

PUBLIC WORKS & UTILITIES

PAVING THE WAY FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE BY EDUCATING, ENGAGING AND EMPOWERING OUR EMPLOYEES.

<http://lincoln.ne.gov/city/pworks/docs/newsletter/>

October / November 2014

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It's Coming!

Yes, it's that time of year. Time to pack away the beach towels and sand toys and un-pack the shovels, snow blowers, snow suits and sleds.

Keep in mind that the City uses various methods to inform the public about snow operations:

- Local news media sources
- City website - lincoln.ne.gov (keyword: snow)
- RSS feeds - Sign up at lincoln.ne.gov.
- Twitter - Sign up at twitter.com/lincolnsnow. You do not need a Twitter account to receive SMS alerts - text "follow lincolnsnow" to 40404 (standard text messaging rates apply).
- Time Warner Cable government access channels 5 and 10 and educational access channel 80

Handy Contact Information:

- Street condition emergencies 402-441-7701
- Snow Center (parking bans/snow removal operations) 402-441-7644
- Non-emergencies/potholes 402-441-7646
- City website - lincoln.ne.gov (Click on "City Service Request" to report potholes, ice on streets, curb/gutter repair, snow being pushed into the street and other problems.)

Director's Corner

From the beginning, my leadership philosophy for the Department has been to break down the silos that existed within our agency with the mantra being "there is no division among our Divisions." I believed then, as I do now, that the more we work together and share resources as a Department, the better we collectively serve our citizens.



With this philosophy in mind, we moved toward centralizing all internal Department support services – safety, security, GIS, PC Support and environmental compliance – by housing them under Administration. At the beginning of this budget year, we pulled together like-minded individuals from each Division who have similar training, education and expertise to solve agency challenges. In doing so, we are already seeing increased efficiency and effectiveness, reduced cost, increased security and safety, standardized policy and practice, and increased service levels.

I wanted our operating Divisions (Water, Wastewater, Engineering, Street Maintenance, Traffic Operations, Watershed Management, Solid Waste Operations and StarTran) to be singularly focused on operations and providing external customer service and support to the citizen. That is our primary mission. At the same time, it's the Administration's job to facilitate robust internal customer service and support to the operating Divisions in an equitable and reliable manner. In turn, our operating Divisions can effectively and efficiently serve the citizen.

While this was a tough decision because of its effect on individuals, the Department as a whole is already realizing the benefits. In fact, we've experienced tremendous progress in the areas of Technology Services and Emergency Operations, and the establishment of an Environmental and Risk Management System. So rather than a particular Division "losing FTEs," each Division is gaining an entire team of specialists to assist in meeting its operational needs.

As you know, improvement cannot occur without change. I strongly believe that this reorganization to provide every Division with a strong central support network gives rise to stronger external support to our citizens. In my third year as Director, I continue to be humbled and inspired by your remarkable efforts and fortitude. Thank you all so much!

Sincerely,



Miki Esposito
Director of Public Works and Utilities

STRONG LINGS

"THERE IS NO 'DIVISION' AMONG OUR DIVISIONS."

Miki Esposito

PWU Director Miki Esposito is pleased to announce the Strong Linc Award recipients for the workplace principle of being cost conscious. Please congratulate these Strong Lings for their valued service.

David Young

(Administration)

David's dynamic force, innovative spirit and drive for excellence have led to several cost saving initiatives in fiscal year 2013-14. Through his leadership, we consolidated our servers and made a strategic technological move from Novell to Windows. During the budget process, David successfully persuaded the administration to fund a City-wide XP migration for greater long-term savings and efficiencies. Finally, he initiated a cost reduction and efficiency effort by partnering with the County Assessor's office to conduct a cleanup and editing effort in Landbase at no cost to Public Works.

Fran Mejer

(Business Office)

Fran is nominated for the number of years she's worked to get us through the budget process successfully! Fran's tenacity, diligence, discipline and commitment to the taxpayer are unparalleled in the Department.

Zach Becker

(Engineering Services)

Zach has embraced all aspects of the "P" Street project since he was assigned to it during construction. Zach has reviewed more than 40 change requests submitted by the contractor. Many of these change requests had prices submitted by subcontractors that were inconsistent between change requests. Because of Zach's diligence and attention to detail, many of the change requests submitted have been reduced in fee, saving the project and taxpayers money.

Amy Cornelius-Jones

(Engineering Services)

Amy does most of the ordering of supplies and administrative materials for Engineering Services. She uses the most current vendor contract,

follows the correct purchasing processes and researches materials that staff needs to give them the best product at the most efficient price. She is very frugal with limited budgets and is very service-oriented for our staff.

James Puls, Randy Saathoff, Dale Gebhard, Nick Castillo, Kirk Drake, Tim Zach, Gaylon Masek, Ryan Harvey, Ron Edson, Mark Miller, Jess Sundeen, Zach Becker, Steve Faust, Tim Byrne and Curt Weber

(Engineering Services)

These gentlemen are the eyes and ears of Public Works. They are mindful that the work they do is funded from a Division's limited budget. They help balance short-term savings with long-term costs when making decisions. The best a contractor, the public or a taxpayer may call them is "fair." However, they are not merely fair, but superb!

Joel Allison and Ryan Boyer

(Solid Waste)

Prior to the construction of the Phase 12 Liner at the Bluff Road Landfill, Joel and Ryan worked to find a cost-effective way to remove an existing asphalt roadway so that soil excavation could proceed prior to the construction contract award. They determined that renting equipment and staffing the milling of the roadway with existing operations employees would save considerable dollars and provide millings that could be used elsewhere in the operation.

