unmetered. In May 2020, a new fire hall was planned along with a new swimming pool to replace the old 60-plus-year-old pool. In November 2021, voters approved a bond issue (\$2.95 million) to build a new swimming pool. The cost of the new pool was estimated at \$4.95 million. An estimated \$500,000 would come from the city's budget. Voters approved a half-cent sales tax hike designated for the pool in November 2020. Today, Humphrey's population is 905, has been incorporated since 1883, and is a League of Nebraska Municipalities and Utilities Section member.

References: Nebraska Directory of Municipal Officials, 1956, 1958, 1960, 1962, 1964-75, 1977-87, 1990-97, 2001, 2004-2022; Water Resources of

Nebraska, December 1936; Nebraska Traveler Magazine, 2003; Perkey's Nebraska Place Names, 1995; Nebraska Place-Names, 1925, 1960; Pages of History, Nebraska High Schools, Past & Present, 1954-1994; Nebraska Our Towns...Central Northeast, 1990; Maps Tell A Story, 1991; NEDED Website, 2005; Platte County Past and Present, Vol. 1, 1915; Nebraska State Gazetteer & Business Directory, 1890-91; Electric Power Development in the United States, Dept. of Agriculture, January 1916; The History of Platte County Nebraska, 1950; Nebraska Blue Book, 1918, 1928, 1936, 1942, 1946, 1978; Annual Report of Nebraska State Railway Commission to the Governor, Issue 15, 1922; The Insurance Year Book 1915-16 Fire and Marine 43rd Annual Issue, 1915; and Electric Rate Survey: Domestic and Residential Electric Rates in Effect January 1, 1935 by U.S. Federal Power Commission, 1935.

Solid Waste Screening Workshop held

A Solid Waste Screening Workshop, sponsored by the League of Nebraska Municipalities Utilities Section, was held June 27 at the Norfolk Fire Training Facility.

The workshop covered hazardous waste identification, load inspections, safety with an emphasis on asbestos, and a solid waste management industry update.

This workshop meets the State of Nebraska requirements covering hazardous waste screening for employees of transfer stations

and landfills.

Another Solid Waste Screening Workshop is scheduled for July 25 at the Gering Landfill Building. If you have questions, contact Rob at the League office or call his cell at 402-432-9172.

If you missed out on the workshop in your area or have just hired someone who needs the training, you can view the "Hazardous Waste Identification/Random Load Inspection Webinar." The Utilities Section's webinar

still is available for those needing initial training in the solid waste collection, handling, or landfill departments. To register for the one-hour webinar on "Hazardous Waste Identification/Random Load Inspection," contact the League at 402-476-2829. Once registered, you will receive an email with links to the webinar and a validation sheet. Once completed, we can email a certificate to the individual(s) who viewed the session.

Reminder: Backflow program update

By Rob Pierce, Utilities Field Rep./Training Coordinator

Has your system remembered to send out the backflow surveys and received them back from the customer? Once you get the surveys returned, make sure to review them and record the items that need to be followed up on, properly filed, and reported. Besides surveys sent and returned, remember to check that all testers have tested all devices in the water system and the required reports are turned in to the water system. Be sure to provide public education information to your customers, which is required by the State of Nebraska.

Some water systems include backflow public information in with the billing envelopes, or articles/notices in newsletters, the local newspaper, or on the radio. Posting also may be on the village/city website, county website, chamber of commerce website, or on Facebook. I have noticed postings in the U.S. post office, too. It is recommended to use a variety of avenues for posting the information as not everyone visits the websites or reads newspapers. Another option is having testers give out brochures with backflow information when they make visits to the homes/businesses to test or repair backflow devices. Backflow-related items are the most noted deficiencies listed on the state's sanitary surveys performed by the field specialists.

Backflow/CCC Programs: Public Education. One of the area's public water systems is deficient on, as far as the state sanitary surveys, is not having an

on-going public education program concerning cross connection "backflow." One way might be to add some basic definitions in billing stuffers, flyers, the local newspaper, municipal newsletter, or posted in a heavy traffic, public area (village/city office). Below are some public education questions you could use.

QUESTION: What is a cross-connection?

ANSWER: A cross-connection is any temporary or permanent connection between a public water system or consumer's potable (i.e., drinking) water system and any source or system containing non-potable water or other substances. An example is the piping between a public water system or consumer's potable water system and an auxiliary water system, cooling system, or irrigation system.

QUESTION: What is backflow?

ANSWER: Backflow is the undesirable reversal of flow of non-potable water or other substances through a cross-connection and into the piping of a public water system or consumer's potable water system. There are two types of backflow... backpressure backflow and backsiphonage.

QUESTION: What is backpressure backflow?

