Utilities Section
Newsletter
League of Nebraska Municipalities
August 2020

Nebraska Supreme Court rules landlords can be responsible for tenant utility bills

By Lash Chaffin,
Utilities Section Director

The Nebraska Supreme Court recently ruled that a Village of Dorchester Ordinance requiring that landlords guarantee utility bills for their tenants was constitutional. In addition to the ruling on this ordinance, the Court made it clear that in certain situations residential tenants could be treated differently than residential owners. In *REO Enterprises v. Village of Dorchester*, the Court looked at the Village of Dorchester's deposit ordinance which provides:

Section 3-002: Consumer's Application; Service Deposit:

A. Every person or persons desiring utility services must make application therefor to the Village clerk, who shall require the applicant to make a service deposit and tap fees for water and sewer service in such amounts as set by resolution by the Village Board and placed on file at the Village office. . . . Utility services shall not be supplied to any house or private service pipe except upon the order of the utilities superintendent.
B. Before a tenant's utility application will be accepted, the landlord shall be required to sign an owner's consent form and agree to pay all unpaid utility charges for his or her property.

REO originally sued the Village of Dorchester in the District Court, which held that the ordinance violated the equal protection clause of the constitution because it treated tenants and owners of property differently when applying for utility services. Then, the Village of Dorchester appealed this decision to the Nebraska Supreme Court. In a detailed analysis, the Supreme Court ruled in favor of the Village of Dorchester.

The Supreme Court acknowledged that both the U.S. and State Constitutions, through their equal protection clauses, require that similarly situated persons be treated alike. However, the Supreme Court noted that the equal protection clause does not forbid classifications if the classification created by a governmental action does not jeopardize the exercise of a fundamental right or categorize because of an inherently suspect characteristic. Equal protection requires only that the classification rationally further a legitimate state interest.

Since REO did not claim that residential tenants were a suspect class or that the ordinance affected a fundamental right, the Supreme Court chose to apply a "rational basis test." The rational basis test presumes validity of a government action and can be satisfied if: 1) there is a plausible policy reason for the classification, 2) the legislative facts on which the classification is based may rationally have been considered to be true by the governmental decision maker, and 3) that the relationship of the classification to its goal is not so attenuated as to render the distinction arbitrary or irrational.

So, the Court applied this three-part test to the Dorchester Ordinance.

With respect to a "plausible reason," Dorchester claimed it has a legitimate interest in maintaining a financially stable municipal utility by collecting from tenants who abscond without paying their bills when those bills are in excess of the tenant's security deposit. Dorchester also argued that requiring a landlord's guarantee "remind[s] each landlord owner of its obligations and liability to . . . Dorchester and will further the goal of collection by reducing the possibility that . . . Dorchester will be faced with the adminis-

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UTILITIES SECTION

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trative expenses associated with repeatedly resorting to cumbersome and expensive foreclosure or collection proceedings."

The Court then noted that a village has the statutory authority to make and enforce all necessary rules and regulations in the use of its system of waterworks or water supply and the use of the water from such system. Along with charges for the use of a village's sewer system, a village has the power to assess and collect from its inhabitants rates for the use and benefit of water used or supplied to them which includes the authority to enforce liens upon the real estate where the water and sewer system are used or supplied. A village also has the authority to contract to furnish electricity to any person or corporation.

The Court analyzed that pursuant to its authority to provide and charge for utility services, Dorchester has a legitimate interest in ensuring collection of accounts for these services. By requiring a landlord to guarantee any unpaid utility charges not paid by the tenant, Dorchester increases the likelihood that it will be able to collect payment for services with minimal additional col-

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Electric Underground Workshop scheduled

An Electric Underground Workshop is scheduled for Sept. 9-10, 2020 at the Wheatbelt Training Field in Sidney. Due to restricted guidelines, we will be limited to the first 10 registered. Additional registrations will be put on a waiting list in case someone cancels.

Participants need to bring either a cloth or N95 mask and the normal related electric tools and safety gear. Sanitizer will be provided. Be sure to keep posted for any changes or cancellations.

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lection costs even if the tenants move away and collection efforts from the tenants are unsuccessful. Such guarantee involves a third party who is tied to real estate located within Dorchester and against whom collection may be more easily pursued. This consideration does not equally apply when determining whether to require a third-party guarantee from a residential landowner where the utility customer owns the land at issue and cannot as easily avoid his or her obligations without abandoning the property to its creditors. Based on this, the Court found that ensuring payment for utility services is a plausible policy reason for the classifications requiring landlords' guarantees for tenants but not for residential owners and thus satisfied the first part of the three-part test.

The Court then considered whether the "legislative facts on which the classification is based may rationally have been considered to be true."

Dorchester claimed that by requiring a landlord guarantee for tenants and not requiring a third-party guarantee for residential owners, it was recognizing that tenants are less likely to be creditworthy than owners and that collection from tenants who moved away is more difficult than from owners who are tied to the property within the village. In support of these assertions, Dorchester provided an affidavit from Dorchester's village clerk and treasurer. The village clerk explained that "[i]n the past, [Dorchester] spent substantial resources in trying to locate former residential tenant utilities customers that . . . left town with unpaid utility account obligations" and "collections agencies would be used to collect these unpaid utilities accounts [and] charge 50% of the amount collected." She also described that there was an unpaid utility bill on REO's property in the previous tenant's name and that the location of the previous tenant was unknown.

In analyzing the second part of the test the Court noted that the burden is upon REO as a party challenging the ordinance to eliminate any reasonably conceivable state of facts that could provide a rational basis for the classification. Dorchester was not required to present evidence to support the classification under ordinance and instead, REO had the duty to disprove Dorchester's alleged factual basis or establish the facts were not reasonably conceivable.

The Court acknowledge that individual residential tenants and owners are not intrinsically with or without creditworthiness but that other courts have recognized an increased likelihood that an individual who rents a property may have less available reachable assets and resources than an owner who may have applied for and acquired debt to buy the property or had enough resources to buy the property outright. Thus, since Dorchester relied on inherent increased likelihood of a tenant's lack of creditworthiness compared to a residential owners' creditworthiness is an appropriate consideration.

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Nebraska Breaktime Trivia "Just For Fun"

Q-1. What municipality in Nebraska boasts the "Largest Kolache Festival in the World?"

Q-2. What city in Nebraska held a street fair in 1900 under the auspices of the "Knights of St. Eebragus?"

Q-3. About how many square miles comprise the Nebraska National Forest?

Q-4. Where is this village hall building located?

Answers on page 13.

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The Court also noted Dorchester's assertion that administrative and collection costs associated with unpaid utility bills are more likely to increase when seeking payment for services provided to tenants versus residential owners. Tenants are connected to the property through a lease agreement, which means their connection with that property ceases when they are no longer acting under the agreement. Dorchester noted in the village clerk's affidavit that, in the past, this lack of continuing connection with the property can result in Dorchester's spending "substantial resources" in trying to locate the tenant to collect on unpaid services.

The Court went on to note that a study and a precise comparison is unnecessary to support Dorchester's conclusion. Residential owners own the property until they sell, abandon or are removed. Dorchester, therefore, has a static source to contact and pursue collection from residential owners. It is rational to conclude that the costs associated with locating a residential landowner is likely to be less than locating a previous tenant.

Lastly, the Court analyzed the third part of the test. They reviewed whether the relationship of the tenant distinction to its goal is so attenuated as to render the distinction arbitrary or irrational.

The Court again looked to the village clerk's affidavit claiming Dorchester had expended substantial resources in pursuing collection of unpaid utility accounts from tenants who have moved away, including costs associated with locating the tenants and collection agencies. Thus, the Court found that the ordinance's treatment of tenants and residential owners was sufficiently related to Dorchester's stated purpose so as not to render the distinction arbitrary or irrational.

REO also argued that the landlord guarantee requires a landlord to agree to cover unpaid bills for services the landlord will not receive. REO also claimed allowing Dorchester to require a landlord guarantee would have far-reaching negative implications and allow municipalities and power districts to require similar guarantees for rented farmland, industrial land and commercial land, which could greatly increase the potential liability of those landlords.

