

To: Ellis Mitchell, City Manager

From: Timothy Drews, PE, PTOE, RSP

Re: Project Update

Date: April 1, 2021

We have numerous projects that have been recently complete or are in progress. This report is provided to update you and the City Commission on the status of these projects.

Projects Underway

1. Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund/Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF/DWRF) – The city was successful in getting loan approval, scoring the highest of the new projects submitted for DWSRF, qualifying for a loan in excess of \$10M with \$1.4M in loan forgiveness. Individual project updates are being provided for each project and collectively on a weekly basis.

Pipestone & Wall

Work is continuing on Phase II south from Market Street. Water mains have been installed and the work has shifted to installation of the new water services, including full replacement of any lead or galvanized services in compliance with EGLE requirements. Sidewalk plows impacted a lead service to 246 Pipestone (Bethel Christian Restoration Center). the service was fixed as emergency repair under EGLE's lead and copper rule. Abonmarche notified the property owner and coordinated with city staff to arrange for lead testing. The water service was subsequently replaced in full with a copper service on 03/15/2021. Dan Dombos is the Project Manager.

Northeast Section

The Northeast Section has been underway over the month of March as it has restarted Phase II which includes Benton Street and Highland Street. New water main is approximately 75% completed along with 45 of the 54 water services replaced . Work on water main, sanitary sewer, and storm sewer will continue on Phase II south of Main Street and concrete and surface work will continue on Territorial north of Main Street. Jason Marquardt is the Project Manager.

Maple & Vineyard

Tree removal work on the Maple and Vineyard project was completed last week. The main part of the project will commence on April 1st with removals and sanitary sewer construction. Dan Dombos is the Project Manager.

Stevens Street

Work along Stevens Street and Waukonda Ave. wrapped up construction in December. The contractor, Kamminga & Roodvoets, Inc., removed their equipment from the site and opened the roadways up to vehicular and pedestrian traffic. Stevens Street will be under a temporary gravel surface until it can be paved when asphalt plants re-open later in the spring of 2021. Corey Kandow is the Project Manager.

Water Tower

Painting and Water Tower improvements are expected to start at the end of April. It is anticipated that the tower will be drained for painting in early May. Abonmarche has been working with I&M to relocate existing electrical poles and power to the tower to complete the work. F&V and Pumping by Peerless are working on needs for when the water tower is out of service. Dixon Engineering is Project Manager for construction and Seven Bros. is the contractor.

2. Hydrant Flow Testing & Repairs – Wachs Water is complete with the initial phase of their project to address the hydrant testing and marking the hydrants based upon their flow rate. This work was required by EGLE. They have identified the hydrants that do not work, or are in need of repair. The City Commission approved proceeding with quotes for the work by Wachs for hydrant repairs and valve assessments, and Kalin for hydrant replacements. The hydrant replacement project consists of up to 21 hydrants throughout the city. Thirteen (13) hydrants have been replaced to date. Of the remaining eight (8) hydrants, it has been determined to be cost prohibitive to replace at this time (so we will look to EGLE for funding assistance). This is primarily due to mainline valves not being able to shut off water to these hydrants for replacement. The valve turning/assessment program started on March 29th, and is expected to be complete by late June, 2021. Corey Kandow is the Project Manager.
3. EPA Grant – We submitted a grant application to EPA to replace all or most of the lead services in the City. The grant request was in excess of \$15M. The EPA approved this grant for \$5.6M with a City Match of \$617k for a total project cost of \$6.1M. We have been working with EPA to coordinate important details on execution of the grant from EPA and are targeting April 1st, 2021 as the start of the grant period. Once started, proposals from qualified consultants will be received and evaluated. We expect to begin public notices and information gathering at that time. The governor proclaimed that \$500M will be available to communities for water-related improvements, including specific set-asides for disadvantaged communities to locate, plan, and replace lead services. Since the EPA grant didn't cover the entire magnitude of lead services in the city, we made application for the first round of EGLE funds for \$1M to field locate lead services and prepare an Asset Management Plan. The application to EGLE for lead service line replacements as well as hydrant replacements, valve replacements, and water plant improvements was submitted on January 29, 2021. The City has executed a

contract with Blue Conduit to proceed with Phase I of their lead service analysis. Abonmarche is supplementing them with information as requested. Chris Cook and Jason Marquardt are the Project Managers.

