Mark Your Calendars! The 2019 League of Nebraska Municipalities Utilities/Public Works Section Annual Conference is scheduled for Jan. 16-18 at the Embassy Suites in Lincoln. In addition to the wonderful opportunities to share time and information with colleagues, there are some important educational opportunities. The last several years, this conference was approved for an average of up to 17.5 wastewater operator hours and 15 water operator hours! We expect similar approval this year.

On Jan. 16, the conference kicks off with an optional Preconference Seminar titled Municipal Construction Projects 101: Learn the basics of construction law, project contract law, project management, municipal bidding responsibilities, avoiding litigation and what to do if something goes wrong in the middle of the project. This seminar is designed for 5 credit hours of water and 5 credit hours of wastewater. This is a “stand alone” session. Preconference Seminar attendees do not have to register for the entire conference.

On Jan. 17-18, share time with your colleagues and learn how to better manage your utility and public works departments:

- Stress Management for Municipal Employees
- Drainage Law 101
- Effective Communication with Very Busy Elected Boards
- Is Your Utility NIMS Status Up to Date?
- Ongoing Financial Analysis Creates Utility Success
- The Basics of Preventing Cyber Attacks
- Public Works Management Success at Your Fingertips
- Vehicle Safety for the Unique Needs of Municipal Government
- Cooperate, Communicate, and Collaborate to Become a 21st Century Utility
- Department of Transportation Funding 101
- WARN Update
- The Importance of High Quality Infrastructure Inspections.
- NDEQ Update
- Safe Drinking Water Update
- Municipal Utility and Public Works Legislative and Regulatory Update. Whether you have a water, wastewater, electric, natural gas, street, recreation or other department, the Nebraska Legislature has a tremendous effect on how you do business. Do not miss the latest information on legislative and regulatory activities.

- And much, much more!

There will be water, wastewater and engineering credits available for many of these sessions. Do not miss this great opportunity! Registration materials are included with this Newsletter.
Crow Line: A line of positive communication that all can share

Congratulations to the following Water Systems that received Safety Awards at the 2018 Annual AWWA banquet:
Certificate of Achievement
• Class I Auburn Board of Public Works
• Class III Grand Island Water Department
• Class III City of Norfolk Water Division
• Class III City of Aurora Public Works Division
• Class IV Metropolitan Utilities District
Certificate of Recognition
• Class II Beatrice Water Department
• Class III Nebraska City Utilities Water Division
• Class IV Lincoln Water System
Cross-Connection Control Program of the Year
• City of Schuyler
Congratulations to the following individuals who received awards at the 2018 Annual AWWA banquet:
Water Industry Service Awards (WISA)
• Jeff Brady of Wayne
• Paul Markowski of Ord
The WISA is designed to recognize members of the Nebraska Section AWWA who, over the years, have untiringly served the waterworks industry.

Cross Connection Specialist of the Year
• Shane Pascal of Gordon

Congratulations to the Midwest Messenger award winners:
2018 Rural Communities of the Year
• City of Auburn
• City of Broken Bow
• City of Pender
These communities were recognized for their investment in local assets, residents, business and the support of the agriculture community.

Do you, your department or facility have something to crow about? Received an award, had an article written highlighting an event or person?
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 or pride of an award, noted article or project with other members.

2018-2019 Executive Board

President
Paul Markowski
Utility Superintendent
Ord

Past President
Anton “Tony” Jelinek
Director of Utilities
Kearney

1st Vice President
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Utilities Superintendent
Stuart

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Water Superintendent
Cozad

Board Member
Brian Newton
City Administrator
Fremont

Ex Officio Member
Tobias Tempelmeyer
City Administrator and BPW General Manager
Beatrice
Writing an article for the Utilities Section Newsletter

Are you interested in writing an article for the Utilities Section Newsletter? We are interested in articles on the past, present and future of your municipal utilities.

Articles can be written on a specific department or an overview of the history of the entire utilities department. Items of interest may be information on the first well in your community, number of services, service fees, the equipment used and also the employees that worked in the various utilities departments. Photos would enhance the articles and will be returned unless otherwise instructed.