ANSWER: Backpressure backflow is backflow caused by a downstream pressure that is greater than the upstream or supply pressure in a public water system or consumer's potable water system. Backpressure can result from an increase in downstream pressure, a reduction in the potable water supply pressure, or a combination of both. Increases in downstream pressure can be

created by pumps, temperature increases in boilers, etc. Reductions in potable water supply pressure occurs whenever the amount of water being used exceeds the amount of water being supplied, such as during water line flushing, firefighting, or breaks in water mains.

QUESTION: What is backsiphonage?

ANSWER: Backsiphonage is backflow caused by a negative pressure (i.e., a vacuum or partial vacuum) in a public water system or consumer's potable water system. The effect is similar to drinking water through a straw. Backsiphonage can occur when there is a stoppage of water supply due to nearby firefighting, a break in a water main, etc.

An efficient public education program continuously gets backflow/cross connection information to the general public. Today with all the difference avenues, information can be obtained by a good program that tries to cover all the bases using flyers, newspapers, postings, banners, newsletters, open house tables, and brochures. Mark your calendars at the first of the year and schedule how and when information gets distributed. Make sure your system is working to provide information to the consumers and general public concerning cross connections/backflow.



SAFETY/HEALTH CORNER

Lockout/tagout procedures

*By Rob Pierce, Utilities Field Rep./
Training Coordinator*

For control of hazards in the workplace, be sure to have a lockout/tagout (LOTO) plan, follow it, and make any adjustments depending on equipment changes or hazards identified. The first step is to prepare for a shutdown by reviewing policy procedures and assem-

bling all needed locks, tags, safety equipment, etc. Prepare the equipment for shutdown and make sure all affected employees/contractors are notified. Identify procedures and all hazards and/or potential hazards and then isolate the system or equipment (de-energize from energy source).

Apply LOTO devices (individual locks and hasp, if needed) and

check for and remove any stored energy. Verify isolation and then perform the maintenance or service activity.



To put the equipment back online, notify affected personnel again and then reverse the order of shut down bringing the equipment or system back online. Return all locks, safety equipment, unused tags, etc., back to their proper storage location.

In review, prepare, shutdown, isolate, engage LOTO, check for stored energy, isolate, and verify. Perform maintenance or adjustments and when all tasks are completed, notify all affected individuals again and reverse the shutdown procedure.

Electric safety training

Upcoming electric safety training contracted through the Northeast Community College Job Training includes:

- **August/September 2023:** Pole Top and Bucket Rescue (Annual Training)
- **October/November 2023:** Use/ Safety with Hand and Battery-Operated Tools, Pneumatic, and Hydraulic Energy Equipment

Safety

- **December 2023/January 2024:** Grounding/Equipotential
 - **February/March 2024:** Lock Out/Tag Out
 - **April/May 2024:** Trenching, Boring, Shoring, and Confined Spaces
- Additional topics may include CPR/First Aid, Nebraska Flagger Training, and Forklift Training.

Underground electric training

The Nebraska Electric Underground School was held on May 24-25 at the Utility Line Facility on the Northeast Community College Campus in Norfolk. A total of 19 municipal lineworkers were in attendance from nine municipalities: Broken Bow, Central City, Cozad, David City, Holdrege, Stuart, Valentine, Wayne, and West Point.

Five hands-on workstations, which included; splicing/terminations, installing 600 amp elbow, equipotential grounding, trenching and shoring along with locating/fault finding and pulling in under-

ground cable.

A special “thank you” to the instructors and their respective companies: Kyle Broyles, Todd Neville, Matt Reynolds and Alicia Vincenzi (Hubbell), Brian Winfield and Garry Poutre (Moehn Sales), Randy Sereika (Sherman Riley), Bill Amelse (Primus Marketing), Brennan Malm (Safetyline), and Mike Rhodes and Jim Meyer (WESCO).

The next hands-on Electric Underground School will be scheduled in the fall of 2024 at the Don Winkelman Training Field, the Wheatbelt Public Power District’s Training Field north of Sidney.

Safety awards reminder

AWWA and NWEA have safety award application to recognize water and wastewater departments/facilities for their safety program for the 2022 calendar year. [Click here](#) for the application form on NWEA’s website. For wastewater applications, contact safety chairman Jeremy Walker at jwalker@olsson.com and for water (AWWA) applications, contact Rob at robp@lonm.org

Recipients will be recognized during the banquet at the Annual Conference (Nov. 1-3) at the Younes Conference Center in Kearney. If you wish to recognize your facility for its safety program and activities, be sure to fill out an application.

Nebraska utilities history – Indianola

The Utilities Section Newsletter will continue to feature histories of both utilities and associate members. Any historical data and/or photos of your utilities, a specific facility, or articles already written are welcome, along with permission to print. If you have questions, contact Rob at 402-476-2829 or rob@lonm.org.

