

Utilities Section Newsletter

League of Nebraska Municipalities

June 2019

Falls City power plant open house held

By Rob Pierce,
LNM Field Rep./Training
Coordinator

An open house was held June 4, 2019, from 9-11 a.m. at the Falls City power plant facility. Guests were shuttled from the ball field complex parking lot to the facility, where they were greeted with refreshments and tours of the 901 South Crook Street facility. The open house highlighted or dedicated the newly installed 9.3 megawatt Wartsilla engine. The engine, installed in 2018, meets emission standards, which are



Fairbanks Morris engine, installed in 1930. 2019 Photo.

often an issue with older engines. The engine was made in Finland and shipped to Texas where it was loaded on a railcar and transported to Falls City. Ear protection was distributed and the guests got to hear the newly commissioned engine run at 10 a.m. *This engine is considerably quieter than other engines of its size I have heard.*

Power Plant History: A council meeting was held July 30, 1888, with an interest in establishing an electric lighting system in town. On March 12, 1890, a \$6,000 bond issue was voted on and the first electric light plant was built in what is now Legion Park. The final contract was awarded to the Brush Electric Company for \$6,977. In November 1891, the first lights were turned on by a plant, which was built solely for lighting and shut down at midnight. By April 1900, the power plant building on N. McLane

& Steele Streets, had two boilers, a Dynamo, 150 horsepower (HP) engine and in back, a 30 feet x 25 feet reservoir.

In 1908, land was purchased and bonds were voted on for a new building and power plant equipment. When the new plant was built, the old plant was abandoned and salvaged. By 1915, the municipal power plant had a 400 HP boiler, a 330 HP steam engine and a generator rating of 340 kilovolt amps with a lighting rate of \$0.09 per kilowatt hour (kWh) and a power rate of \$0.04 per kWh. In 1918, a special election was held and bonds of \$85,000 were voted on for the city to own the light and power plant, which was to be improved and enlarged. The municipally owned power plant in 1928 had rates of \$0.08-\$0.115 per kWh. By 1930, the initial operation of a 0.7 megawatt engine, which operated off petroleum and by 1937, a 1.0 megawatt

engine was installed. In 1946, a 1.1



Wartsilla engine, installed in 2018. 2019 Photo.

megawatt engine was installed and by 1950-51, a 2.0 megawatt engine had been added to the facility. In 1958, a Fairbanks-Morse 2.5 megawatt engine was installed and in 1965, a 2.8 megawatt Cooper engine was installed. In 1972-73, an RV-16 Enterprise 6.3 megawatt engine was installed and by 1982, an LSV-20 Cooper-Bessemer 6.0 megawatt engine was installed. With the installation of the Wartsilla engine in 2018, the power plant has an operating capacity of about 31.5 megawatts. *Note: An average home in Nebraska uses about 1,034 kWh per month.*



UTILITIES SECTION

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

Showcase Community Award:

The Nebraska Department of Economic Development (DED) presented the Governors Showcase Community Award to the city of **Central City**. The award honors a Nebraska CDBG non-entitlement community for outstanding achievements in community and economic development over the past five years. **Congratulations!**

2019 Project of the Year

Recognition: Two communities received recognition at the 44th Annual NMPP Conference held in Lincoln. The **City of Gering** received a “Project of the Year” for its Oregon Trail Ballpark project, and the **City of Superior** received a “Project of the Year” for its community solar array project. Along with recognition at the conference, both communities received \$200, which will be donated to a community project or program of



their choice. Congratulations to all communities for their achievements and recognition!

100, 135, 145, Year Incorporation Anniversaries: Congratulations to those Nebraska municipalities celebrating village incorporation anniversaries in 2019 (Utilities Section members in bold): 100 Years – Winslow; 135 Years – **Fullerton, Genoa, Johnson and Oxford**; 145 Years – **David City**.

Falls City Workforce Recognized: DED recognized Falls City as an Economic Development Certified Community (EDCC). This is the third time in the past 10 years that Falls City has been recognized. Falls City is one of 40

communities to earn EDCC certification in the program, sponsored by the Nebraska Diplomats and administered by DED. For more information on the Economic Development Certified Community Program, contact Ashley Rice-Gerlach at 308-665-0919, ashley.gerlach@nebraska.gov or by visiting <https://opportunity.nebraska.gov/program/economic-development-certified-community-edcc/>. Congratulations, Falls City!

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 acknowledgment 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.

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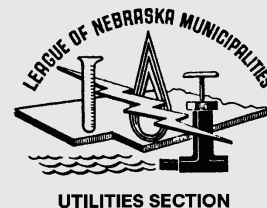
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Nebraska Breaktime Trivia “Just For Fun”

Q-1. What Utilities Section member is located 25 miles south of Wallace and 24 miles north of Trenton?

Q-2. What are the three smallest counties, by land area (square miles), of the 92 counties in

Nebraska?

Q-3. What incorporated municipality in Nebraska is located between Venango and Madrid?

Q-4. Do you know where this water and light plant building is located?

Answers on page 9.



Please mark your calendars!

2019 Backflow Workshops scheduled: Four Backflow Workshops are scheduled for 2019 to be held in Ogallala (Aug. 20), Grand Island (Aug. 21), Beatrice (Aug. 27), and Wayne (Aug. 29).

Watch for workshop brochures in the mail or check on the League or AWWA websites for registration information and agenda.

Electric Rubber Gloving Workshop scheduled: An Electric

Rubber Gloving Workshop is scheduled for Sept. 10-12, 2019, at the Wheatbelt Training Field in Sidney.

Future Snowball Wastewater Conferences: The dates for future “Snowball” Wastewater Conferences have been scheduled and contracts signed with the Kearney Holiday Inn.