When writing an article, just answer the simple who, what, when, where, why and how questions. Some examples are:

- When did the utility begin offering service?
- Who were the employees?
- Why was the utility/department started?
- Where is the facility, office, warehouse or utility located?
- What service does the utility offer to the public?

• How does the utility or department operate? These are just some of the questions to be answered in order to write an article highlighting your utility’s past, present and future.

Nebraska Breaktime Trivia
“Just For Fun”

Q-1. What food was served at the first Thanksgiving, but is rarely eaten at Thanksgiving now?

Q-2. In what century were the first pumpkin pies, as we know them, made?

Q-3. What meat did the native Americans bring to the first Thanksgiving?

Q-4. Do you know in which two villages/cities these Veterans Day Memorials are located?

Answers on page 8.

Milestone celebration recognition

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 utility is celebrating a 25, 50, 75, 100-year milestone, let the Utilities Section help you celebrate by recognizing it in the newsletter.

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How to accommodate the aging workforce

By Rob Pierce, LNM Field Rep./Training Coordinator

The workforce is aging. People are living longer, baby boomers are sticking around the workplace instead of retiring and many retirees are signing on as part-time consultants for their previous employers.

With the aging work force, comes age-related safety issues. According to Jack Dobson, President of the American Society of Safety Engineers in Business & Legal Reports, businesses need to take action now to provide the safest environment possible for aging workers.

Here are some of his suggestions:

• Improve illumination and increase color contrast in the workplace.
• Eliminate all heavy lifting, elevated work (from ladders) and long reaches.
• Reduce noise levels in the workplace.
• Install skid-proof flooring materials and stair treads.
• Provide time for workers to practice skills and become familiar with tasks.

Tips for writing a job safety description

The main goal of a job safety description is to provide workers information about potential hazards of a specific job. Each task that must be done must be determined and then the potential risks (physical, chemical or energy) to the worker or those in the area must be considered.

When you are ready to write down the description, follow these four steps:

1) Write out the information from the job evaluation that has determined the sequential steps and tasks that must be accomplished.

2) Write up the hazards that potentially could be faced in each step.

3) Write up correct safe job procedures and safety measures workers are expected to take.

4) Organize the information so that it is easy to read and understand.

~ Adapted from Safety & Health, 2006.

Safety meetings held in 2018

Safety meetings were held in Beatrice, Sidney (2), Kimball (2), Auburn and Plattsmouth. Topics included the basics of lock-out/tag out, working in cold weather, working in the heat and the basics of a respirator program. About 155 employees were in attendance at these seven meetings.
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

Exeter, located in Fillmore County, had settlers in the area by 1870 and in the fall of 1871, the Burlington and Missouri were completed through Fillmore County. That year, a town site was platted (one source noted it was laid out in November 1871). By December, a store was opened and a post office was established Dec. 18, 1871. One of the families settling in the area was from Exeter, NY and apparently, it was suggested the town be given the name Exeter. The name was adopted, keeping with the alphabetical sequence naming towns along the railway (Crete, Dorchester, Exeter, Fairmont, Grafton, Harvard, Inland, Juniata, Kenesaw and Lowell). The railroad depot, a hotel and the Fillmore County School District #20 was organized Feb. 9, 1872. In April 1873, a Cemetery Association was formed and land, formerly owned by Dr. Horace Greeley Smith, was set aside for a cemetery with lots sold at $10. Shares were sold to help meet the cost of upkeep. The Exeter Enterprise newspaper was first published Sept. 29, 1877 and in 1878, two large grain elevators and a number of businesses, including a bank, were constructed. On April 1, 1879, Exeter was incorporated as a village and at that time, had 16 businesses. The population by 1880 was 412 (one source listed about 500) and by 1882, a high school began. Seven high school seniors graduated in 1886 and the school was noted as one of the earliest four-year schools in Nebraska. That year, the Exeter Roller Mill was built and in 1887, a steam-powered canning factory was in operation. In 1888, the Exeter Elevator Company No. 2 was built and the First National Bank was formed in 1889.