The Court noted that this argument ignores the fact that a landlord receives a benefit from the property's having access to and use of utility services in that a property, which has access to utilities and in which this access is reliable and consistent, has an increased property value. The statutory scheme also assumes a property owner is a relevant party to the availability and use of utilities at a property in permitting the imposition of a lien against the owner's property when a tenant fails to pay. The Court stated that whether the Dorchester Ordinance may influence other municipalities and power districts to require landlord guarantees, which may have their own expanded implications, is immaterial to the question of whether Dorchester's landlord guarantee requirement furthers the legitimate interest of ensuring collection of accounts for the provision of utility services to Dorchester residents.

REO also argued that Dorchester "is already adequately protected by its ability to require the tenant to make a deposit . . . to cover the last month's bill and to place a lien on the property for any amounts that remain unpaid for water and sewer services after application of the deposit." REO contends Dorchester can further limit its potential risk of nonpayment over the deposit amount by promptly shutting off utility services when a tenant fails to pay.

The Court noted that while Dorchester may have had alternate avenues to address its goal of ensuring payment of utility bills through higher security deposits and collecting from liens imposed on properties, the rational basis test does not require a governmental entity to choose a specific course of action to ensure payment.

The Court then looked at a Florida case that evaluated a requirement that a landlord join in a tenant's application for utilities and found the requirement was obviously related to the city's legitimate purpose of maintaining a financially stable municipal utility. The Court explained that "a landowner, whose property is readily subject to liens and foreclosure may be rationally pre-

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sumed to be more readily held to account as the ultimate guarantor of the bills has a tenant who may freely abandon the lease, leaving behind only his outstanding debts."

The Court also discussed another case which involved whether a municipality could require a tenant to pay a previous, unpaid utility bill for the initiation and continuation of service even though the tenant had not received the previous service and had no previous relationship with the property. In this case, a city had a policy where, after a tenant moved into a property that was already receiving water services, the city would terminate the services if the landlord owed for a prior tenant's water usage. The city would inform the tenant that water services would only recommence once the landlord satisfied that debt. That Court found the policy violated equal protection because it treated tenants who moved into properties and whose owners were encumbered with preexisting utility debts differently from properties that were not. The Court expressed no opinion regarding the policy's differential treatment of landlords and tenants.

The Nebraska Supreme Court noted that requiring a tenant to pay previous, unpaid utility bills to initiate or continue service where the tenant was not a party to those services nor connected to the property is different from Dorchester's requirement that a tenant obtain the landlord's guarantee prior to the initiation of service.

Ultimately, the Court ruled in favor of the Village of Dorchester, but also ordered the District Court to review some other claims related to the Nebraska Landlord/Tenant statutes.

Emerald ash borer update

The emerald ash borer (EAB) was believed to have come from China to Michigan in the 1990s on wood pallets. The EAB tends to kill all species of ash trees found in North America and has already spread to more than 33 states. The Utilities Section has put out information on the EAB since about 2015, which included a session at the 2017 Utilities Section Annual Conference, sessions at the League Annual Conference and articles in the *Utilities Section Newsletter* (December 2018).

The invasive beetle has arrived and is slowly moving through Nebraska, which could affect 256,000 public property ash trees, another 640,000 trees on private property and more than 40 million in forest areas. In 2016, the EAB was identified in Douglas County (two locations in Omaha) and in Cass County in Greenwood.

The Nebraska Legislature addressed the EAB issue in 2018 as it could affect over 40 million Nebraska ash trees. One estimate noted the EAB issue could cost Nebraska cities and villages $275 million, which includes removal, replanting and, in some cases, treatment. The City of Lincoln, in a news article, was noted having 10,000 street trees with about 2,000 of those ash. Then-Mayor Chris Beutler testified at the 2018 Legislature that the overall problem was estimated at that point to be $30 million over the next 15 years. Omaha Forester John Wynn told lawmakers that the cost to Omaha was estimated at $19 million. The City of Plattsmouth had 100 ash trees that could be affected with an estimated cost of $2,000 per tree to remove.

Adobe Stock Photo.

In July 2020, the EAB was found as far west as Kearney in Buffalo County and also has been identified in Seward and Washington Counties. More information can be found at the Nebraska Forestry Service at https://nfs.unl.edu/.

Nebraska utilities history – Lawrence

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, LNM Field Rep./ Training Coordinator

Nuckolls County was mapped out in 1858, formed by 1860, organized on June 27, 1871, and named in honor of an early pioneer, Stephen Friel Nuckolls. Settlers were in the area by 1875 as a post office was established as Beachampville in April, named after the first postmaster James S. Beachamp. The post office named changed to St. Stephens on Feb. 9, 1881. On June 16, 1883, a post office was applied for by Joseph F. Shell and established as Victor. A settlement was surveyed and platted in 1886, and on July 29, 1886, a request was made to move the Victor Post Office to the settlement site located four miles south. The Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroads built a line through the area in 1886 and established stations along its right-of-way. The post office in **Lawrence** was established Feb. 7, 1887, and the St. Stephens Post Office, located 2.5 miles south, was discontinued April 2, 1887. Lawrence was named for the wife of a railroad official as the depot was built by the railroad company under the name of Lincoln Land Company. Apparently, the railroad had an early mishap when the first train taking passengers (first trip from Edgar to Blue Hill) derailed just west of Deweese after hitting a cow, injuring many people and killing seven. By 1887, the population was about 200, a hardware store, a depot, a meat market, a photography shop, a livery barn and a boarding house was in operation. The first marshal was William Meridith (1887) with a salary of $24 per year and by January 1888, the first issue of the *Lawrence Locomotive* newspaper was published. By 1888-89, it was decided a public cemetery was needed and the Lawrence City Cemetery Association was formed. In 1889, the Blue Hill Butter & Cheese Association was organized; the creamery was purchased by the Beatrice Creamery and the Fremont House Hotel was destroyed by fire.

Village of Lawrence Fire Hall.

On July 15, 1890, articles of incorporation papers were filed at Nelson, the county seat. Incorporation was approved with a population over 200 as the railroad ran from Superior to Hastings through Lawrence. By 1890-91, some of the businesses included two grain elevators, a photography shop, Lawrence bank, a millinery, three general merchandise stores, a barber, a telegraph office, two liveries, a blacksmith shop, a drug store, a restaurant, an ag implement dealer, a shoemaker, a black-

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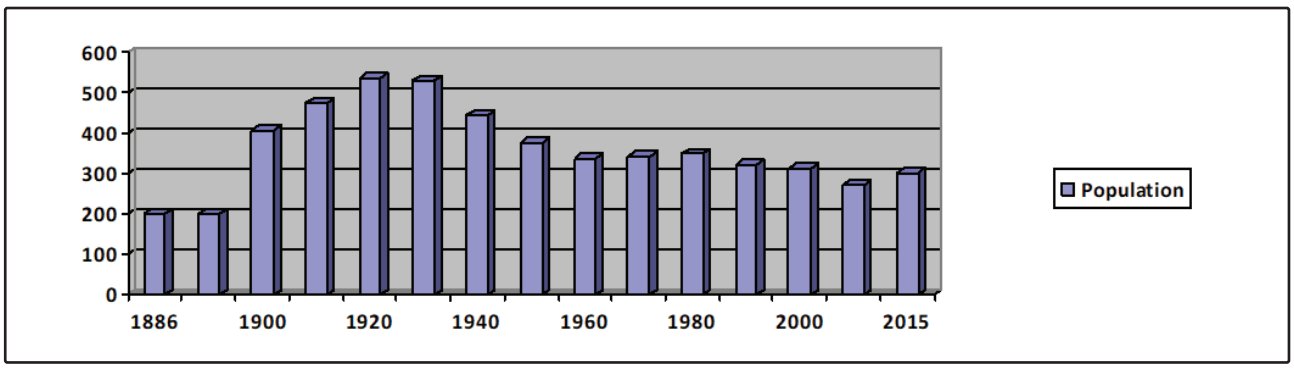

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smith, a lumberyard, Fremont House Hotel, a meat market, a harness maker, a furniture store, two hardware stores, a railroad depot and the *Lawrence Locomotive* newspaper. A telegraph office was operating in 1890 and a vote for bonds to erect a new school in 1891 resulted in 53-32 vote. A new school was built by 1894 and by May, a fence was built around the school lot. In 1895, the village board appropriated $300 to build up the street using people who were out of work. A water well was dug in 1895 at the intersection of 1st and Calvert Streets (main business street). Two cisterns were dug and walled up, each 300 feet long with one north and one south of the windmill as water was carried by pails. The wells and cisterns were overhauled in 1896 and 200 feet of hose with a force pump were located at each of the two large cisterns for fire protection. The population by 1897 was estimated to be 300 as new telephones were installed and the Sacred Heart School was started. A contract was let to install over 400 feet of sidewalks on the school grounds for $57 in 1898. Lord Scully donated two acres in 1898 for a park adjoining the public school and by May 1899, a well was put down in the park. By November, the Nebraska Telephone Company installed an exchange, the village had a fire house building with a windmill in the middle of Main Street (1899).