By Rob Pierce, Utilities Field Rep./Training Coordinator

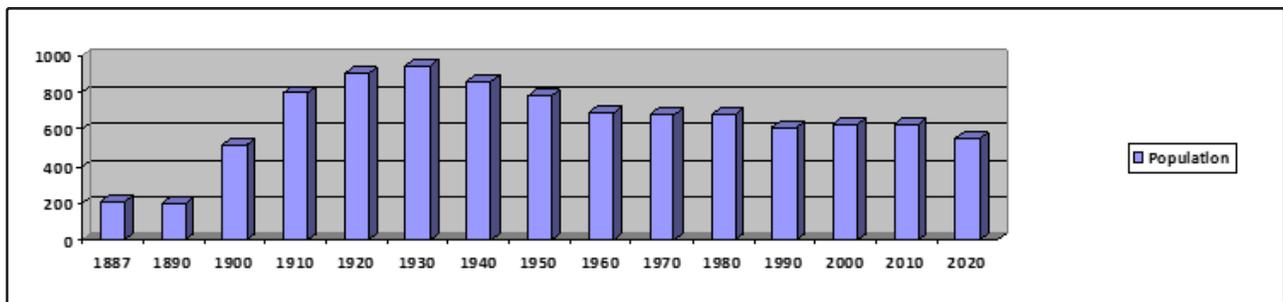
Indianola, located in Red Willow County, had settlers in the area by 1872. In the spring of 1873, the railroad met with area settlers to discuss a proposed town called Indianola. In May, the site was surveyed and platted by the Republican Valley Land Association with some 100 lots deeded for county use. A store soon was built which was owned by the Republican Valley Land Association. On May 27, 1873, a small majority voted Indianola as county seat over Red Willow. The election was contested and Red Willow went to Indianola and hauled off the county seal by force which was later surrendered. A courthouse was built that year along with a post office established June 25, 1873. By July, the Land Association had built a hotel and in the winter of 1873-74, the county’s first school sessions were being taught. By 1875, the Congregational Church was organized and by August 1876, the Methodist

Church also was organized. Indianola was the only community in the county by 1877 and by 1879, boasted about a dozen buildings. On April 29, 1880, the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad line was completed to the community. That year the *Indianola Courier Newspaper* was established along with the Red Willow County Bank July 1. Some of the other businesses operating included a hotel, two churches, a blacksmith shop, a lumberyard, and several general stores. In December 1880, Indianola was incorporated as a village with a population of 233. A school was operating and by 1881, a bridge over the Republican River was erected. By 1887, the population increased to about 1,100 with more businesses which included a laundry, two banks, two ag implement dealers, two meat markets, four general stores, two liverys, two bakeries, a steam grist flour mill, and a brick manufacturer beginning operation. In 1887, the high school first opened in a brick school building (first graduates in



Indianola water tower. 2007 photo.

1891). The population in 1890 was 576 and by 1891, some of the businesses included Leland Hotel, Farmers Hotel, a billiard hall, a hardware store, a lumberyard, a livery, a confectionery, a harness maker, a grocery, several general stores, and the *Red Willow Times* newspaper. In the spring of 1891, the *Indianola Reporter* newspaper
Continued on page 14



Nebraska utilities history – Indianola

Continued from page 13
was first published. By 1891, an Ochre Mill was mining ochre with a paint factory starting, which employed about 12 people. By May 1892, a cheese factory was started along with a Masonic Temple built in 1893-95. In 1896, Indianola boasted a population of about 1,200 but in April, lost the county seat to McCook.

The population from 1900 to 1910 increased from 626 to 681 and was later incorporated as a city of the second class. By 1915, the Indianola Electric Light Company was operating a 10-horsepower gas engine with a generator rating of 7.5 kilovolt amps (kVA). In 1917, the city voted on a \$22,000 bond issue for a waterworks and \$11,000 to install a municipal electric lighting plant, taking over the current plant operated by F. Pound. Plans were to erect an electric transmission line to McCook to secure energy for operation which was granted in 1918. By 1920, the population increased to 742 and the Republican Valley School, located west of town, was built.

The population was 815 in 1930 but the Depression hit, closing the area bank in 1933.

In 1940, the population was 800, the bank reopened and in 1943, a prisoner of war camp was built north of town. The camp by 1944 held some 5,000 prisoners. The population decreased slightly to 738 in 1950 and in 1956, the electric distribution system was owned by the city and supplied by McCook Public Power District. The city maintained the cemetery from a mill levy and the natural gas system was operated and

supplied by Kansas-Nebraska Natural Gas Company. The fire department had 22 volunteer firefighters. The water plant in 1958 had 240 meters in service and rates of a minimum per quarter for 12,000 gallons (gals.) at \$3.75, then \$0.15 per 1,000 gals. with a minimum of \$3.75. The cost of street lighting was \$2,202 per year and the cost of current for pumping water was \$787.50. The public sanitary disposal plant was reactivated in 1958 and a sewer project included an extension of laterals.