By 1890, the population was 754 and the McNeil Grain Elevator was built and a canning factory opened. The Fillmore Democrat newspaper was established in 1892 and in 1895, metal index tabs were invented by Charles C. Smith. A fire burned the west side of the business district in 1897-98. By 1899, the “Anti-Saloon League” was formed and the population by 1900 was 673. Exeter was a two railroad town with the Burlington & Missouri River and the Chicago, Northwestern Railroads going through town. In 1902, the St. Stephen's Catholic Church was built and a St. Stephens Parochial School started in 1907. In 1905-06, the Exeter Auditorium was built and a windmill was located on Main Street. A gas light was hung over the street between the

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Nebraska utilities history

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windmill and the State Bank. Later, a few more lights were installed, but were used only about six months when replaced by electric lights. In 1905, the Nebraska Telephone Company installed about 100 phones with free access to the Cordova exchange. Lines were built southeast of town, which added 12 more phones. The Opera House was destroyed by fire in 1905 and by August, arc lighting was installed. On Aug. 22, 1907, fire destroyed the east side of the business district. A tag factory, which was located on the corner of Exeter and East Seneca Streets, opened in 1907. The tag factory power equipment arrived by rail and was hauled to the factory piece by piece. Six horses were needed to draw one large wheel on skids from the tracks. One of the wheels weighed 6,000 pounds. The engine was to be used for power at the factory and the electric dynamo for lighting the village, night and day service. Charles Smith was credited with bringing electricity to Exeter with his Electric Light and Power Plant in 1908. On Nov. 15, 1907, air pressure tanks arrived from Milwaukee and material for the new water power house. A 280-foot well was dug and operated by a power pump. The plans and specifications for the water works system cost $15,000. By January 1908, the water works system was completed with rates set. The pumps were driven by electric motors pumping directly to a Continued on page 7
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Nebraska utilities history

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56,000-gallon air pressure tank. The water system consisted of two miles of four-12-inch pipe and 22 fire hydrants (2½-inch). The average daily consumption was 20,000 gallons which served 120 customers with ordinary pressure at 45 pounds.

The population increased to 916 by 1910 and the Lincoln Telephone & Telegraph began service to Exeter in 1912. The Debus Baking Company opened, the Exeter Roller Mill was operating and the business district had concrete sidewalks/crosswalks by 1912. A new high school was dedicated in 1915 (cost $40,000) and a deep well was located near the center of the distribution system. The Exeter Electric Light and Power Company (Exeter plant) consisted of a 250-horsepower (HP) boiler, a 122-HP steam engine, and a 42-HP gas engine with a generator rating of 115-kilovolt amperes (kVA). In 1916, the Continental Gas & Electric Corp. acquired the Exeter Electric Light & Power Company. By 1920, the population was 910 and a water tower was built. The water system had three wells (avg. water level 290 feet) with a maximum capacity of 1,500 gallons per minute, average storage capacity of 100,000 gallons and an average daily summer demand of 400,000 gallons. The electric service by 1922 was provided by Public Service Company. In the 1920s, the Old Tag Factory “Smith’s Adjustable Indexes” became the largest in its field and employed 70 people. By 1924, the high school had 130 students and gasoline was sold at the pumps for $0.17 per gallon. The population in 1930 was 941, the electric system was operated by Iowa-Nebraska Light & Power Company and the village was using natural gas by 1932. Nearly all streets were paved (1933) and the village hall was located on Burlington Street. The fire hall was on the backside of the building. The fire department had one fire chief, one assistant chief and 23 firemen. One engine was a Ford auto truck with a 60-gallon chemical tank, 1,500 feet of (2½-inch) hose, a hand-drawn hook/ladder truck and a fire alarm siren. The C&NW Railroad passenger depot and the CB&Q Railroad depots were both operating in 1933. In August 1933, the Village/Fire Hall and pumphouse building had two (12,000-gallons each) water pressure tanks. A water tank was located on Union Street (gravity tank) which had a capacity of 100,000 gallons. The water distribution system consisted of two municipal wells, three miles of four-, six- and eight-inch water mains, two Dempster electric pumps (eight-inch), capacity of 100 gallons per minute (gpm) each and 29 double fire hydrants. In 1933, the average daily consumption was 75,000 gallons with a system pressure of 59 psi. Street lights were electric and in 1936, a library opened. In 1934, Exeter was a new member of the League of Nebraska Municipalities. The school colors were maroon and white and the mascot was the Eagles in the 1930s.