Jan. 22-23, 2020

Jan. 27-28, 2021

Jan. 26-27, 2022

Jan. 25-26, 2023

Wastewater Operator Certification Training:

The Nebraska Water Environment Association (NWEA) has certification training workshops in Lincoln Aug. 19-21 and in Norfolk Oct. 14-16. Contact Ryan Hurst, NWEA Training Chairman, at rhurst@mindennebraska.org or call 308-830-3824. Information also can be found on NWEA's website: www.ne-wea.org website.

League Annual Conference:

The League Annual Conference is scheduled for Sept. 18-20 at the Cornhusker Marriott Hotel. There is a Preconference Seminar on Sept. 18 in the afternoon. There is a League Past Presidents Luncheon Sept. 19. The Annual Business Meeting will be held Sept. 20.

Plan now to attend!

Checkout the League's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/leaguene. Be sure to “Like” us.

Utilities Section members only

Do you have equipment to sell or a position to fill? Place your ad in the Classifieds section of the *Utilities Section Newsletter* free. This service is a membership benefit.

Contact Brenda Henning at the League office at 402-476-2829, fax to 402-476-7052 or email your ad to brendah@lonm.org.

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SAFETY/HEALTH CORNER

Hand protection safety

Personal Protection Equipment (PPE)

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

**Part 2 of 2 (reprinted from
March 2002 Utilities Section
Newsletter with updates)**

The Safety Corner in the May *Utilities Section Newsletter* – Part 1 of 2 Hand Protection Safety – briefly summarized the concerns associated with hand injuries, various workplace hazards along with examples of some types of hand injuries. This month's safety corner will focus on the different types of personal protection equipment (PPE) to protect workers hands, along with how they're worn, their limitations and proper care. To determine if PPE is needed or what type we need to look at depends on the task or work to be performed. We know hazards exist where there are chemicals, temperature extremes (hot or cold), biological contaminants, and vibrations, along with abrasive or sharp items in the area. Once the determination is made on what type of hazards or potential hazards may exist while performing the task or work then the next step is to determine what type of protection is needed. Information on the proper PPE needed, can be found from a variety of sources, some of which include:

- 1) Safety Data Sheets (SDS)
- 2) Container Labels
- 3) Your Facility Safety Manual
- 4) Manufacturer Recommendation Fact Sheets/Charts

- 5) National Institute for Occupational Safety & Health (NIOSH)
- 6) Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)
- 7) Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

When examining a task or work type for hazardous conditions, the first question is, can the hazard be designed out? Will the implementation of engineering controls such as machine guards or other restrictive devices eliminate the potential hazard condition? If not then can work practice controls or procedures be changed or altered to eliminate the hazard? This may include proper operation of tools and material handling procedures. Substituting a less hazardous chemical also may eliminate or minimize a potential hazard. If the first two safety considerations cannot be changed or modified then some type of PPE needs to be incorporated into the work task.

PPE Selection: The determination to wear some type of hand protection can be made by a safety committee, a supervisor/manager, a regulatory agency, the worker performing the work, or any combination in order to ensure adequate hand safety. Often more than one hazard may exist within a work task and some type of severity prioritization may have to be made. Hand safety measures may include specialized moisturizers (creams), gloves or some type of restriction device in order to prevent an injury accident

from occurring. When choosing personal protection equipment considerations must be made as to not create another hazard when wearing the protection. Such as the use of moisturizing creams for UV-ray (sun), dry or heat conditions. Some considerations may include items such as will the cream wipe off leaving no protection. Will water, sweat or other chemical conditions affect the performance of the cream? Will the cream create a slick condition, hindering ones hand grip?

The International Safety Equipment Association (ISEA) released a new standard to improve on the impact performance of industrial gloves. The new standard—ANSI/ISEA 138-2019, American National Standard for Performance and Classification for Impact Resistant Hand Protection—builds upon ANSI/ISEA 105-2016, American National Standard for Hand Protection Classification.

Proper Glove for the Task:

These same questions should be addressed when selecting the proper gloves. Manufacturers can provide recommendation charts and information on glove limitations by types usually from test data and the experiences reported to them. These assessment tables

Continued on page 5

Hand protection safety

Continued from page 4
or manufacturer recommendations are excellent guides for determining PPE selection. Your facilities' past/previous experiences also should be taken in consideration, as we should learn from near misses and accidents to not repeat them.

In most cases when working only with physical hazards a general-purpose glove is appropriate, such as a yarn shell with a light or heavy polymer coating. In *general light duty* work such as mild cold/hot, or dirty slippery conditions a cloth or cotton glove may be sufficient. Areas where abrasions and cuts could be an issue the recommended gloves may include leather, metal mesh, steel core, Kevlar, and cotton.

If exposure to *sharps* such as metal or glass is present then a cut resistant glove is usually needed. High tech yarns such as Kevlar or those with steel wire, which may be coated or uncoated are recommended. Leather gloves may also be used when abrasive or jagged edges are involved along with chips and sparks. When working around sharp objects such as cutting tools often a metal mesh glove is used.

For *temperature extremes* insulated gloves or insulated flame-retardant gloves are recommended. Some leather, aluminized outer, terry cloth, and Kevlar knit gloves also may be used in some high temperature conditions. Working with open flames may require an insulated flame-radiant heat reflective glove such as an aluminized or hot-mill glove.

For *chemicals* the correct chemical resistant gloves are required.

Always check the SDS for any special precautions. Chemicals such as corrosives may require a Neoprene or Nitrile type gloves. Chemical handling normally requires a neoprene, PVC, nitrile, vitron, butyl or rubber glove.