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The population by 1900 was 406, a new Spencer Hotel was built and in August, a tornado damaged the village windmill. By February 1901, the fire hall had a new bell and a two-story brick Lawrence Opera House building was constructed by Henry Hoeueke (later known as McCauley's Hall). Three new gas street lamps were installed and by 1902, the three-story Lawrence Mill was built. The mill turned out 80 barrels of flour per day powered by coal to generate steam that ran the machinery using a large cast iron flywheel (20 foot across by 18-inches wide). A saloon was built, but was closed during prohibition (later used as a restaurant).

By 1903, the Brunswick Hotel was operating and that year, the village ordered all nickel machines and slot machines to be removed from all businesses. In May 1904, the Lawrence Telephone System was in operation with 55 subscribers and a building was erected in 1905. Two new hitching racks were installed on Holdrege Street in June 1907 and a fence was erected around the park. In 1908, the brick Lawrence State Bank was built and by 1909, the business district had cement sidewalks installed.

In 1910, the population increased to 475 and in August, Ordinance #12 set an eight-mile-per-hour (mph) speed limit in the village. The Lawrence Concrete and Stone Company was formed (on the lot where the water tower now stands), which manufactured cement blocks. Ordinance #13 was set in 1911, which stated all snow must be removed from sidewalks within 12 hours after the snow fall ceased. On Dec. 12, 1912, the Barry Flour Mill was given a franchise to serve electricity to the village. The Flour Mill, which operated with machinery powered steam power, installed a power generating unit and began furnishing electricity.

Fifteen electric streetlights were installed at $1 per lamp by 1913 and on March 19, the electric lights were turned on.

In 1914, a vote was taken on school bonds ($17,000) and about 1915-17, a new two-and-a-half-story brick school with a gym was erected for approximately $20,000. In June 1915, an ordinance passed that all business buildings were to be constructed of brick, stone, concrete or other noncombustible material. The saloon business installed an acetylene lighting system in 1915 and three electric lights were installed in the park. In 1917, the village purchased more hose and a reel attached to an old truck. Electricity was provided by the Barry Mill until Aug. 1, 1918, when the lights were shut down due to the plant being inadequate to keep the lights on. The mill was purchased and from 1918 to about 1923, Lawrence was without electricity.

By 1920, the population increased to 538 and in 1921, the cream buying station, the IGA grocery store and post office were destroyed by fire. In June, an illegal brewery was raided by state and county law enforcement, which confiscated a full truckload of wet goods consisting of a two-gallon cask, 10-gallon and two five-gallon casks along with 100-quart bottles. In 1921, bonds were sold to construct lines and wiring to enable the South-

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ern Nebraska Power Company of Superior to provide electricity. The electric project was completed by Jan. 1, 1923, and lights were turned on at midnight. The Southern Nebraska Power Company of Superior (formed Feb. 14, 1914) began furnishing electric power to Lawrence. The dirt streets were graveled and cement gutters were installed in 1923. The cornerstone of the large brick Sacred Heart Church building was laid (1924) and in 1925, work progressed on the golf grounds located in Ben Jurgensmeier's pasture on the south side of town. By 1926, there were 155 electrical customers using approximately 58,584 kilowatt-hours of electricity during that year. Rates were 0.115 cents per kilowatt hour. The windmill was torn down and the cisterns were covered over (may still have water in them as they were said to have never been filled in). In February 1928, the Roy Knox Construction Company of Clyde, Kan., began digging a municipal well for the new water system, which was located in the pump house. Water mains were laid in 1928 and the cone topped elevated water storage tower was erected. When the water system was completed, water hookup charges were determined by the council. The meat market had a fire in 1928 and that year, the businesses donated $300 to purchase an electric siren.

By 1930, the population was 530 and the old fire bell mounted on the water tower served as a backup to the new electric siren. On July 9, an ordinance was passed granting the Nebraska Natural Gas Company the right to construct, maintain and operate a gas transmission/distribution system for heating industrial and other purposes. By February 1931, the Gold Association abandoned the links with James Doran (lease ran out), located to the west. That year, the middle of the block burned on the west side of Main Street. A bandstand was completed in 1934, located near the pumphouse and by September 1935, a new system of parking was initiated on the curb, no longer in the middle of the street. The former Barry Flour Mill/Power Plant building was torn down in the 1930s. On Dec. 11, 1935, there was discussion of a contract to the Chambers Construction Company of Lincoln to construct a sewer system for $27,208.75 (46 percent paid by PWA and 55 percent by village). On Jan. 22, 1936, the U.S. government offered a 45 percent grant to build the wastewater system, not to exceed $12,272 and offered to buy the sewer bonds for $15,000 with an interest rate per annum of 4 percent. Bids were let and the Chambers Construction Company of Lincoln got the bid at $25,272.78. Bonds were sold ($15,131.39) to private investors and by September 1936, the sewer system was completed. By June 1937, lights were installed at the ballpark, but were inadequate. In 1938, the athletic field WPA project was approved by the government for $10,000.

The population decreased to 445 by 1940 and by April, the PWA park project began, which was completed in June. The *Lawrence Lancet* newspaper was published and on Oct. 18, 1940, the Southern Nebraska Power Company was sold to Consumers Public Power District. They immediately leased the system to the Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District for operation. On Jan. 1, 1942, the Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District turned the Lawrence properties back to Consumers Public Power, who operated the system and retail system.

In 1948, new donated electric lights ($5,000) were installed

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Hamburger Paper Company: *(Reference: March 16, 1950, Lawrence Locomotive)* The Nuckolls County town of Lawrence had a population of no more than 500 and the place of origin annually of about 5 million hamburgers. In 1950, the mold in which bun-size hamburgers were made was from Lawrence. W. D. McCauley, owner of McCauley and Company General Store, conducted the Hamburger Paper Company as a sideline. The paper company made the round oily perforated papers that were a familiar sight to those who ate hamburgers at lunch counters. The paper was cut by an Omaha firm and in Lawrence, it was packaged and shipped to users.

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at the football field, and the fire department was reorganized as a new fire truck was purchased, replacing the old 1917 model truck.

In May 1955, the Lawrence Golf Club was organized, leasing the pasture four miles west of town. Sand greens were installed and the course was known as "The Midway Golf Club" when members joined from Blue Hill. By October 1955, the water tower was refurbished with a new coat of paint inside and out. By 1957, the fire siren was to be used as a tornado siren and the fire department consisted of 23 volunteer firefighters. The village owned/operated sewer system and disposal plant had a sewer charge of $1 per month. The municipal water system had 140 meters owned by the village by 1958. The M. P. Railroad closed in 1958 and the population decreased from 376 in 1960 to 338 in 1960. The new 70-gallon-per-minute pump was installed in 1960. This was more than the combined output of the other five wells. A former garage was moved to the golf course in 1960 and served as the club house until 1974. A new topcoat of hard surfacing was laid on Main Street in 1962. In 1964, the Golf Association lost the lease to pasture for one year and that year, an election was held to vote on a swimming pool, which was defeated by a tie vote at 104. By 1964, the electric system had 183 customers using approximately 888,797 kilowatt hours of electricity during that year with electric rates at 0.025 cents per kilowatt hour. Another vote in May 1965 was held and once again, the swimming pool was defeated by a vote of 102-123. In 1965, 80 acres were purchased for the golf course from Kolbert as shares were sold for $100 per share. In April 1967, an election was held to vote on swimming pool, which was defeated by a vote of 89-119. The Lawrence Rural Fire Protection District was formed in 1965 and the natural gas system had 153 customers.