By 1940, the population was 841 and most of the streets were concrete paved. In 1948, the Cemetery Association ceased operation turning all property and funds over to the village. In 1953, the telephone service installed a dial system. In 1951, following...
Nebraska utilities history

Continued from page 7

Charles Smith’s death, the Smith Index Tag Company was run by First Trust Company of Lincoln and in 1953, was sold for $23,500. A new gymnasium was built in 1953 and by 1956, the water plant and the 280 meters in service were owned by the village. From 1950-1970, the population held steady ranging from 741-760. In 1956, the natural gas service was owned by Central Electric & Gas Company. The municipal sewer system and disposal plant were maintained from a tax levy. In 1962, a new sewer lift station and disposal were constructed and maintained by a tax levy amounting to $600 per year and a sewer charge of $1 per month. The natural gas system was supplied in 1962 by the Western Power and Gas Company. The electric system was owned by Consumers Public Power District. A swimming pool was built in 1963 and opened in 1964.

With declining enrollment, the St. Stephen's Parochial School closed in 1967. That year, the Burlington & Missouri River Railroad ended passenger service and the depot was razed. In 1968, a new fire hall was built and the railroad ended service to Exeter in 1972. It was resurrected by the Great Plains Railway in 1974, but only operated for one year before discontinuing service again. A new village building with a library was completed in 1973 and a new utility shop in 1977. The village maintained 30 miles of streets, five miles were hard surfaced (concrete or asphalt).

The population in 1980 was 807 and the electric system was operated by Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD). In 1982, the natural gas system was operated by Cengas and by 1985, it was operated by Minnesasco. The lagoon system (1985) built with a daily capacity of 600,000 gallons, had an average daily flow of about 120,000 gallons. The historic peak discharge flow was 500,000 gallons. In 1990, the population was 661 and the village operated a facultative controlled discharge lagoon system. The natural gas system was operated by Peoples Natural Gas by 1995. The population increased slightly to 712 in 2000 and by 2003, the natural gas system was operated by Aquila.

“Just For Fun” Answers


A-4. Wood River memorial wall (2016 photo) and Big Springs Memorial (2018 photo). In honor of those veterans who served to preserve our freedom and the security of our nation. A heartwarming and sincere “Thank You!”
Nebraska utilities history

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until Black Hills Energy took over in 2008. New water meters were installed in 2005 and a new swimming pool was built in 2009 to replace the 55-year-old pool. KOPCO Sanitation provided collection service in 2011.

Today, Exeter has a population of 591, has been an incorporated village for 139 years, a League of Nebraska Municipalities member for at least 84 years and a Utilities Section member for over 39 years.

The electric system has been operated by Perennial Public Power District since 2003. The natural gas system has been operated by Black Hills Energy since 2008.


Exeter Water Rates

1956 – first 4,000 gals. min. $2.50, additional and up to 75,000 gals. @ $0.15/1,000 gals., next 25,000 gals. @ $0.08/1,000 gals., excess at $0.05 per 1,000 gals.

2010 – residential monthly base rate $14.50 and commercial dependent on meter size ranges from $14.50 for ¼-inch or less to $240.70 for a 6-inch meter.

2016 – residential monthly base rate $17 and commercial dependent on meter size ranges from $17 for ¼-inch or less to $243.20 for a 6-inch meter.

Future “Meter School” dates

The dates for future meter conferences have been scheduled and contracts signed with the Kearney Holiday Inn. Please note the upcoming Meter Conference schedule:

Feb. 12-13, 2019 (Tuesday-Wednesday) Kearney Holiday Inn
Feb. 11-12, 2020 (Tuesday-Wednesday) Kearney Holiday Inn
Feb. 11-12, 2021 (Tuesday-Wednesday) Kearney Holiday Inn
Feb. 11-12, 2022 (Tuesday-Wednesday) Kearney Holiday Inn

Hello Progress

The greatest accomplishments start with the smallest details. This is where great begins.