By 1960, the municipal sewer system and disposal plant was maintained by a one mill levy and a sewer use charge of \$0.75 per month for residents and \$1.50 per month for businesses. The electric system had 334 meters in service and in 1962, the cost of street lighting was \$2,400 per year and the cost of current for pumping water was \$756.35. The waterworks had 276 meters in service with a deposit of \$9.80 and rates at a minimum of \$1.25 per month for 4,000 gals. or \$0.15 per 1,000 gals. The population decreased from 754 in 1960 to 672 in 1970 and the high school closed.

A renovation project was underway at the wastewater treatment facility in 1972 and the municipal electrical system was city owned and operated by McCook Public Power District and supplied by MEAN. In the early 1990s, a new 130 feet (ft) water storage tower was built along with the installation of new water mains.

In 1999, the water system improvements included the addition of new water mains, valves, and hydrants.

The wastewater treatment facility consisted of a facultative controlled discharge lagoon system designed for 0.1 million gallons per day (mgd) with effluent to surface water. In 2000, the population was 642, most streets were hard surfaced with curbing, and a new fire hall was built in 2004. The City Hall/maintenance shop was destroyed by fire in 2004 and was rebuilt in 2006. Bartley and Indianola received a CDBG Block grant of \$393,000 in 2005 to build a well field along with transmission mains as part of a regional water system providing water for residents in Bartley, Cambridge, and Indianola. The USDA awarded an additional loan and grant funding of \$231,000 for Bartley and \$2.1 million for Indianola. In 2008, new water wells were drilled north of Bartley to supply the BIC members Indianola, Bartley, and Cambridge a \$6 million project. The natural gas system in 2005 was operated by Kinder Morgan Gas Company and by 2008, was operated by Source-Gas.

Today, Indianola has a population of 550, has been incorporated since December 1880, and a League of Nebraska Municipalities and Utilities Section member.

References: Nebraska Directory of Municipal Officials, 1956, 1958, 1960, 1962, 1964-75, 1977-87, 1990-1998, 2000-2021; Nebraska Municipal Review, 1989; Nebraska Place Names, 1960; Perkey's Nebraska Place Names, 1995; Water Resources of Nebraska, December 1936; Public Power Magazine, Vol.

Continued on page 15

Wastewater certification training/testing

NDEE Wastewater Certification Training/Testing
Aug. 24, 2023 – Lincoln
Oct. 12, 2023 – Norfolk
www.dee.ne.gov or www.nebwea.org/training

NWOD Wastewater Training
Sept. 7, 2023 – Omaha
For questions, contact Ryan Hurst, NWEA Training Chairman, Hurst@wahoo.ne.us, 402-443-3222.

Nebraska utilities history – Indianola

Continued from page 14
51, Number 1, January-February 1993; *Maps Tell A Story*, 1991; *The Tecumseh Chieftain Newspaper*, 1881; *Lincoln Journal Star Newspaper*, 2005, 2012; *The Crete Democrat Newspaper*, 1891-92; *Andrea's History of the State of Nebraska*, 1882; *Johnson's History of Nebraska*, 1880; *Nebraska State Gazetteer*, 1890-91; *Electrical World*, 1917; *Annual Report of Nebraska State Railway Commission, Vol. 11*, 1918; *Lincoln State Journal*, June 1887; *Engineering & Contracting, Technology and Engineering*, 1917; and *Electric Power Development in the United States, Dept. of Agriculture*, January 1916.

June: Monthly celebration acknowledgments

National Safety Month www.nsc.org/nsm: The topics designated by week include: week one – emergency preparedness, week two – wellness, week three – falls, and week four – driving.

Other events recognized in June include National Trailer Safety Week and National Ride to Work Day.

Go to www.calendar.com/united-states/observances-2023/ for a list of celebrations or events for every day of the year.

Nebraska Breaktime Trivia “Just For Fun”

Q-1. The L'Eau Qui Court Cemetery is located on the south-east edge of what Nebraska village/city?

Q-2. What city in Nebraska was originally called Shell Creek Station?

Q-3. What Nebraska city won the county seat over Red Willow, only to lose it in 1896 to McCook?

Q-4. Do you know where this city hall is located?

Answers on page 19.



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Nebraska utilities history – Plainview

The Utilities Section Newsletter will continue to feature histories of both utilities and associate members. Any historical data and/or photos of your utilities, a specific facility, or articles already written are welcome, along with permission to print. If you have questions, contact Rob at 402-476-2829 or robp@lonm.org.

By Rob Pierce, Utilities Field Rep./Training Coordinator

Plainview, located in Pierce County, had the first settlers in the area by June 1871 with more arriving in 1872.

In April 1872, a post office was established as Roseville, named after the first postmaster Charles Rose. The first school was organized with sessions held in a sod structure. The first “city” school was built in 1873 and by January 26, 1874, the post office name changed from Roseville to Plainview. The name was suggested at a town meeting by Christian Lerum after a community in Minnesota, which was approved. By December 1879, the first store building was erected. The Fremont, Elkhorn & Missouri Valley Railroad was completed to Plainview (Norfolk to Niobrara) by 1880 and a depot opened. By October, the townsite was platted (original six blocks). Early businesses included two general stores, two blacksmiths, two agricultural implement dealers, a drug store, a hotel, a doctor, and two churches.