When working with *biohazards and bloodborne pathogens* a rubber glove such as latex, vinyl and nitrile may be used to protect against contamination. These gloves are often single use and care should be taken on how contaminated plastic gloves are removed and disposed of.

Vibration hazards usually require a leather or cloth glove with a vibration reducing material in the palm area, such as foam rubber, visco-elastic pads or composite material such as Gelfoam.

Working around *electricity and high voltage* requires specialized rubber gloves. These rubber gloves are rated according to voltage exposure and classified accordingly (see Chart). Electrical conductivity requires the use of rubber gloves (choose model appropriate for the voltage to be worked with). A Lineman's work gloves may vary in cost depending on thickness from \$50 for low voltage to \$80 for high voltage rated gloves. Line workers working with rough surfaces, chips, and/or welding sparks in conjunction with electricity should require leather gloves over top of the rubber gloves that protect against electricity.

Purchasing PPE: Those purchasing hand protection (gloves) need to have knowledge of what work is to be done so the proper equipment can be ordered. Gloves come in a variety of styles, mate-

| ASTM Labeling Chart Natural Rubber Electrical Insulating Gloves | | | |
|--|-----------------------------|---------------------------|--|
| Class Color | Proof Test Voltage AC/DC | Max. Use Voltage AC/DC | Insulating Rubber Glove Label |
| 00 Beige | 2,500 / 10,000 | 500 / 750 | 10 ASTM D119 CLASS 00 MAX USE VOLT 500V AC |
| 0 Red | 5,000 / 20,000 | 1,000 / 1,500 | 10 ASTM D119 CLASS 0 MAX USE VOLT 1,000V AC |
| 1 White | 10,000 / 40,000 | 7,500 / 11,250 | 10 ASTM D119 CLASS 1 MAX USE VOLT 7,500V AC |
| 2 Yellow | 20,000 / 50,000 | 17,000 / 25,500 | 10 ASTM D119 CLASS 2 MAX USE VOLT 17,000V AC |
| 3 Green | 30,000 / 60,000 | 26,500 / 39,750 | 10 ASTM D119 CLASS 3 MAX USE VOLT 26,500V AC |
| 4 Orange | 40,000 / 70,000 | 36,000 / 54,000 | 10 ASTM D119 CLASS 4 MAX USE VOLT 36,000V AC |

rial types, sizes, and thickness. One glove does not fit all and should not be used in all work situations. No glove can protect against all potential hand hazards. Considerations such as chemical resistance, glove length, duration of use, fit, dexterity, degree of exposure, cost, insulation and other potential physical stressors should be taken into account when purchasing hand protection equipment. Some special needs may have to be addressed such as gloves for those missing a finger or thumb, situations where ergonomic design can reduce fatigue and increase tactile sensitivity, where gloves are worn over gloves.

Gloves Care Procedures: Following the manufacturer recommendations (that's the instructions that come with the equipment which we often don't read first) and using gloves according to established guidelines, can extend the life of the gloves, while providing maximum protection to a workers' hands.

Cleaning: Rubber glove care might include washing with mild soap and water, and rinsing

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Hand protection safety

Continued from page 5
after each use before thoroughly drying. Avoid getting chemicals in rubber gloves as often they cannot be cleaned well enough to reuse. Any glove that cannot be cleaned of contamination detrimental to the gloves performance should be disposed of accordingly (not taken home). Leather gloves should be brushed clean of any dirt (mud), grease or any other loose material to minimize damage to the gloves. Conditioners may be used to provide barrier type protection for leather gloves, which may extend the glove life due to breakdown when exposed to wet/damp conditions. Implementing and following good glove care procedures usually can ensure a longer glove life, a more comfortable fit while providing the required hand protection for which the glove was designed.

Inspection: The manufacturer either individually or statistically inspects gloves when they are made but the end user should get in the habit of inspecting all new gloves before using. Damage to gloves can occur from the time the manufacturer inspects them until the end user receives them. This damage may occur in shipping, while being stored or even as they are being unboxed. Often utility knives are used to open boxes that are taped shut and the knife may penetrate deep enough to score or nick the gloves inside the box. If gloves are damaged while being used they should be evaluated as to the severity. Damaged gloves should be destroyed if they can no longer provide their designed protection capabilities. Especially with electrical rated

gloves damage as small as a pin hole can be fatal. Under 1910.132 (d) OSHA requires that defective and damaged equipment should not be used. Gloves should always be inspected before use.

When inspecting rubber gloves, some items you might look for are the following:

- 1) exposure to heat, ozone, the sun (general weathering/wear), oils and greases;
- 2) nicks, cracks, tears, gashes or pin holes;
- 3) contamination or foreign material on or in the gloves;
- 4) color changes such as fading or stains; and
- 5) loose stitching or stressed threads (cloth, leather).

Testing: A visual inspection should be made *before each use*, with a more thorough visual inspection made by a qualified designated person at regular intervals. For electrical gloves this inspection may be sending the gloves out for testing of potential loss of electrical resistance due to reversion or other deterioration. According to ASTM 2.1 Standard 7.1 gloves should be *tested every six months and/or 12 months*. Other testing may include a chemical resistance test (ASTM F-739). Corona damage caused by ozone can often be found on rubber electrical gloves. Some companies/municipalities test more often due to extensive use or non-use for long periods of time.

Maintenance and Storage: Gloves should be rinsed and/or cleaned before storing each evening. Workers shouldn't allow contaminated parts of the gloves to make contact with unprotected skin. Rubber gloves stored for

long periods of time may need to be tested before being used (including new non-used gloves). Gloves should be stored out of direct sunlight, while avoiding exposure to chemicals, moist damp area or in extremely hot/cold conditions. Gloves that have been determined unsafe should not be used and destroyed and/or properly disposal of.