In 1970, the population was 343 and the electrical system was supplied by the Nebraska Public Power District.

An election was held (1970) to vote on a swimming pool, which passed by a vote of 172-41. Bids were let in 1971 with the contract awarded to Dick Looye Construction Company for $66,500.

On July 9, 1972, the swimming pool was dedicated and in 1974, a new golf club house was erected. Telephone lines were installed underground in 1978 along with work on the wastewater system. In 1979, the electric system was owned by the village and supplied by Nebraska Public Power District. A quonset was erected in 1979 to house golf carts, located west of the club house. On Sept. 29, 1979, the first and only hole-in-one was recorded on the 179-yard second hole by Meinard Parr of Roseland, Neb.

By 1980, the population was 350 and the gas system was

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operated/supplied by the Natural Gas District Company (1982). In 1985, the gas system was operated/supplied by KN Energy Inc., and the electric system operated/supplied by Nebraska Public Power District.

The population decreased to 323 in 1990 and some of the area cemeteries included St. Stephens, Evergreen, Sacred Heart, Rosemont and Oak Creek. In 1995, the village received a $250,000 CDBG grant for a new water well, along with a transmission project costing $720,000. The village was operating a facultative retention lagoon system designed for 0.042 million gallons per day (mgd).

In 2000, the population was 312, a new four-door metal Fire/City Hall building was erected and the electric system was operated/supplied by South Central Public Power District. In February 2004, a 2003 Freightliner FL70 Fire Truck with a 1,000-gallon tank and its pump could deliver 1,250 gallons from a hydrant was purchased for $118,000. A recent FEMA grant also got the department $32,000 to aid in purchasing 20 sets of bunker gear. In 2003, the natural gas system was operated/supplied by Kinder Morgan and by 2008, was operated/supplied by SourceGas. In 2007, Lawrence was listed as 17th on *Business Week's* top 50 towns in the United States in which to raise a family. The population decreased to 272 by 2010. Telephone, internet and cable TV service were provided by Glenwood Telephone Membership Corp. In 2015, the natural gas system was operated by Black Hills Energy and by 2016, the village had two active and two inactive water wells with 39 commercial and 164 residential customers.

Today, Lawrence has a population of 304 and has been an incorporated village for 130 years. Lawrence has been a League of Nebraska Municipalities member for over 43 years and a Utilities Section member for over 33 years (records only to 1977). The village maintains water and wastewater systems, village streets, a swimming pool, streets, a cemetery and a park. The village owns the electric system, which is operated and supplied by South Central Public Power District. The natural gas system has been operated/supplied by Black Hills Energy since 2015. The Lawrence Country Club is located four miles west of town. For over 33, years law enforcement has been provided by the Nuckolls County Sheriff's department.

References: Nebraska Directory of Municipal Officials, 1965-1995, 1998, 2000-2012, 2014-2020; Perkey's Nebraska Place Names, 1995; Nebraska Place Names, 1925, 1960; Water Resources of Nebraska, December 1936; Lawrence Nebraska 1884-1984, 1984; Lawrence Diamond Jubilee, Lawrence, Nebraska 1890-1965, 1965; Hastings Tribune Newspaper, 2004; Nebraska Our Towns…Central Southwest, 1991; Maps Tell a Story, 1991; NEDED Website, 2005; Nebraska State Gazetteer & Business Directory, 1890-91; Sargent Leader Newspaper, October 1915; Wikipedia website, 2016-2017; Nebraska Blue Book, 1928, 1946; Water & Sewer Rate Comparison Study (NeRWA), 2010-2011; and the Nebraska Health & Human Service (SDWIS) website, 2016.

Asset Management session

This time of year, with everyone doing the last-minute work on budgets, an asset management program may help. Planning for the known expenses in advance can aid in managing assets when the unknown arises. Decision making in emergency situations often under stress, may not be the first choice if more time was used when efficiency, economy or lost time is concerned. As our utility infrastructures age, the useful life cycle is being depleted. A plan needs to be in place for future planning when replacing, repairing and upgrading our systems.

An "Asset Management" online session is scheduled for Aug. 27 from 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. (CST). Shelley Retke with DHHS will be the presenter for this informative session. Be sure to participate to learn more about managing assets. Registration information can be found on the League website at www.lonm.org. Water (grades 1-4) and wastewater credit hours have been approved.

Classifieds

POSITIONS.

City Superintendent. Due to retirement, the City of Neligh is accepting applications for the City Superintendent. Under the guidance of the Mayor and City Council, the City Supt. manages the Electric, Water, Wastewater, Solid Waste, Street, Park and Pool departments. Ensures compliance with federal, state, and local regulations to provide routine, safe operations of all public works.

The ideal candidate has knowledge and understanding of utility systems and treatment, paving and street repair, pool and park operations, management principles including personnel management, workforce control and budget, utility financing principles. The candidate should easily convey knowledge to others through good written and oral communication, have a high degree of computer and organizational skills and be self-motivated to plan, organize and direct work objectives.

Candidate must be able to obtain State certification for water and wastewater within one year. Must possess or be able to obtain a Class B CDL within 3 months.

Competitive salary dependent upon qualifications and prior experience. Full benefits package. The successful applicant must pass a pre-employment drug test. Position open until filled. Applications are available at city website www.neligh.org, may be picked up at the City office or sent electronically by emailing dana@neligh.org. Submit application, resume, references and salary history in a sealed envelope marked "City Superintendent" to City Clerk, City of Neligh PO Box 87 Neligh, NE 68756. With questions call the City office at 402-887-4066. The City of Neligh is an EOE.

Public Works Director. The City of York has a key leadership position open. This position is responsible for directing the public works department including the divisions of water, wastewater, streets, landfill, airport and parks. This position also administers building, zoning and flood plain regulations.

Requirements include: a minimum of five years of progressive public works experience and responsibilities in municipal engineering or public works management. Possession of or ability to obtain, street superintendent and responsible charge certifications. Must possess a valid driver's license. Registered Professional Civil Engineer in the State of Nebraska is preferred.

Send resume and application to: City Administrator, City of York, P.O. Box 276, York, NE 68467 or email to jfrei@cityofyork.net Job description and Applications are available on the City's website (www.cityofyork.net) or by contacting the City office at (402) 363-2600

Position open until filled.

FOR SALE.

The Village of Marquette has the following items for sale:

- Wisconsin Air Cooled motor. VG4D 154 Cubic Inches 37 HP;
- GM Motor- propane, 3.0 L 2.2 Hours;
- 125 Gallon Propane tank, 5 feet long 24" diameter; and
- Mosquito Sprayer for parts use only, sprayer for sale only trailer not included - Clarke Covgar 8HP Briggs & Stratton Engine Purchased 7-23-97.

Click here for pictures of the items. Send questions and/or bid(s) to Haley Bamesberger, Marquette Clerk/Treasurer, at villofmarquette@hamilton.net.

Lincoln Receives Survey Grant

Lincoln received a $24,000 History Nebraska preservation grant for a survey and a National Register of Historic Places evaluation of the Axtell Heights/Indian Village neighborhood. Funding is provided by the National Park Service in the form of the Historic Preservation.

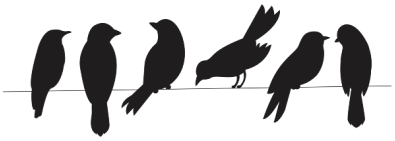
The Certified Local Government (CLG) program is open to all villages, cities and counties that have zoning regulations. Each CLG needs to match at least 40 percent in cash or in kind. More information on the CLG program can be found at www.history.nebraska.gov/historic-preservation.