The population was about 80 and the water system consisted of individual wells/pumps along with some cisterns.

On April 5, 1886, papers were filed to incorporate the village and a school building for School District #5 was built (1886). The Plainview Cemetery was established in 1888 and by 1890, the population was 375. The Pacific Short Line from Sioux City to O’Neill was built (1890) along with the first normal school or college built in 1894.

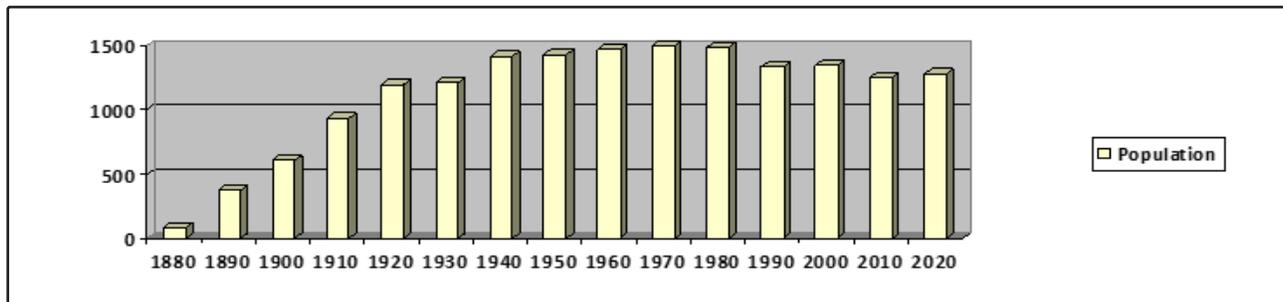
In 1900, the population increased to 603, the first telephones were installed in 1900, the McHenry Roller Mill was in operation and in 1901, the Johnson Hotel was built. Fires in 1901 and 1903 where four buildings were burned prompted a fire department to be formed/organized in 1903. That year, the railroad line was sold to Chicago & Northwestern which was extended to Winner, SD. The first waterworks plant was installed which consisted of a pump, one-cylinder gas engine, and a supply tank along with 11 hydrants (established by 1904).

A new school was built in 1909 as the population increased to 941 by 1910. In April, 1910, a generating plant and electric distribution system was built to serve the downtown area. All electricity was generated using gasoline with lighting shut down by 10 p.m. The normal (college) school was abandoned in 1910 when decisions were made to centralize the college in Wayne as a state college. Cement sidewalks were installed along the dirt streets replacing the boardwalks. The electric generation plant was expanded in 1911 as demand for electricity increased. In 1912,



Plainview water tower. 2000 photo.

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Nebraska utilities history – Plainview

Continued from page 16
McHenry Bros. Milling Company was using its own steam power to operate its facility. From 1912-1915, electricity was installed throughout town and by 1915, the municipal power plant, which had cost \$11,000, had electric rates between \$0.08-\$0.15 per kilowatt hour (kWh). The plant operated a 125 horsepower (HP) boiler, a 125 HP steam engine, a 25 HP gas engine with a generator rating of 75 kilovolt ampere (kVA). Plant Manager was O.N. Michener and electric sales totaled \$5,500 with 50,000 total kWh sold at a rate of about \$0.15 per kilowatt (kW). The municipal water plant, which cost \$9,000, had rates of \$0.25 per 1,000 gallons in 1915. One block of land was donated in 1915 for use as a park and became Chivers Park. Lots were purchased in 1916 for a library as the Carnegie Library was established. The library was built using a \$6,000 grant (total cost \$8,000) and was dedicated April 5, 1917. By 1919, some 50 miles of rural electric lines were installed, serving about 50 patrons.

By 1920, the population was 1,199 and a 175-kW electric generating unit was installed in the municipal electric light and water plant. An ice manufacturing plant was installed in connection with the water and light plant. A two-story brick schoolhouse was built (1920-21) and in 1923, construction was started on the first sewer system, which was completed in 1924. In 1925, the municipal water rates were \$1.50 and electricity was provided via transmission line at rates of \$0.14. A 1929 proposal to sell the power generation plant

to the Plainview Hi-View Hi-Line Company was voted on with 415 against and 14 for. The first diesel engine was installed at the generation plant in 1929 with plan capacity increased from 110 HP to 400 HP and rates at \$0.12 per kW.