Summary: One glove doesn't fit all hands nor should it be used for all work tasks. Hand injuries can not only be disabling but also can affect how work is being performed, which in turn can create an unsafe work area. Proper personal protective equipment should be purchased, worn correctly, maintained, tested and in some situations disposed of properly. Wearing the proper PPE can provide a safer workplace for those performing the work tasks while reducing accidents, and possibly even minimizing health and insurance costs. With over 600,000 hand/arm injuries reported to OSHA per year, hand safety should be considered a safety concern. The majority of hand injuries could have been prevented. So the question we need to ask is "What's your hand worth to you, \$1000, \$10,000, \$100,000 or more?"

Note: According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, of the 286,150 nonfatal occupational injuries to upper extremities in 2017 involving days away from work in private industry, 121,860 involved hands. According to OSHA, 70.9 percent of hand and arm injuries could have been prevented with the use of PPE, particularly safety gloves.

Nebraska utilities history

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*

Bassett, located in Rock County, had settlers in the area by August 1878 with mail contracted to be carried from Niobrara to Keya Paha by 1879. The Fremont, Elkhorn & Missouri Valley Railroad was extended to the town site by 1881 and on Jan. 27, 1882, a post office was established. The first store was established as settlers with prairie schooners were coming up the Black Hills Trail. A grade school was organized (District #100) and by 1883, a hotel, lumber yard, and general store were in operation. By 1884, the first newspaper, the *Bassett Herald*, was established and had 40 subscribers. On April 16, 1884, the townsite was platted and, depending which source, the site was named in honor of either A. N. Bassett or J. W. Basset (pioneer settler). On Feb. 8, 1887, the village was incorporated and in December 1888, Rock County

split off from Brown County. On Nov. 5, 1889, Basset was made the county seat over Newport, Thurman, Tracy and Rock Center. By 1890, the first courthouse was built (\$5,000) with a population of 231 by 1895. In 1897, the courthouse was destroyed by fire and a new courthouse was soon rebuilt.

The population increased from 270 in 1900 to 383 in 1910. The village boasted a town water well in the center of Clark and Legnard Streets and some type of sewer system. The school system in 1911 went up to the 10th grade, By 1913, bonds for \$10,000 were voted on for a waterworks and bonds for \$3,000 for electric lights. In 1913, an electric light and water works plant was built for \$12,565. The Bassett-Springview Telephone Company was granted permission to construct lines in 1916. On Dec. 26, 1917, an application was made by the Bassett Distribution Company to construct a transmission line from Bassett to Long Pine and was

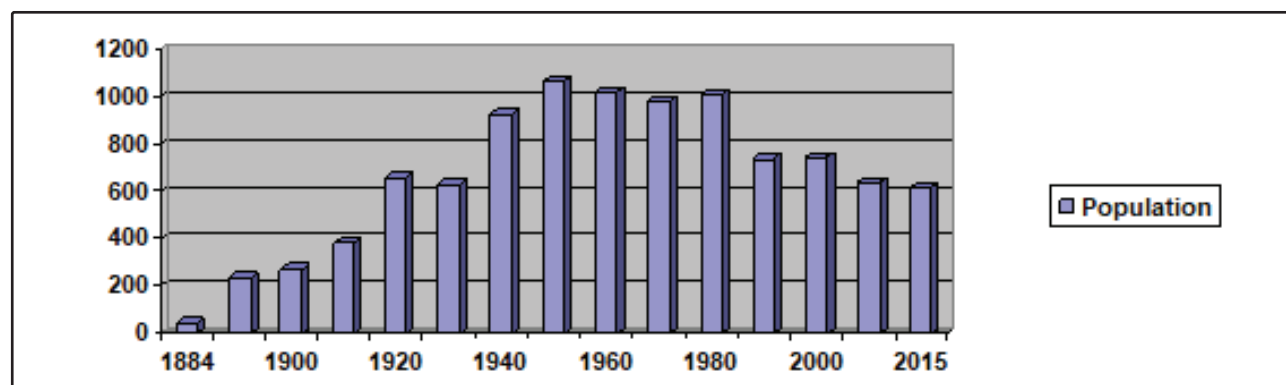


Bassett water tower: 2007 photo.

granted April 20, 1918. The electric current was supplied from a hydro-electric power plant located on Plum Creek, some 34 miles from Bassett.