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

Congratulations – Incorporation Anniversary Recognition: 120 years – **Wolbach** (1900); 120 years – Bladen (1900); 135 years – Boelus (Howard City) (1885); and 140 years – Valparaiso (August 1880).

Utilities Section members and associate members highlighted in bold.

Do you, your department or facility have something to crow



about? Received an award, had an article written highlighting an event or person? Do you have a project worthy of acknowledgement in the *Utilities Section Newsletter*?

If so, please send your information to any of the League/Utilities staff so we can share your excitement with other members.

"Just For Fun" Answers

A-1. Prague.
A-2. Fremont (St. Eebragus is sugar beets spelled backwards).
A-3. 222 square miles.
A-4. Maxwell.

SAFETY/HEALTH CORNER

Stress

By Rob Pierce, LNM Field Rep./Training Coordinator

Deadlines are the leading cause of work-related stress, according to a survey of 300 executives and managers. Nearly every professional must deal with deadlines since most tasks have a target date when work must be completed. Every individual handles deadlines differently, which many of us learned from school. Some individuals studied for exams several days prior, while others crammed the day, or even hours, before an exam. Talk about creating stress on ourselves!

Budget constraints were the next closest stress factor in the survey. Surprisingly, performance expectations and job security ranked well below factors like organizational communications and email overload.

The survey found the top causes of stress from most stressful to the least stressful were: deadlines, budget constraints, financial stress/earnings, constant change, email overload, poor organizational communication, layoffs/reduced staff, pressure from upper management/performance expectations, urgent but important tasks, co-worker conflicts, family pressure, meetings, dealing with the problems of others, political stresses, personnel-related problems/grievances, job security, personal financial concerns and pressures, personal health concerns/lack of sleep and pressure from subordinates. (Please note this survey was conducted before COVID-19, which has created a whole stress of its own.)

Reference: Adapted from Worklife Report

Safety 'JASON' sessions offered

The Utilities Section has implemented the safety "JASON" series of web sessions from August to November. These one-hour sessions have been preapproved for water (grades 1-4) and wastewater credit hours. An individual needing credit hours must each register and answer the poll and survey questions in order to receive credit hours. These "COVID-19 Safety" sessions will help operators obtain credit hours along with useful safety information.

Often, small villages ask the question: "How do I have a safety meeting when we only have one or two employees?"

With the technology of the web, we can have several systems at the safety meeting at the same time for better input. These sessions are taped so if you miss the live session or if only half of the employees can attend the live session, the other half can take advantage of the same taped session. The taped version allows for a meeting when you have time and doesn't require you to to rearrange your schedules. The sessions can be registered for individually or bundled for a discounted cost.

Registrations for these sessions can be found on the League website at www.lonm.org.

If you have questions on attending or obtaining credit hours, contact Rob at robp@lonm.org or call 402-432-9172.

Nebraska utilities history – Loup City

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.

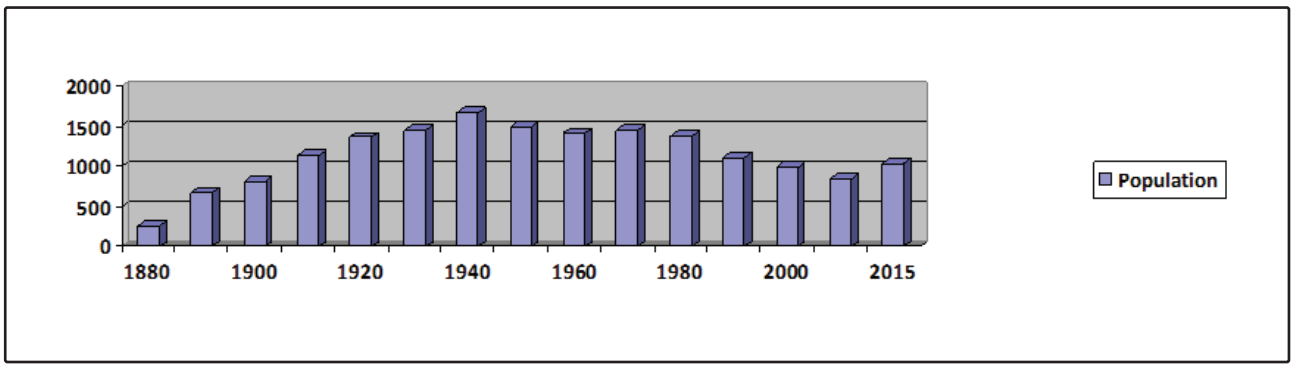
By Rob Pierce, LNM Field Rep./ Training Coordinator

Loup City, located in Sherman County (founded in 1871), had settlers in the area by the early 1870s. By April 1873, a townsite was platted and named after the Loup River. A school was built and on Aug. 26, 1873, a post office was established. The county was organized in 1873 and Loup City was made the county seat. A store was opened by April and on Nov. 3, 1873, the first newspaper was established. The Rosseter House, a 24 feet x 50 feet hotel was built in the spring of 1874. That year the first brick plant was operated by Mr. Gilbert (located south of Jenner's Park near Dead Horse Creek). Brick from this yard was used in constructing the first Sherman County courthouse. The courthouse was built for $5,000, paid by bonds voted on by the people. In November 1874, on the day the courthouse was accepted by the County Commissioners, the building was destroyed by fire. A discussion raised doubts whether the fire was an accident or an incendiary action. From the summer of 1874 to the fall of 1875, the area began to grow as the first bridge was built over the Middle Loup River south of town. Also in 1875, the *Loup City Times* changed to the *Sherman County Times* newspaper. Loup City was in the pathway for travelers on their way to the gold fields (1876) in the Black Hills via the Loup Valley route. Migration of settlers continued into the spring of 1877 and another store opened in April 1878. A saloon was operating from a sod building by 1879 and the Sherman County Fair featured a horse race (horse racing continued into the 1930s).

The population by 1880 was about 250 and on Jan. 28, 1881, Loup City was incorporated as a village. The Evergreen Cemetery, which had been established on Dead Horse Creek east of town, was prone to flooding thus on Jan. 27, 1882, a meeting was held to discuss moving the cemetery. Some of the businesses by 1882 included two hotels, two livery stables, two blacksmith shops, two flour/feed stores, a saloon, a bank, a furniture store, two general stores, a hardware, a millinery, a printing office, a harness shop, and five land and insurance offices. There was no railroad at this time as the closet railway was St. Paul. On June 9, 1883, 10 acres of land were purchased for use as a cemetery. A small frame St. Joseph Church was built (1882) and the First

Continued on page 16

Loup City welcome sign. 2020 photo.



Nebraska utilities history – Loup City

Continued from page 15
National Bank of Loup City and the Sherman County Bank were established by 1885. Early water may have been hauled from the Middle Loup River and/or Dead Horse Creek, but a waterworks begun in 1884 with two circular (four-feet diameter) wells that held three feet of water, which were located south of the courthouse. The wells were provided with pumps by 1885. By May 1886, the Union Pacific Railroad laid tracks to town with the Burlington Northern Railroad arriving in October 1887. A large grain elevator was in operation and a brickyard was established by Henery Ohlsen. Action on the waterworks followed the voting of bonds on July 5, 1887, as a reservoir was to be sunk in the hill northeast of town with the engine house and pumps at the Main Street. A large windmill for power was installed near the reservoir and later, two smaller windmills were added. In 1889 three-, four- and six-inch diameter cast iron water mains were laid for $10,000. During the 1880s, the village had volunteer firefighters with bells for fire alarms into the 1890s.

By 1890, the population was 671, businesses included two banks, a lumberyard and a large roller flour mill ($70,000) with a capacity of 125 barrels per day. Three newspapers were being printed: the *Northwestern*, *Sherman County Times* and the *Sherman County Alliance*.