In 1930, the population was 1,216 and in 1933, a 375 HP Superior diesel engine was added to the power plant. By 1931, Plainview had paved streets with cement sidewalks and an electric distribution system provided by Plainview Municipal Light & Power Department. A water system project in 1935 included nine blocks of water mains and seven fire hydrants installed. The Municipal Power Plant in 1936 had a capacity of 498 kW with 316 kW of steam and 180 kW of internal combustion power generation. In the 1930s, the power generation plant was converted to diesel power and a band shell was erected in the park as a Works Progress Administration (WPA) project. A city office/fire hall building was built in 1938 for \$11,800 (city offices and a two-door fire hall). Cost of improvements to the water and sewer systems in 1940 amounted to \$14,894. The city operated the electric system in 1941 and by 1948, the rural electric association began serving rural patrons. A propane business started as N&B Gas Company in 1949. Initial operation began in 1949 of a Superior 8-cylinder diesel generator engine (1,100 Kw), 1.0 megawatts using natural gas. The population increased slightly from 1,411 in 1940 to 1,427 in 1950 and the Plains Motel was built in 1951. In 1956, the natural gas system was owned by a private concern, the

fire department had 50 volunteer firefighters and the garbage was collected by a private collector. The municipal water plant had 500 meters with the cost of pumping water at \$1,350 per year. The municipal diesel generation plant had a capacity of 1,700 kWh, 520 meters in service, and the cost of street lighting was \$4,000 per year. In 1958, the municipal sewer system and disposal plant had a sewer charge for residences was \$0.50 per month and commercial was \$1.50 per month. Initial operation of a Superior 6-cylinder engine (900 kW) at the power plant began in 1958 and signs were installed at all intersections.

In 1960, the population was 1,467 and on Feb. 25, a rural fire department was organized. A fire hall was dedicated in 1962 and the power plant added another Superior 8-cylinder generation engine (1250 kW) with initial operation in 1963. The Plainview Hi-View Hi-Line Company was purchased by North Central Public Power District in 1967. The electrical generation and distribution system was operated by the city. From 1970 to 1980, the population decreased slightly from 1,494 to 1,483 and the last train ran through town June 19, 1978. A wastewater treatment facility system project was underway in 1978 and the city maintained 10 miles of paved streets with some curbing. Natural gas was operated and supplied in 1982 by the Kansas-Nebraska Natural Gas Company and the propane company was sold to Great Plains Service of Blair. The electrical system was operated by the city and sup-

Continued on page 18

Nebraska utilities history – Plainview

Continued from page 17
plied by Nebraska Public Power District. By 1986, the city had 75 percent paved/curbed streets and 60 percent with sidewalks.

The population by 1990 was 1,333, natural gas was operated and supplied by KN Energy and in 1997, a new 250,000-gallon single pedestal water tower was built by Maguire Iron. The city operated a facultative flow through lagoon wastewater system and the electric distribution system was owned by the city and supplied by Nebraska Public Power District. The municipal power plant had three Superior engines with ratings of 0.70, 0.56 and 0.5 megawatts (1998).

The initial operation of a 2,000 kilowatt (kW), 2,628 horsepower (HP), V-16 diesel Caterpillar engine occurred in 1999.

The water system had four municipal wells (avg. depth of 80 ft), a capacity of 1.81 million gallons per minute (gpm). The average consumption was 400,000 gallons per day (gpd) with a peak consumption of 1.1 million gpd. The storage capacity was 60,000 gallons.

By 2000, the population was 1,353 and the city maintained 16 miles of streets (2/3 paved or asphalt) and most were curbed with sidewalks. Street maintenance included sweeping, snow removal, grading, and alley and sign maintenance and repair. The water system had four municipal wells, approximately 14 miles of main (four- to eight-inch), a 250,000-gallon water storage tower, and 715 service connections. The sewer system consisted of 12 miles of collection sewer main (mostly eight-inch), which

gravity fed to the waste stabilization lagoon located southeast of town.

In 2003, a bond issue was approved for a new swimming pool complex which was completed in 2004. The city maintained Chivers Park (two square city blocks) which had a heated pool, playground equipment, horseshoe pits, tennis courts, restrooms, camping pads, and a nine-hole frisbee golf course. In 2005, the city received \$250,000 to replace its wastewater system with a four-lagoon treatment system and lift station. The NDEQ approved a \$1 million loan from the Clean Water State Revolving Fund. A new four-cell controlled discharge lagoon system was in operation by November 2007. The system consisted of a new lift station (submersible pumps), pre-treatment, and flow measurement with cell #1 - 9.9 acres, cell #2 - 6.7 acres, cell #3 - 8.1 acres, and cell #4 - 8.1 acres. In 2008, the public electrical distribution system was municipally owned and supplied by NPPD and WAPA. The standby municipal diesel generation power plant had a capacity of 5,250 kW and four engines, Unit #1 - 1.1 megawatts (1949), Unit #2 - 0.9 megawatts (1958), Unit #3 - 0.5 megawatts (1963), and Unit #4 - 1.8 megawatts (1999). A new fire hall was built in 2006 and the population decreased slightly to 1,246 by 2010. Solid waste was collected by a private company and a transfer station was in operation. Effective Dec. 1, 2018, North Central Public Power District of Creighton billed for electrical services in the City of Plainview. In 2018, a new library was built and the

water system in 2022 consisted of four wells serving 83 commercial and 605 residential customers.