By 1920, the population was 664 and in 1925, a water storage tower

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Nebraska utilities history

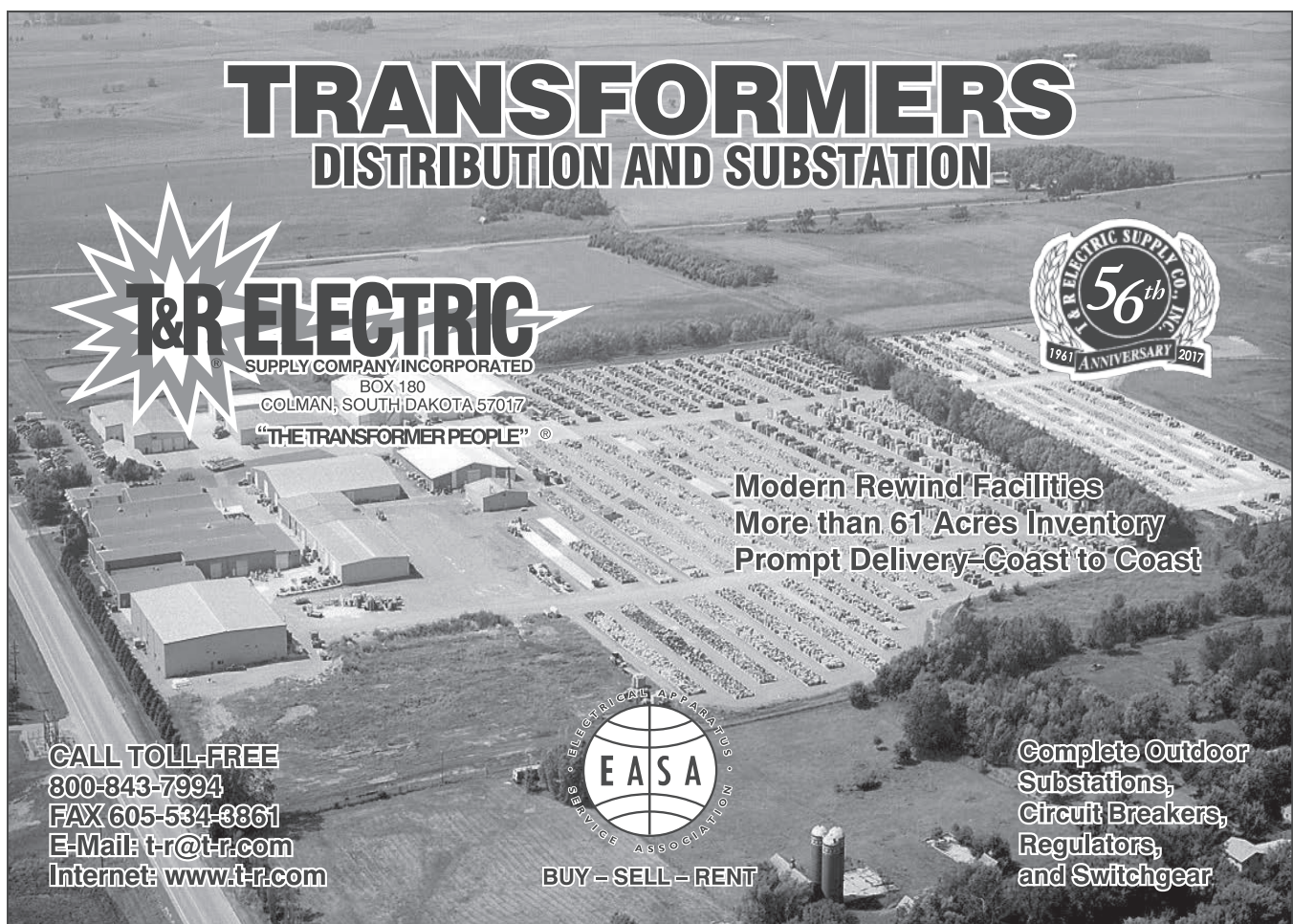
Continued from page 7
was erected. A two-story brick school was built in 1926. The Chicago Northwestern Depot was built in the 1920s and in 1927, a brick gas station building was erected (later became a Phillips 66). By 1930, the population was 635 and the first livestock barn was in operation. In 1936, a windmill was built and used to pump water, sharpen sickles, grind feed, etc. In 1939, the construction of a new courthouse was started as

a PWA project and completed in 1940. In 1940, the population was 931 and by 1942, the Consumers Public Power District acquired all private electrical company properties. In 1949, a Hotel Crook and the Blue Moon Café were operating.

By 1950, the population peaked at 1,066 and the Bassett Country Club Golf Course built in 1949-50 was opened. In April 1951, Bassett became a city of the second class. The Bassett Lodge & Range


Cafe opened in 1951. The cemetery was owned by the city and maintained by tax levy by 1956. The cost of street lighting was \$85 per month and the cost of pumping water was \$1,500 per year. The fire department had 25 volunteer firefighters and a curb/gutter project along Highway 83 was underway through town. The city-owned sewer system and disposal plant was maintained by a sewer charge of \$0.50 per month and \$1

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Nebraska utilities history

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per month for commercial customers. A 120,000-gallon swimming pool was under construction (\$40,000-\$42,000) and financed by a bond issue. The airport was municipally owned (1958) and a curb/gutter project and oiling of some streets were under construction.

Water rates:

- **1956:** \$0.20 for 1,000-100,000 gallons, then \$0.10 for next 200,000 gallons with a \$1 per month minimum; meter deposit of \$30 (340 meters).
- **1958:** \$1 per month minimum, up to 20,000 gallons then \$0.20/1,000 gallons; meter deposit of \$30 (340 meters); tap charge of \$50.
- **1960:** \$3 per quarter then 0.20 per 1,000 over 11,000 gallons, then \$0.10 for next 200,000 gallons, then \$0.05 per 1,000 gallons over 300,000 gallons with a \$1 per month minimum; meter deposit of \$30 (354 meters).
- **1962:** first 100,000 gallons at \$0.20 per 1,000 gallons, next 200,000 gallons at \$0.10 per 1,000 and over 300,000 gallons at \$0.05 per 1,000 with a \$3 minimum per quarter; meter

deposit of \$10.

The population was 1,023 in 1960 and the city-owned sewer collection system and disposal plant city were maintained by a sewer charge of \$2.25 per quarter. The cost of street lighting was \$1,200 per year and the cost of pumping water was \$1,755 per year. The electrical system was owned by Consumers Public Power District. A new two-story brick school building was erected in 1965 and by November 1969, new mercury vapor lights were installed by Consumers Public Power District.

The population was 983 in 1970 and the electric distribution system, owned by the city, was operated (leased) to Nebraska Public Power District. By 1980, the population was 1,009 and the Rock County Clinic was built in 1981. By 1982, the natural gas system was operated/supplied by Kansas-Nebraska Natural Gas Company and in 1985, a wastewater system was installed. A new brick school was built in 1990 and the population was 739. A \$30,858 grant was received in 1995 for the

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“Just For Fun” Answers

A-1. Hayes Center – located on Highway 25 in Hayes County.