Kevin Patak

(Solid Waste)

Kevin proposed significant repairs to the walking floor at the Transfer Station, using existing staff to save money, as opposed to contracting the work. Although it will be impossible to quantify the savings with certainty – it is estimated to be as much as \$20,000 – Kevin's commitment to plan and execute the repair effort in-house as a cost saving measure is worthy of recognition.

Rod Hendrickson

(Street Maintenance)

Rod is nominated for pursuing an energy rebate with LES for the installation of LEDs in the West District shop at the Municipal Services Center (MSC). The City will save in both the capital expenditure and reduced cost of electricity.

Ty Barger, Steve Bussen, Dave Campbell, Eddy Gleason and Kyle Williams

(Street Maintenance)

Ty, Steve, Dave, Eddy and Kyle developed a cost-conscious strategy for winter maintenance and deicing, reducing the City's reliance on expensive red salt and increasing the production and use of brine and calcium chloride.

Rick Roberts, Eric Lee and Paul Wimmer

(Water)

Rick, Eric and Paul have worked diligently on energy management and conservation at Lincoln's water facilities. These three have helped develop operating rules and procedures that assist staff in daily decisions on pumping, transmission and storage of water. As a result, annual cost savings are estimated to be \$200,000 to \$500,000 per year. Rick, Eric and Paul would be the first to acknowledge and give credit to their staff for implementing these procedures and for being cost conscious by making wise and cost-effective operating decisions on a daily basis.

Brian Cunningham

(StarTran)

Brian does an incredible job ordering parts for StarTran. He always obtains the best price for the products he purchases. Our inventories have always gone well, and his efforts are appreciated.

The next workplace principle will focus on **bravery/courageousness**. Nominations are due to Miki by Friday, November 14.



**SATURDAYS
OCTOBER 25
NOVEMBER 1, 22**

Big Red Express
Husker Football Shuttle
Six Locations

**SUNDAY
through THURSDAY
OCTOBER 26-30**

StarTran shuttle for
Boo At The Zoo
4:30 to 9 p.m.

REMINDER

Daylight Savings Time
will end at 2 a.m.

**SUNDAY
NOVEMBER 2**

**UPCOMING
CONSTRUCTION
PROJECTS**

2014
Construction Season Projects
lincoln.ne.gov
(keyword: projects)

Transfer Station Undergoes Repairs



In early July, the staff assigned to the Transfer Station at the Bluff Road Landfill began a major repair of the “walking floor” that is used to move trash dumped by customers into the top-loaded waste transfer trailer. The effort requires incoming waste to be handled outside the building during the repair. Staff directs customers safely into unfamiliar and confined unloading areas. Waste is then moved into the transfer trailer and/or roll-off boxes with a front-end loader, avoiding unnecessary litter and limiting exposure to rain.

About one-third of the total floor length was removed. The substructure is being replaced with new steel material. Additionally, electrical and hydraulic components were replaced and, when appropriate, routed differently to improve maintenance access.

The staff undertook the repair with in-house resources as a cost savings measure. Although it is impossible to know the exact savings, it is estimated to be as much as \$20,000 compared to the cost of preparing specifications, bidding and hiring a contractor to complete the repair.



The repair will improve working conditions for staff when maintenance of the walking floor is necessary and will also ensure uninterrupted movement of wastes from the facility. Wastes that are not transferred efficiently can quickly become a health and safety concern.

The Transfer Station began operation in 1989, coinciding generally with the opening of the Bluff Road Landfill. About 22,000 small vehicles use the facility annually, with staff transferring about 7,500 tons of waste to the Bluff Road Landfill.



Street Operations to Make Advancements in WINTER MAINTENANCE PROGRAM

Street Maintenance personnel have been working hard to make improvements to the winter maintenance program for the upcoming season. In the past, Street Maintenance has relied heavily on the application of dry granular salt and limited use of anti-icing and pre-wetting agents.

The new method to combat winter weather will see a substantial increase in brine application for anti-icing and pre-wetting. Thanks to new and improved equipment, brine mixtures will be created specific to different weather conditions. Additionally, all granular salt will be pre-wetted as it falls from the material spreaders. The blends will always include sodium chloride and 10-percent beet juice, with calcium chloride being added incrementally during colder weather conditions. Street Maintenance will anti-ice all arterial roadways, bus routes and school routes prior to each snow event.



Including beet juice increases the residual melting capability of the brine solution, resulting in less material waste. The liquid will also help reduce the bounce and scatter of the granular salt during material spreading operations, keeping more salt on the road to melt the snow and ice.



Public Works and Utilities will continue to evaluate and improve this program. We are excited for this new direction and are confident these advancements will enable us to improve our public service.

BITS AND BYTES: OnBase

Over the past decade, the move has been from a paper-based world to a digital world. The number and size of digital documents has risen exponentially. OnBase is a software solution that manages digital information and the processes that utilize that information. OnBase allows us to consistently store and retrieve information from a single repository instead of a large number of isolated folders hidden on a server. Additionally, information can be managed through a "work flow" process and/or retrieved through a Google-like query.

Implementation of OnBase in PWU started last year with a project to track surety releases. Currently, Water and Wastewater have projects to store all asset records in OnBase. Development of a training and certification tracking program for Street Maintenance and scoping for the CIP Project Management efforts are also under way.

An OnBase team is being formed to document the vision for OnBase, to coordinate implementation details and to assist the Director with prioritizing the incremental steps to fulfill that vision.



PUBLIC WORKS & UTILITIES

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