Today, Plainview is a city of second class with a population of 1,282, has been incorporated since 1886, and a League of Nebraska Municipalities and Utilities Section member.

References: Nebraska Directory of Municipal Officials, 1965-75, 1977-87, 1990-2022; Nebraska Municipal Review Magazine, 1925, 1971, 1989; Water Resources of Nebraska, December 1936; Lincoln Journal Star Newspaper, 2003, 2004, 2005; Plainview Centennial History Book, 1886-1986, 1886; Nebraska Traveler Magazine, 2003; Plainview Internet Website, 2003, 2004, 2017; Nebraska's Forest Service Newsletter, April 2002; Public Power Magazine, Vol. 51, Number 1, January-February 1993; Department of Energy Website, 2004; Nebraska Our Towns...North Northeast, 1990; Maps Tell Nebraska's History, 1991; NEDED Website, 2005; Wikipedia website, 2018; Andrea's History of the State of Nebraska, 1882; Municipal Journal and Engineering, 1910; Effluent Line Magazine, Fall 2009; Electric Power Development in the United States, Dept. of Agriculture, January 1916; Electric World, Jan. 31, 1920; West Union Gazette newspaper, 1892; Nebraska Blue Book, 1915, 1928, 1942, 1946, 1978; Biennial Report of Audits of Public Accounts to the Governor, 1935; U.S. Congressional Serial Set, House Document, Vol. 238, April 14, 1936; Directory of Electric Utilities in the United States,

Continued on page 19

Crow Line: A line of positive communication that all can share

By Rob Pierce, Utilities Field Rep./Training Coordinator

Congratulations! **Incorporation Anniversary Recognition:** 110 years – Ralston (1912-city of first class) and Kilgore (1913-village); and 130 years – Malmo (1893-village).

I only have the years listed for the following cities/villages, so they are being all lumped into the month of June: 70 years – **Sidney** (1953-city of first class); 95 years – Sargent (1928-city of second class); 100 years – Davy (1923-village); 105 years – Bushnell (1918-village) and Nora (1918-village); 110 years – Denton (1913-village), Heartwell (1913-village), Huntley (1913-village), and Obert (1913-village); 115 years – **Gothenburg** (1908-city of

second class); 120 years – Brunswick (1903-village) and Wood Lake (1903-village); 125 years – Danbury (1898-village); 130 years – Naper (1893-village), Newcastle (1893-village), **St. Paul** (1893-city of second class), and Sumner (1893-village); 135 years – **Auburn** (1888-city of second class), **Broken Bow** (1888-city of second class), **Cook** (1888-village), **Grant** (1888-village), **Newman Grove** (1888-village), Weeping Water (1888-city of second class), and **Kimball** (1888-city of second class); 140 years – **Greenwood** (1883-village), Liberty (1883-village), Swanton (1883-village), and St. Edward (1883-city of second class).

Congratulations to **Olsson** (Utilities Section Associate Member) for being selected as the 2023 “Best Place



to Work” in Lincoln in the extra-large company category. Woods Aitken LLP, LincolnHR, and the *Lincoln Journal Star* sponsor the competition.

Utilities Section members and associate members are bolded.

Do you, your department or facility have

something to crow about – new hires, promotions, awards, certifications, anniversaries/milestones, accomplishments, grants/funding, or projects? Let us help you celebrate events and accomplishments! Please send information to any of the League/Utilities staff.

“Just For Fun” Answers

A-1. Niobrara – the cemetery, established in 1874, was named after the nearby river the French called L'Eau Qui Court and the Native Americans (Omaha-Ponca) called Ni Ubtatha khe, which translated to Niobrara.

A-2. Schuyler – when the Union Pacific Railroad reached the townsite in 1866, it was known as Shell Creek Station. It was renamed Schuyler in 1870. *Reference: Schuyler Chamber website, 2023*

A-3. Indianola.
A-4. Shelton.

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Nebraska utilities history – Plainview

Continued from page 18
Federal Power Commission, 1941; Federal Power Consumers Electric Rate Survey,

and Domestic and Residential Electric Rates in Effect Jan. 1, 1935 in the State of Nebraska, 1935.

2023 Training calendar

Visit our website at lonm.org/education-events/
for a complete list of workshops and conferences.