A-2. Sarpy, Dakota and Douglas Counties – Sarpy is 247.3 square miles; Dakota is 267.4 square miles; and Douglas is 339.6 square miles. It is interesting to note that about 39.56 percent

of Nebraska’s population reside in these three counties (771,422 of the 1.95 million). *References: www.Nebraska-demographics.com and U.S. Census 2019*

A-3. Grant (the unincorporated community of Brandon is also between these).

A-4. Blue Hill.



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Nebraska utilities history

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closure assessment and closing of the old landfill. In 1999, the city operated an activated sludge oxidation ditch sanitary sewer system designed for 0.143 million gallons per day (mgd) with aerobic digester sludge treatment.

By 2000, the population was 743 and in 2002, new plastic water mains were installed at the intersection of Highway 183 and Highway 20. In 2003, new fire hydrants and mains were installed along the main business district and the water tower was cleaned/repainted for approximately \$45,000. From 2003-2008, main replacement was estimated at about \$60,000, which was financed through sales tax. The water system in 2004 consisted of three wells (300 feet (ft), 60 ft, 60 ft), a combined pumping capacity of 1,700 gallons per minute (gpm), a 50,000-gallon water tower with an average daily demand of 120,000 gallons (historic peak daily demand 1,400,000 gallons) with a maximum capacity of 2,500,000. The city won the Nebraska Community Improvement Program award each year from 2003-2007. The natural gas system was operated by Kinder

Morgan and supplied by ACE with about 328 customers (2006). By 2006, the water system had 53 fire hydrants and a fire insurance rating of 6 inside and 9 outside the city limits. Water rates were the first 1,000 gallons at \$9 per month with the excess at \$1.10 per 1,000 gallons and a minimum bill of \$9. The fire department had one station with 25 volunteer firefighters and 25 emergency management technicians (EMTs). The city airport and the cemetery were located west of town. The Rock County Clinic received a \$240,000 grant in 2006 to expand the clinic and install a standby emergency generator. J & J Sanitation provided collection service hauled to the David City Landfill 200 miles away and rates in 2006 were residential at \$14 per month, with seniors at \$11. Commercial rates were \$21.50 for small business and \$29.50 for large business. By 2009, the natural gas system was operated by Source-Gas. The population by 2010 was 636 and by 2016, was 619. The city offices were moved to a building on Highway 20 and the water system had 66 commercial and 366 residential services.

The City of Bassett has been

incorporated for 132 years (66 years as a city of the second class), a member of the League of Nebraska Municipalities and Utilities Section for over 41 years (records only to 1977).

The city maintains about 24 miles of streets (23.5 hard-surfaced) with 60 percent curbed and 90 percent with sidewalks. The city also maintains five parks, a swimming pool, cemetery, and a water distribution and wastewater collection/disposal systems. Bassett is a retail customer of Nebraska Public Power District and the natural gas system is operated by Black Hills Energy.

References: Nebraska Directory of Municipal Officials, 1956, 1960, 1962, 1964-75, 1977-87, 1990-1996, 1998, 2000-2002, 2004-2019; Nebraska Municipal Review, 1925, 1995; Summer Recreation Guide, O'Neill Shopper, 2003; Water Resources of Nebraska, December 1936; Nebraska's Forest Service Newsletter, April 2002; Nebraska Our Towns...Central & North Central, 1989; Perkey's Nebraska Place Names, 1995; Nebraska Place Names, 1925, 1960; Bassett Website, 2008-2018; Pages of History, Nebraska High Schools, Past & Present, 1854-1994; Maps Tell A Story, 1991; NEDED Website, 2005; Wikipedia website, 2017-2018; NEGenWeb Project website, 2009; Andrea's History of the State of Nebraska, 1882; Nebraska Blue Book, 1918, 1928, 1942, 1946; Municipal Journal and Engineering, 1912; Community Facts Bassett Nebraska, NPPD, May 2006; Eleventh Annual Report of the Nebraska State Railway Commissioner, 1918.

Future Meter Conferences

The dates for future Meter Conferences have been scheduled and contracts signed with the **Kearney Holiday Inn**. Please mark your calendar with

the Meter Conferences:
Feb. 11-12, 2020
Feb. 9-10, 2021
Feb. 8-9, 2022
Feb. 7-8, 2023

Nebraska utilities history

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*

Douglas, located in Otoe County, had Hiram Hendricks settle in the area by 1856 (precinct was named Hendricks). On Feb. 28, 1863, a post office was established as Hendricks. By 1864, Simpson McKibbin had settled in the area and added to his holdings in 1872 with land later selected for a townsite. The Missouri Pacific Railroad was grading its right-of-way and a school began in a small log cabin (District #44) located southeast of the future townsite. By 1887, a deed registered the transference of land to MP Thomas B. Stevens, a noted lawyer from Nebraska City who was contracted to assist in the platting of a town site. Papers were signed July 19 for public use and on June 20, lots were being sold in the village, which was now called "Douglas." On Oct. 29, 1888, the post office name changed from Hendricks to Douglas. A cemetery was started

in 1888 and an addition was built onto the school in 1889-90.

One source noted several theories have been suggested as to the reason for the change. Some suggest that the railroad had another station named Hendricks [none found in the records], or that the name "Douglas(s)," the maiden name of the former land-owner, was part of the "deal" when deeding the land to either the railroad or to the Stevensons. Another consideration could be that the first postmaster, George Douglas, was somehow involved.