In 1891, an additional four and six-inch diameter water mains were installed in 1891, gas street lamps were in use by the 1890s and trenches for water lines were being dug in 1898. In June 1896, the St. Joseph Church was destroyed by a cyclone. As a result, the small parochial school building served as the church until 1908. By 1900 the population was 826 and the fire protection consisted of 27 volunteer firefighters, 1,100 feet of two-and-a-half-inch cotton hose and a fire alarm bell. In July, the water system consisted of two three-inch and five two-inch driven wells: one well was 10-inches in diameter by 20 feet deep well and one buffalo duplex pump (6x10x10) with a capacity of 115,200 gallons per day pumping to a reservoir (capacity 85,000 gallons) was located 110 feet above the business part of the city along with nine double and five single hydrants. Domestic and fire pressure was between 45-47 pounds per square inch (psi) and had nine double and five single hydrants. An icehouse was located on East Avenue next to the alley (1900) and a second flour mill was built. On April 15, 1905, the Loup City Mill and Light Company was incorporated with three investors. The first electric power generated at the mill race was used to light the mill itself and the nearby home of the miller, then later to the village. In 1906, the St. Joseph Church ($22,000), a grain elevator and the First Presbyterian Church was built. Gas lighting began on a commercial scale in 1906 when Dr. W. T. Chase secured a 20-year franchise for an acetylene plant. The Loup City State Bank were built (1907) and E. G. Taylor became chief owner of the Loup City Mill and Light Company. In March 1908, Loup City was incorporated as a city of the second class (one source noted March 1918). By 1909, the municipal water works had two bored wells (eight feet x 152 feet) by one wind pump with a capacity of 25 gallons per minute (gpm) pumped to two reservoirs with a capacity of 118,961 and 145,360 gallons respectively. The domestic/fire pressure was 40 psi, with two miles of three-, four- and six-inch cast iron mains and 21 double hydrants. The Loup City Milling & Light Company located three-quarters-of-a-mile southwest of the courthouse had an independent light plant; a dynamo with 120 gallons coal oil and 25 gallons gasoline in a pit (October 1909). The fire department had 18 volunteer firefighters and a hose house was located on the corner of Central and West Avenues with a hose cart, 900 feet of two-and-a-half-inch hose, a hook/ladder truck and a steel bell tower. An acetylene gas plant (patent stone) building was located in the alley between Nebraska Avenue and Cedar Street (1909). Paved sidewalks were located along Railroad Street. Businesses in 1909 included a brick furniture store, a grain elevator, a Ravenna Creamery, an Ohlsen Brothers brickyard, an Omaha Elevator Company, two lumberyards (Leininger Lumberyard and a Keystone Lumber Company), a St. Elmo Hotel, a bank, a hardware store, an Opera House, a bakery, an ag implement business, a billiard hall and a grocery store. The small frame school, which was built in 1887 north of the St.

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Nebraska utilities history – Loup City

Continued from page 16

Joseph's church and used for catechism classes, served as the rectory in 1909. In October 1909, a new brick St. Joseph Church was built and a brick school building was located one-half-mile north of the courthouse.

The population by 1910 was 1,128 and the Ohlsen Brothers brickyard established in 1887, was destroyed by fire Jan. 3, 1912. In January 1912, the city entered into a 20-year agreement with the Loup City Mill and Light Company for electricity. In April, the mill was moved uptown near the B & M Elevator. The light plant was housed in a block building east of the mill. The mill wheel at the race near the former site, two gas engines and a storage battery furnished power. On May 15, 1912, authorization was made to install 55 electric light poles. A First National Bank building was erected in 1912 and the Frederick Hotel in 1913. In September 1914, workers arrived to install the water system. By 1915, the municipal waterworks ($25,000) had rates of $0.40 per 1,000 gallons. A privately owned acetylene plant provided gas at rates of $1.60 per 1,000 feet of gas. An electric power plant (privately owned) was installed in 1915-16 with rates of $0.18 per kilowatt hours (kWh). By November, a special election was held to vote on a $6,500 bond issue for construction of an outlet trunk sewer of 18-inch vitrified pipe. A new brick high school building was built surrounded by Nebraska, Elm, Wall and 3rd Avenues. The new Loup City Light and Power building was located one-half-block south of the Frederick Hotel (on south side of alley). In 1917, a new electric siren was purchased, replacing the old fire alarm bells.

The population by 1920 was 1,364. The mill was destroyed by fire, a power transmission line was built from Loup City to Rockville and a new Sherman County Courthouse was erected (1920-21). By 1921, the sewer works (tile laid) was completed with the flush tanks yet to be built. The windmills were damaged by a storm and a gasoline engine was installed for power. The new wells were located near the railroad tracks west of the Keystone Lumber Company (city pays a yearly rental to the B & M Railroad). A brick engine house was built, engines were installed to pump water either directly into the mains or to the reservoir on the hill. By November 1922, the fire department had 45 volunteer firefighters, one hand hook and ladder truck, one hose cart, two 35-gallon chemical tanks, and 1,000 feet of two-and-a-half-inch hose. The water system had two deep wells, one Pamona pump (28x8) capacity 280 gpm, two elevated reservoirs with a combined capacity of 250,000 gallons. A daily consumption of 100,000 gallons with about three miles of four- and six-inch diameter water mains were initially laid in 1891 along with extensions later. The water pressure was about 40 psi and there were 43 double fire hydrants. The W. Hayes of Henningson Engineering Company of Omaha was in charge of pump house and waterworks installation in 1922.

Loup City water tower. 2018 photo.

By November 1922, a library was operating, and a Telephone Exchange, three banks, a brick motion picture building. The city had graded level streets that were not paved at this time. By 1925, the city was looking into either graveling or paving some streets. The Loup City Light & Power Company located on Humes Street, had a 50 horsepower (HP) Loomis oil engine, an 80 HP Loomis oil engine, a 25 HP Fairbanks Engine with three generators (20 kW, 75 kW and 16 kW) and 24-hour service was announced. The power plant was sold to the Nebraska Electric Power Company (1923-27) owned by Priester, Quail and Cundy, Inc. of Iowa. A transmission line was built to Litchfield (1923) and a transmission line from Loup City to Arcadia (1925). By 1925, the electric power plant was owned by Western Public Service Company, but on Aug. 31, 1927, the

Continued on page 18

Nebraska utilities history – Loup City

Continued from page 17
third supplement order was entered. The Nebraska Power Company applied for authorization to issue and sell $650,000 of first mortgage 6 percent gold bonds, $50,000 of 7 percent cumulative preferred stock and $200,000 per value of common stock in order to purchase the property of United Electric Company of Lexington, Loup City Light & Power Company, Martin Bros. Electric Company of Broken Bow and Arcadia Electric Light & Telephone Company. On March 9, 1927, the Nebraska Electric Power Company filed for validation of erecting an electric transmission line between Loup City and the village of Arcadia, which was granted March 25, 1927. In 1928, two power transmission lines were built from North Loup to Ericson (a new power plant at Lake Ericson). In July 1929, the Western Public Service had acquired the holdings of the Nebraska Electric Power Company.

The population by 1930 was 1,446 and a street paving project on Main Street was underway in 1931, with other streets graveled and curbed. The piping for the gas streetlamps from the old acetylene gas plant were being removed (1931) and horse racing at the fairgrounds may have ceased by 1934-35. Demolition Derbies were started at the Sherman County Fair in the 1930s with modern derbies starting in the 1970s. In 1936, the Western Public Service power plant operated a 600-kW internal combustion power plant located at the intersection of Humes and Cedar Streets. The facility consisted of a brick steel-beamed building with plaster walls along with fuel oil tanks and transformers on the west side of the lots. The generation building housed three fuel oil engines and just to the north in the 1916 building, an office and supply room were located next to the alley on Humes Street. In 1937, the Western Public Service Company announced that electricity was being furnished from the Sutherland plant. By June, the water system consisted of two eight-inch wells, two reservoirs with a combined capacity of 250,000-gallons at an elevation of 94 feet above the business grade. One Layne-Western deep well pumped at 450 gallons per minute (gpm) and the other Layne-Western deep well pump had a capacity of 350 gpm. The distributions system had about four miles of four- and eight-inch mains, 63 double hydrants with an average daily consumption of 160,000 gallons. Domestic and fire pressure in the business district was 40 pounds. In June 1937, two pumphouses were in use with the No.1 pumphouse located at the intersection of Nebraska Avenue and Foot Street (near the railroad tracks). The fire department consisted of 25 volunteer firefighters, one Chevy combination chemical hose truck with two 30-gallon chemical tanks, 1,000 feet of two-and-a-half-inch hose and 200 feet of one-inch hose. A brick hospital was operating just east of the public library and a "Bottling Works" was in operation (1937).