July

July 25.....Solid Waste Screening Workshop Landfill, Gering

August

Aug. 15.....Backflow Workshop The Venue, Beatrice
Aug. 16.....Backflow Workshop Fire Hall, Wayne
Aug. 17.....Work Zone Safety Training Workshop Fire Hall, Wayne
Aug. 22.....Backflow Workshop MidPlains Community College, Ogallala
Aug. 23.....Backflow Workshop Full Circle (downtown), Grand Island
Aug. 23.....NDOT Transportation Summit Younes Conference Center, Kearney
Aug. 24.....Water Operator Training Workshop Utilities Services Building, Grand Island
Aug. 29-31Electric Rubber Gloving School Wheatbelt Training Field, Sidney

September

Sept. 19Water Operator Training Workshop Water Shop, North Platte
Sept. 20Water Operator Training Workshop City Hall, McCook
Sept. 21Work Zone Safety Training Workshop Utilities Services Building, Grand Island
Sept. 27-29League Annual Conference..... Cornhusker Marriott Hotel, Lincoln

October

Oct. 17.....Water Operator Training Workshop Public Library, Norfolk
Oct. 18.....Water Operator Training Workshop Fire Hall, South Sioux City
Oct. 19.....Work Zone Safety Training Workshop Fire Hall, South Sioux City

November

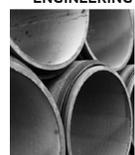
Nov. 7.....Work Zone Safety Training Workshop Library, Blair

December

Dec. 5Water Operator Training Workshop Theresa Street Facility Training Room, Lincoln
Dec. 6Water Operator Training Workshop City Hall, Auburn

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Utilities Section Webinars

(Credit hours for water 1-4, 6, and wastewater available where listed)

Email brendah@lonm.org to request a webinar.

Safety Committees by speakers Rob Pierce and Lash Chaffin, LNM; covers requirements, liabilities, financial benefits, unions, etc.

(Approved for 1 hour grades 1-4 and 1 hour wastewater)

Members \$0 (free), non-members \$35

Safety Session Series (If you purchase all five sessions as a bundle, the cost for members is \$140 and for non-members is \$180.)

Implementing an Effective Safety Meeting by speaker Rob Pierce, LNM; covers requirements, topics selection, how and when to present, safety focus, and building a safety culture.

(Approved for 1 hour grades 1-4 and 1 hour wastewater)

Members \$35, non-members \$45

Safety: Lockout/Tagout Programs (Practices and Procedures) by speaker Rob Pierce, LNM.

(Approved for 1 hour grades 1-4 and 1 hour wastewater)

Members \$35, non-members \$45

Safety: Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) by speaker Rob Pierce, LNM.

(Approved for 1 hour grades 1-4 and 1 hour wastewater)

Members \$35, non-members \$45

Safety: General Roundtable Discussion by speaker Rob Pierce, LNM; covers safety programs, injury/near miss issues, and hot topics.

(Approved for 1 hour grades 1-4 and 1 hour wastewater)

Members \$35, non-members \$45

Safety: Slips, Trips & Falls by Speaker Rob Pierce, LNM.

(Approved for 1 hour grades 1-4 and 1 hour wastewater)

Members \$35, non-members \$45

Water/Wastewater Sessions

Asset Management by speaker Shelly Rekte, DHHS; covers a general overview on asset management and associated recordkeeping options.

(Approved for 1 hour grades 1-4 and 1 hour wastewater)

Members \$35, non-members \$45

Pump Application, Operations & Maintenance by speaker Brad Harris, Layne Christensen.

(Approved for 1 hour grades 1-4 and 1 hour wastewater)

Members \$35, non-members \$45

Well Rehabilitation and Relining by speaker Brad Harris, Layne Christensen.

(Approved for 1.5 hours grades 1-4 and 1.5 hours wastewater)

Members \$35, non-members \$45

Steps and Guidelines to Drilling a New Water Well by speaker Brad Harris, Layne Christensen.

(Approved for 1.5 hours grades 1-4 and 1.5 hours wastewater)

Members \$35, non-members \$45

Water Storage Tank: Operation/Maintenance by speaker Jake Dugger, Maguire Iron.

(Approved for 1.5 hours grades 1-4 and 1.5 hours wastewater)

Members \$35, non-members \$45

Utilities Section Webinars

Backflow Sessions (If you purchase all four sessions as a bundle, the cost for members is \$60 and for non-members is \$100.)

Cross Connection Control Programs: Past & Present by speaker Mike Wentink, DHHS.

(Approved for 1 hour grades 1-4, 1 hour grade 6 and 1 hour wastewater)

Members \$35, non-members \$45

Cross Connection/Backflow Safety: Confined Space by speaker Rob Pierce, LNM; covers a variety of confined space issues.

(Approved for 1.5 hours grades 1-4, 1.5 hours grade 6 and 1.5 hours wastewater)

Members \$35, non-members \$45

Basic Requirements of a Cross Connection Control Program by speaker Rich Koenig, DHHS; covers requirements and regulations in a summary overview.

(Approved for 1 hour grades 1-4, 1 hour grade 6, and 1 hour wastewater)

Members \$35, non-members \$45

Public Education concerning a Cross Connection Control Program by speaker Rob Pierce, LNM; covers options for educations, communication options, monitoring, feedback, etc.

(Approved for 1.5 hours grades 1-4, 1.5 hours grade 6, and 1.5 hours wastewater)

Members \$35, non-members \$45

Landfill/Transfer Station Session

Hazardous Waste Identification and Random Load Inspections by speaker Rob Pierce, LNM.

Members \$35, non-members \$45