By 1890, the population was about 300 and the settlement had some 30 businesses. Some of the businesses included a hotel, Methodist Church, a *New Era* newspaper, one bank, general store, blacksmith, furniture store, ag implement dealer, meat market, millinery, lumberyard and a millinery. The school began high school classes in 1892 and was housed in a two-story frame building. On Oct. 18, 1892, ordinance #5 was passed, which



Douglas water tower. 2017 photo.

would require sidewalks to be built. A two-story brick Beatrice Creamery was built in 1893 and on Dec. 5, the council required boardwalks (8 feet wide by 2 inch wooden planks) on Main Street. By Oct. 8, 1896, a discussion was held for a telephone system and the Nebraska Telephone Company was soon allowed to build lines to town. In 1898, Wesleyan sold land

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to the village, which was given to the school in 1899.

The population by 1900 was 253, more land was purchased for the cemetery and on May 7, 1901, the Nebraska City Telephone Company was given the right to provide maintenance of the exchange and lines. By 1910, the population was 305, a bank was built (1910) and the cooperative elevator was destroyed by fire in 1911. Cement sidewalks were installed to replace the boardwalks in 1914. On July 24, 1916, the

city council discussed checking on an electrical light franchise and by Oct. 4, a canvas vote was 42-6. A franchise was soon contracted with the Sterling Light & Power Company.

In May 1919, the council discussed an interest in securing a park as ballgames had been played south (1½ miles) of town on the Evert Malone farm. The Farmers State Bank was established (1919) and the population slipped to 242. In 1921, the Opera House, which also housed the library, was destroyed by fire and the first fire

engine (chemical) was purchased that year for \$650. On June 10, 1921, a motion was made at the city council meeting to reinvestigate the electric light proposition. On July 5, action on the electric proposition was delayed pending Sterling's village board decision. The council met with the Hollister Engineering Company Feb. 23, 1922, to discuss a light and power system. Later, all connections were cancelled concerning a transmission and distribution line contract with the Hollister Engineering Company.

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neering Company. At a council meeting, it was proposed for the Water and Light Company of Nebraska City to provide electricity to the village. In August, a special election was held on the proposed installation of an electric system, approved by a vote of 86-23. The electric bonds were bought by Farmers State Bank and a contract was signed with the Water and Light Company of Nebraska City to provide electricity to the village. On Sept. 14, 1922, the Water Light & Power Company of Nebraska City filed an application for authorization to construct transmission lines from Nebraska City to Syracuse, Unadilla, Palmyra and Douglas. A committee in Douglas was assigned to oversee the installation of poles and streetlights for proper installation. By March 1923, electricity was sold to the town, which it then sold to the customers. On July 13, 1923, installation of a water system was being discussed with Henningson Engineering. By June 4, 1925, plans and a proposition for a waterworks were discussed and a test well was approved to check the potential supply of

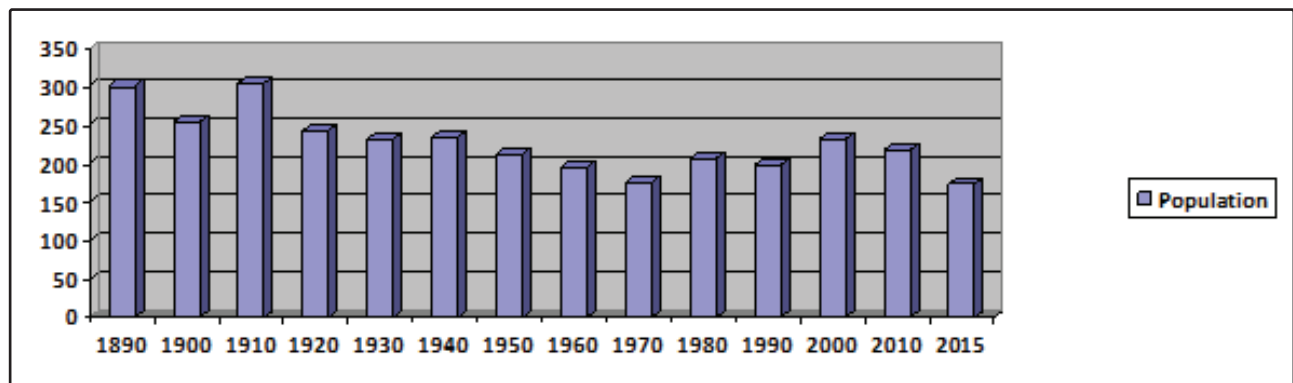
water. On May 4, 1926, a contract was drawn up with Henningson Engineering for a water system. In August, a special election approved \$19,500 for a water system and bids were let in September. By February 1927, bonds were sold (\$19,500) and the first well was dug on John Iron's property on the southwest edge of town, south of the railroad tracks. Water lines were installed around town along with the well were motors, pumps and meters. Several wells were dug south and west of town, some good some were not enough capacity. By September, the waterworks was completed and on Oct. 4, 1927, the village received the first complaint of water service being unsatisfactory. By November 1928, the electric service, which had been provided by the Water & Light Company of Nebraska, was now served by the Central Power Company.

In 1930, the population was 233 and the fire department was housed in the north front room of the Community Hall building. By 1932, land was purchased for a park and funds were approved to fix up the new park south of town. On May 3, 1932, the council ap-

proved the installation of a meter at the park for lights. In 1934, Douglas became a member of the League of Nebraska Municipalities. In 1936-37, a two-story brick Douglas School building was erected for the "Blue & Gold Eagles" and the public library donated books to the school library.