From 1940-1950, the population decreased from 1,675 to 1,508 and in October 1942, the Western Public Service was sold to Consumers Public Power Company. A vote was defeated on Nov. 28, 1947 for the city to purchase Jenner Park. The Loup Valley Rural Electric Membership Association was organized Nov. 30, 1945, with the county energized with a substation on Hancock Hill in June 1949. In June, two natural gas lines were installed, one from Odessa north to Loup City and another branch from Litchfield to Loup City. In October, natural gas was supplied by the Kansas-Nebraska Gas Company with a 25-year franchise with the city. Sherman County had 32 miles of pipeline with 15 rural and 358 customers in Loup City. In 1950, the private Loup City Golf Club was opened. By 1952, the source of power from the Nebraska Public Power system came from two hydroelectric plants in Boelus and Ericson, located on the south Loup River in Howard County and the Calamus River in Wheeler County. In 1956, the city sewer system was maintained by a tax levy and the water system consisted of 700 meters owned by the city with rates at a $3 minimum and $0.20 per 1,000 gallons thereafter. A private garbage company provided collection service and by October 1958, the last steam locomotive came to town. A swimming pool (35 feet x 100 feet) was built in 1960 for $50,000, financed by a bond issue approved in 1956.

The water plant in 1960 had 631 meters in service (meter deposit was $50) with rates of $3 quarterly minimum, then 5,000-20,000 gallons (gals.) at $0.30 per 1,000 gals., 20,000-50,000 at $0.20 per

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Nebraska utilities history – Loup City

Continued from page 18
1,000 gal., and over 50,000 at $0.15 per 1,000 gallons. The cost of current for pumping water was $119 per month and the cost of street lighting was $433.37 every two months. The city was discussing the construction of a sewer disposal plant in 1960 and applied for federal funding for a sewer system project by 1962. The natural gas system was owned by the Kansas-Nebraska Gas Company and the electric was owned by Consumers Public Power District. The population in 1960 was 1,415 and in 1963, the Sherman Reservoir, located east of town, was completed and dedicated in June 1962. The population was 1,456 by 1970 and the electric system was owned by the city and served by Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD). In 1972, 36 new streetlights were installed in the business district. A new water well was dug in 1973 and that year, the Sherman County Fair started an annual free barbecue.

The population decreased from 1,368 in 1980 and the Union Pacific Railroad discontinued service to Loup City in 1985 and the Burlington line discontinued in 1986. The population in 1990 was 1,104 and a new water well drilled and a tower was erected in 1991-92. The Sherman County Fair replaced the wooden grandstands with metal seating in 1992 and the gas system was operated/supplied by KN Energy. By 1993, work was done on the sewer system with the city now operating a facultative controlled discharge three-cell lagoon system designed for 0.356 million gallons per day (mgd).

By 2000, the population was 996 and the natural gas system was operated/supplied by KN Energy Inc., and a member of ACE. The OK Sanitation Company provided solid waste service (2002) and a new Community Center building was erected in 2003. The city had three municipal wells in 2003 and a drainage/sewer system study was conducted in 2005. In 2008, the 127th "Polish Days Celebration" was held and the natural gas system was operated by SourceGas. The population decreased to 845 in 2010 and a $350,000 street project in 2012 consisted of laying concrete over five blocks of existing asphalt streets and installing curbing/gutters. The city financed the additional $170,000 through general obligation bonds. Black Hills Energy took over the natural gas system by 2015 and the population was estimated at about 1,029. The municipal-owned airport, located on the northwest edge of town, consists of a lighted 3,900 feet x 60 feet runway.

Loup City has been incorporated for 139 years, 27 as a village and 112 as a city of the second class. Loup City has been a member of the League of Nebraska Municipalities for over 43 years (League *Directory* incorporation records only go back to 1977) and has been the home of the Sherman County Fairgrounds since 1879 (141 years).

References: Nebraska Directory of Municipal Officials, 1956, 1958, 1960, 1962, 1964-65, 1968, 1975, 1977-87, 1990-2020; Nebraska Municipal Review, 1972, 2005; Utilities Section Newsletter, 1959; Nebraska Water Resources, December 1936; Nebraska Place Names, 1925, 1960; Loup City Internet Website, 2002, 2006, 2008-2009; Sargent Leader newspaper, 1925; The Crete Democrat Newspaper, 1891-92; Broadwater News newspaper, 1920-21; History of Sherman County, 1952; Annual Report of Nebraska State Railway Commission to the Governor, Issue 20, April 15, 1928 and Issue 21, April 29, 1929; A Brief History of Sherman County, Nebraska, 1952; Andreas History of the State of Nebraska, 1882; Nebraska Our Towns...Central & North Central, 1989; Maps Tell A Story, 1991; NEDED Website, 2005; Johnson's History of Nebraska, 1880; Nebraska Gazetteer & Business Directory 1890-91; Engineering and Contracting, 1915; Sanborn Maps, July 1900, October 1909, November 1922, June 1937 and Nebraska Blue Book, 1928, 1942, 1946, 1978.

Free washable cloth masks available

The Nebraska WARN still has masks available for water and wastewater systems. More information can be found at the AWWA website at http://awwaneb.org/words/2020/q2/clothmasks/.

Standard methods for the examination of water/ wastewater available

The methods in the 23rd edition are generally accepted procedures for analyzing water, wastewater and related materials. New in this edition are over 80 revised methods and five new methods, extensive revisions to Microbiological Examination (Part 9000), a new drinking water method to test for pharmaceuticals and personal care products, new and more visuals to help identify aquatic organisms along with revisions to Solids, Cyanide, Nitrate, Dissolved Oxygen and Biochemical Oxygen Demand.

Standard Methods is a joint publication of the American Public Health Association (APHA), the American Water Works Association (AWWA) and the Water Environment Federation (WEF). It is available in a printed book as well as online.

The book or an on-line subscription can be purchased on the AWWA website at www.awwa.org.

The on-line subscription allows viewing of method abstracts and references, joining a subscriber-only discussion group and receiving updates on changes to Standard Methods with access methods offline and on any device.

This comprehensive reference covers all aspects of water and wastewater analysis techniques.

Water/wastewater sessions

Aug. 27 from 11 a.m.-12 p.m. (CST): ***Asset Management*** – Shelly Rekte of DHHS, covering a general overview on asset management and associated recordkeeping options *(Approved for 1 hour grades 1-4 and 1 hour wastewater)*

Aug. 27 from 1-2:30 p.m. (CST): ***Steps and Guidelines to Drilling a New Water Well*** *(1.5 hours grades 1-4 and 1.5 hours wastewater)*

Other workshops are yet to be scheduled. Please watch for dates when determined in September/October.

TBA from 1-2:30 p.m. (CST): ***Pump Application, Operations & Maintenance*** *(Tentative for 1.5 hours grades 1-4 and 1.5 hours wastewater)*

TBA from 11 a.m.-12 p.m. (CST): ***Well Rehabilitation and Relining*** *(Tentative for 1 hour grades 1-4 and 1 hour wastewater)*

TBA from 1-2 p.m. (CST): ***Ice Pigging Procedures & Practices*** *(Tentative for 1 hour grades 1-4 and 1 hour wastewater)*

TBA from 11 a.m.-12 p.m. (CST): ***Water Storage tank: Operation/Maintenance*** *(Tentative 1 hour grades 1-4 and 1 hour wastewater)*

TBA from 1-2 p.m. (CST): ***Nutrients Controls in Wastewater Systems*** *(Tentative for 1 hour grades 1-4 and 1 hour wastewater)*

TBA: ***Hazardous Waste Identification and Random Load Inspections***

Continuing education opportunities by on-line sessions. See Backflow and Safety links below. Please relay the information to those needing continuing education credits toward their licenses.