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Utilities Assistant. The Village of Elwood is accepting applications for a full-time Utilities Assistant. Duties include assisting with maintenance of streets, operation of sewer and water systems, park and swimming pool. Drug testing and a valid Nebraska driver’s license are required. Salary is negotiable. A benefit package is offered with the position. Applications may be picked up at 304 Calvert Avenue, Elwood, NE 68937 or call 308-785-2480 for more information. E-mail requests for applications to village@atcjet.net. Please include a resume with your application. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. The Village of Elwood is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Journey Line Worker. The City of Alliance is accepting applications for the position of full-time Electric Journey Line Worker with a starting pay range of $24.76-$31.95 per hour DOQ. This individual will perform skilled line work in the operation, construction, maintenance and repair of overhead and underground electric urban and rural distribution and transmission systems. The City is offering a hiring bonus of $3,000 after the successful completion of probation and relocation reimbursement up to $2,000. The position includes an excellent benefit package including health, dental and vision insurance, retirement, vacation, flex time, sick leave and paid holidays. The City of Alliance Electric System includes 115 miles city and 200 miles of rural overhead and underground lines with a service area of over 150 square miles, which includes 10 miles of trans and sub-trans lines. The system operates with a transmission substation (115 KV) and three distribution substations (7.2/12.5 KV). The Department services approximately 5,000 customers, over 1,700 street lights, 220 irrigation wells and operates out the Public Works Facility, which was constructed in 2002. The Department maintains 10 vehicles, including a 60-foot and two 50-foot bucket trucks. A complete job description and application is available on the City of Alliance’s Website at www.cityofalliance.net. Applications with resumes will be accepted until the position is filled.

Water/Wastewater Utility II. The City of Schuyler, Department of Utilities is accepting applications for the position of Water/Wastewater Utility II. Nebraska State certification Grade IV Water and/or Sanitary Sewer Grade I is required. Pay rate $18.18-$22.83 per hour depending on experience and qualifications, with benefits. Drug test required. Applicants must be 18 years of age and hold a valid Nebraska driver’s license. Candidates must mail a cover letter, resume and three references to the Schuyler Department of Utilities. Application and job description may be requested at the Schuyler Department of Utilities office, 204 East 10th Street, Schuyler, Nebraska, 68661 or via email supt@eaglecom.net. Applications accepted until position is filled. The City of Schuyler, Department of Utilities is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Electric Lineman First Class (Full-Time). The City of Seward is accepting applications until filled for Electric Lineman First Class. Application review begins Nov. 8, 2018. Pay range: $23.73-$30.05 per hour, with benefits. Applicant must be high school graduate or equivalent and have the equivalent of technical training received in an associate degree program in electric utility maintenance; will perform and participate in construction, installation, maintenance and repair of electric distribution and transmission lines and other related work. Applicant must possess: Class B CDL license (or ability to obtain within 6 mos.); knowledge of approved methods, materials and tools used in electric line work; knowledge of principles of electric theory which apply to electric distribution and transmission systems. Application and job description available at Seward City Hall, 537 Main St.; PO Box 38; Seward, NE 68434 (402-643-2928) or can be downloaded at the City’s website: www.CityofSewardNE.gov. Reasonable accommodations are available for persons needing assistance in completing application and should be made at time of application. All positions of employment with the City of Seward are subject to a Veteran’s Preference. The City of Seward is an Equal Opportunity Employer.
Utilities Section Newsletter

Classifieds

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Opportunity Employer.

Public Works Director. The City of Plattsmouth, NE seeks qualified applicants for Director of Public Works. Department head with responsibility for fiscal management, administration and operational direction of the City’s public works and utilities activities and functions; provides expert professional assistance to City management in areas of expertise, including engineering, municipal water, wastewater collection, and street and landscape maintenance; and performs related duties as required. Job description and application available at www.plattsmouth.org. Open until filled. EOE with veteran’s preference.

Maintenance Worker. The Village of Wausa is accepting applications for full time Village Maintenance. Performs a variety of duties in the operation and maintenance of the streets, water, wastewater, parks and more. High school diploma or equivalent and valid NE driver license. Applicant must be able to obtain a CDL. The individual must have a Certification in wastewater and water or be willing to take classes and pass the certification test. Wages will depend on level of experience. Applications can be obtained at the Wausa Clerk’s Office, 406 E. Broadway, or call 402-586-2311. Open until filled. EOE.
# Training calendar

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

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Details</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Jan. 9</td>
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<td>Jan. 10</td>
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<td>Jan. 16-18</td>
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