In March 1941, Consumers Public Power took over the electric system, which it operated until 1945 when the Nebraska City Utilities began selling electricity to the village. The population declined from 234 in 1940 to 213 in 1950. The fire department had 17 volunteer firefighters and a water extension project was underway by 1956. The water plant, owned by the village, had 15 meters in service (owned by the consumers) with rates of \$3 for 4,000 gallons and \$0.50 per 1,000 gallons over. By 1958, the water system had 80 meters with a meter deposit of \$10. In November 1958, a sewer system was considered by the council and land was being sought in March 1959. The fire department by 1960 had 21 volunteer firefighters and a village auditorium maintained from a one-mill

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tax levy. The village-owned cemetery was maintained by a half-cent mill levy. The electrical system (50 miles of lines) and 96 meters in service were owned by the village and operated/supplied by the Nebraska City Utilities with a meter deposit of \$10. Electric rates are first 3,000 kilowatt hours (kWh) at \$0.0225, next 4,000 kWh at \$0.02, next 13,000 kWh at \$0.0375, and the next 7,300 kWh at \$0.015. Sewer planning meetings were held (1959-61) and on March 14, 1962, a mill levy for a sewer fund was approved. On Oct. 8, 1962, construction was approved for a sanitary sewer collection system, lift station and waste stabilization lagoon.

From 1970-1980, the population increased from 175 to 207 and improvements (\$58,500) to the park were approved in 1973 and work began in 1974. In 1986, some of the scenes from the movie "Amerika" were filmed in Douglas. In 1987, Nebraska City took over the electric system from the village and many of the electric distribution lines were rebuilt. By 1990, the population was 199 and in May 1993, the school closed

and merged with the Sterling School District. Students now attend Palmyra, Bennet or Sterling school systems. The school library books were donated to the public library, which had purchased an old bank building (built 1910) where it also houses pictures, trophies and memorabilia from the school. The population increased to 231 by 2000 and the old water storage tower was replaced by a new tower. In 2005, a street project (\$212,800) was underway to repair broken pavement and improve drainage. By 2008, the village had a 22-member fire department with a project to restore a 1946 Chevy Pumper. Water rates in 2010-11 for residential and commercial were \$18, then \$4 per 1,000 gallons used with a tapping fee of \$130. Sewer rates were a flat fee \$14 and a \$150 tapping fee. In 2018, the library building was put on the Otoe County Save Historical building list.

Today, Douglas has a population of 173 and is a member of the League of Nebraska Municipalities and the Utilities Section. The village maintains a park, several blocks of streets, a water system along with a sewer collection

system and a lagoon treatment facility. The electrical distribution system is owned and operated by the Nebraska City Utilities. Solid waste collection service is provided by private companies and gas service consists of individual propane tanks.

References: Nebraska Directory of Municipal Officials, 1956, 1958, 1960, 1962, 1964-75, 1977-82, 1985-1986, 1990-96, 1999-2019; Douglas Centennial 1888-1988, 1988; Pages of History Nebraska High Schools-Present and Past, 1854-1994; Water Resources of Nebraska, December 1936; Nebraska Municipal Review Magazine, 1985, 2005; Lincoln Journal Star Newspaper, 2008; Nebraska Our Towns... East Southeast, 1992; Perkey's Nebraska Place Names, 1995; Maps Tell A Story, 1991; NEDED Website, 2005; Wikipedia website, 2018; Douglas website, 2018; U.S. Gazetteer (Otoe County) and Business Directory, 1890-91; Rural Water Rate Survey, 2010-2011; Nebraska Blue Book, 1928, 1942, 1946; and the Annual Report of Nebraska State Railway Commission to the Governor, Issue 15, 1922.



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Training calendar

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August

| | | |
|--------------|------------------------|---|
| Aug. 20..... | Backflow Workshop..... | Fire Hall, Ogallala |
| Aug. 21..... | Backflow Workshop..... | Boarders Cobblestone Hotels, Grand Island |
| Aug. 22..... | Safety Workshop..... | Fire Hall, Aurora |
| Aug. 27..... | Backflow Workshop..... | Valentinos, Beatrice |
| Aug. 29..... | Backflow Workshop..... | Fire Hall, Wayne |

September

| | | |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Sept. 10-12 | Rubber Gloving Workshop | Wheatbelt Training Facility, Sidney |
| Sept. 18-20 | League Annual Conference..... | Cornhusker Marriott Hotel, Lincoln |

Classifieds

Public Works Director. The City of York is accepting applications for a Public Works Director.

Department Overview and Responsibilities: Responsible for directing and managing the Public Works Department, including the divisions of water, wastewater, streets, landfill, airport, parks and code enforcement. This position also administers building and zoning regulations and flood plain management. Reports to the City Administrator; Experience with GIS, GPS, CAD, etc. and/or related software. Previous work in planning and zoning, flood plain management, building codes, public utility systems is desirable. Effectively represent the City in meetings with governmental agencies, community groups, various businesses, professional, and regulatory organizations, and in meetings with individuals. Be adept at combining a hands-on management style with confident professionalism and an ability to work with a variety of stakehold-

ers.

Requirements: Job requirements include: minimum of a Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from an accredited college, and Licenses as a Professional Engineer (PE) and able to get licensed in Nebraska within one year of hire. Must be a licensed Street Superintendent in the State of Nebraska or have the ability to attain this license within 12 months. Must possess and maintain a valid driver's license

Essential Functions: Assists in the development, implementation, and administration of divisional performance objectives, policies, processes, capital projects, and priorities: identifies resource needs and makes recommendations for improvement. The applicant should also have five to seven years of progressively responsible civil service experience.

Ideal Candidate: The ideal candidate for the Public Works Director position will be an in-



novative and creative leader with a high level of integrity, will have a proven record of building and leading teams, and shall possess high expectations for customer service.

Send cover letter, resume and completed application to: City Administrator, City of York, PO Box 276, York, NE 68467 or email to jfrei@cityofyork.net. Applications are available on the City's website www.cityofyork.net.

Position will remain open until filled. First application review will be Sept. 30, 2019.