Click here for Safety sessions information.

Is your municipality or utility celebrating a historic milestone?

We are encouraging members to provide any information on milestones being celebrated such as 75 years of operating the electric system. About 1942, private electric systems were phased out in Nebraska and several municipalities took over the systems in the 1940s.

When was your water, wastewater, electric, power generation system established? When were facilities built, improvements made, etc. If your utilities is celebrating a 25, 50, 75, 100-year milestone, let the Utilities Section help you celebrate by recognizing it in the newsletter.

Training calendar

Visit our website at www.lonm.org
for a complete list of workshops and conferences.

Due to COVID-19 guidelines, future workshops and conferences may have to be rescheduled or cancelled.

August

~~Aug. 25.....Backflow Workshop.....Ogallala~~ ***cancelled***
~~Aug. 27.....Backflow Workshop.....Grand Island~~ ***cancelled***

September

Sept. 1-3 .....Rubber Gloving Workshop .....Wheatbelt Training Facility, Sidney
Sept. 9-10 .....Electric Underground Workshop .....Wheatbelt Training Facility, Sidney
Sept. 16-18 .....Annual Conference .....Cornhusker Marriott Hotel, Lincoln

October

Oct. 13.....Water Operator Training Workshop.....O'Neill ***(status TBA)***
Oct. 14.....Water Operator Training Workshop.....Norfolk ***(status TBA)***
Oct. 15.....Water Operator Training Workshop.....York ***(status TBA)***

December

Dec. 2 .....Water Operator Training Workshop.....Fremont ***(status TBA)***
Dec. 3 .....Water Operator Training Workshop.....Crete ***(status TBA)***

2020 Electric
Distribution
Underground School
REGISTRATION

☐ **Sept 9-10, 2020**
Don Winkelman Training Field (Wheatbelt)
2432 Road 113 (North Edge of Sidney)

*****15 participant workshop limit*****

The registration deadline is August 26.

Name and Title:

_____

Municipality:

_____

Billing Address and ZIP:

_____

_____

Phone:_____

Email:_____

Check one:

☐ **Beginner** ☐ **Experienced**

Members: $325 each

Non-members: $385 each

☐ **Check enclosed for $**_____

☐ **Bill me at the above address** (Members only)

Send registration and payment to:

League of Nebraska Municipalities
Utilities Section
1335 L Street
Lincoln, NE 68508
Fax: 402-476-7052
Email: info@lonm.org

LEAGUE OF NEBRASKA MUNICIPALITIES
UTILITIES SECTION

2020 Electric Distribution Underground School

Sept 9-10 in Sidney

Co-Sponsored by
Utilities Section of
League of Nebraska Municipalities
and the Nebraska Rural Electric
Association

2020 Electric Distribution Underground School Dates and Location

September 9-10, 2020

Sept 9-10, 2020
Wheatbelt Training Facility
11306 Road 32, Sidney, NE 69162

Time: 8 am - 4:45 pm (Wednesday)
8 am - 12:00 pm (Thursday)

Participants should report to the Lineman Facility each morning. Participants will be assigned to a work group prior to resuming to a field. Any special needs or considerations need to be brought to the instructor's attention prior to starting any exercises. If a participant becomes ill or has to leave the school, they should contact their group instructor and/or one of the program coordinators.

Each participant should provide their own personal protective equipment such as hardhat, safety glasses, rubber gloves, leather steel-toe boots, and any personal hand tools. NO TENNIS SHOES will be allowed in the training area!

LEAGUE OF NEBRASKA MUNICIPALITIES
UTILITIES SECTION

2020 Electric Distribution Underground School Agenda

Wednesday	
8-9 am	Registration
9-10:15 am	Vendor Presentations & Demos
10:15-10:30 am	Break
10:30-11:45 am	Field Work
11:45am-1:00 pm	Lunch
1:00-2:45 pm	Field Work
2:45-3 pm	Break
3-4:45 pm	Field Work
Thursday	
8-9:45 am	Field Work
9:45-10:00 am	Break
10-11:45 am	Field Work
11:45 am-12 pm	Discussion & Evaluation

About the Workshop

About the school
The Electric Underground Distribution School is sponsored annually by the *League of Nebraska Municipalities Utilities Section* and the *Nebraska Rural Electric Association*. This hands-on workshop will be held at the Wheat Belt Training Facility. Participants will learn construction and repair techniques while performing a variety of exercises. Experienced journeymen lineworkers are on hand as instructors.

Who should attend
The *Electric Underground Distribution School is* for **all** electric or lineworker/technicians who are dedicated to the electric distribution industry and would like to further their knowledge in order to keep in stride with the rapidly changing technology that is challenging both apprentice and expert technicians.

Registration and Fees
Be sure to register early because the workshop is limited to the first 15 PARTICIPANTS. Participants are encouraged to **preregister** so meals and equipment can be arranged. **The registration deadline is April 18.** Registration will be available at the door between 8-9 am, only if the 15 participant limit has not been met. The registration fee is $325 per person for members and $385 for nonmembers, which includes a meal and all learning materials.

Accommodations
Hotel reservations are not included with registration fees.

2020 Sidney Underground School Tentative Agenda

Wednesday, September 9:

8:00 – 9:00 a.m.	Registration,
9:00 – 10:15 a.m.	Vendor Presentations & Demonstrations
10:15 – 10:30 a.m.	Break
10:30 – 11:45 noon	Field Work
11:45 – 1:00 p.m.	Lunch
1:00 - 2:45 p.m.	Field Work
2:45 – 3:00 p.m.	Break
3:00 - 4:45 p.m.	Field Work

Thursday, September 10:

8:00 – 9:45 a.m.	Field Work
9:45 – 10:00 a.m.	Break
10:00 – 11:45 a.m.	Field Work
11:45 – 12:00 noon	Discussion & Evaluation

2020 ***Sidney Underground Stations***

Topic

1. Locating and secondary fault finding
2. Primary conductor locating
3. Primary fault locating/thumping
4. Terminators and inline splices
5. Elbow termination

The Electric Underground School is scheduled for Sept. 9-10, in Sidney. The school will be held at the Don Winkelman Training Field, north of Sidney. The school will be limited to the first 12 individuals who register (this is the total from the League and MEAN). **Please have your registrations turned into me, no later than Friday, Aug. 21, 2020.** The cost will include one lunch, refreshments, and supplies for the school.

The school is committed to assisting in minimizing the risk of COVID-19. We are following the CDC, Nebraska's DHHS, and local public health districts guidance and recommendations. During this time, we ask that you follow social distancing guidelines, avoid close contact with people who are sick, cover your sneeze or cough with a tissue, avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth, wear a face mask or face covering (if social distancing isn't possible), stay home if you are sick, and wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. We ask that participants/presenters not attend if they have had a fever within the last 72 hours, cough, chills, muscle pain, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, sore throat new loss of taste or smell, or have come into contact with someone with COVID-19 within the last 14 days.

This year's tentative agenda covers conductor locating, fault locating on primary and secondary conductors, terminating, splicing, and trenching/shoring safety.

Each participant must bring the following to participate in the school:

1. **PLEASE BRING A FACE MASK SO IT MAY BE USED WHEN SOCIAL DISTANCING ISN'T POSSIBLE DURING THE TRAINING.**
   HAND SANITIZER AND WIPES WILL BE PROVIDED.
2. Hard Hat & Safety Glasses
3. Personal Hand Tools
4. Aerial Basket Safety Harness
5. Lineman Work Boots
6. Rubber Gloves/Sleeves
7. Work Gloves

Participants should wear their regular company uniforms/work clothes and lineman boots while participating at the school.

Make your own room reservations at a hotel of your choice in Sidney.