4. Signal Removals - The removal of the signal at the corner of Britain and Riverview was completed in September. Additionally, the remaining signal poles will be removed at the corner of Wall & Market in Spring 2021 as part of the CWSRF/DWRF project in that area. Dan Dombos is the Project Manager.
5. Light Replacements – Chris Cook coordinated with Beaudoin electric to replace three lights replaced that were damaged in the Arts District. These light replacements were completed in the first week of January 2021. Also, one light (different style) is to be installed at Jean Klock Park in the spring. Additionally, we coordinated with AEP about a concern that was raised by the residents of Grand Boulevard regarding the lack of street lights in their neighborhood. We will need a formal request from their neighborhood association to the city and then a formal request from the city to AEP to proceed any further. There is no change in the status from last month.
6. Fiscally Distressed Cities, Villages and Township Grant (FDCVT 2) - FDCVT grant funds are awarded to cities for infrastructure and public safety enhancements. FDCVT 1 (Summit and Cherry Street watermain replacements and fire hydrant work) was closed out in 2019 with total expenses of approximately \$360k. FDCVT 2 plans were to replace water main on Pavone. However, McAlister was approved by FDCVT as an amendment to the original plan. McAllister water main replacement was completed at a cost of \$131k. The Clay Street project is out to bid with bids due on April 8, 2021 at 11:00am. Jason Marquardt is the Project Manager/Engineer for this and the other FDCVT projects below.
7. FDCVT 3 - B&Z is complete on Sherman Court (\$222k). Territorial is now complete (\$246k). Valve replacements are also part of this grant (\$12k remains) to complete work identified in #3 above.
8. FDCVT 4 - The City previously received a \$2M grant from DEQ/EGLE for the development of a Stormwater and Wastewater Asset Management Plan (SAW Grant) which was completed in 2017. \$1M of these funds went to the replacement of 92% of the City's water meters. Bids were received and B&Z was awarded the work to replace the remaining 8% of residential meter replacements to be funded by FDCVT. This was approved by the City Commission. Work was paused due to the Covid-19 pandemic. We are re-initiating work with B&Z to replace 10 water meters that are currently not working correctly. We expect that the work will be completed in 2021 for approximately \$300,000 (including meter purchase and installation).
9. Bridge Inspection/Recommended Repairs – required by MDOT every two years – completed required inspections along with required Scour analysis and provided a summary to the City Commission. The funds are available in street funds to complete this \$326,000 project this spring. Plans and specifications were completed, and a public

bid opening was held on March 16th. The City received no bids as part of the March 16th bid opening. The project is being reevaluated and planned to be re-bid to allow a longer construction timeframe to result in potential additional bidders for this specialty work. Jason Marquardt is the Project Manager.

10. I&M Drainage issues – We have been staying on top of this issue and corresponding with I&M and MDOT to see when/if/how they are going to complete their improvements to alleviate flooding on and around their property on Main Street. Many options have been considered, including temporary pumping into the MDOT system and permanent pumping from the city's system to possibly alleviate issues in the Riverview area. Tim Drews prepared several plan review memoranda to update the Planning Commission on the situation. I&M will continue to give updates at the monthly Planning Commission meetings.
11. City Works/GIS training – Training was conducted for city staff by the software vendor on January 29, 2021. Jason Marquardt is evaluating the existing GIS System and CityWorks and the updates that will be needed. As-built locations for recent/current projects will be uploaded to the system along with address features and curb shutoffs. We will work with DPW staff on work orders and maintenance schedule features in CityWorks.
12. Water Street Lift Station – Closed Circuit TV (CCTV) inspection has identified a collapsed sewer on the north side of the lift station. This is causing a sink hole to form beneath the standby generator serving the station. On March 9th and 29th, Abonmarche presented draft plans to repair of the sewer and demolition of the old/retired lift station building. Currently, people have been breaking into the old station and living inside. This has caused damage to the sewer system and poses a health risk. The plan has been advertised and bids will be opened on April 8th at 11:00am. If awarded, the project will be completed Summer 2021. Abonmarche was contacted on March 25th by Vicki Franks regarding purchase of the property. Ellis Mitchell and Dimetrius Meeks were notified of this interested and were planning to visit the site and address the feasibility of the sale. The Project Manager is Dan Dombos.
13. Storm Sewer/Sanitary Sewer Connections – Abonmarche has completed its analysis of increasing wastewater flows from the City of Benton Harbor between 2017 and 2020. Previous studies (in 2008 and 2014) identified locations of concern. Some of those areas have been fixed and others have not due to funding. With high groundwater and lake/river levels at this time the problem has gotten much more severe and costly to the city. Abonmarche presented our report along with recommendations for next steps to city staff on March 9th and 29th. Abonmarche is preparing a work plan cost for metering to pin down the sources of storm water entering the system. Dan Dombos is the Project Manager.

14. TwinCATS – Currently Chris Cook serves as the City's representative on the Technical Advisory Committee. He is also the alternate for the Policy Committee. The City needs to designate a new representative on the Policy Committee, preferably the City Manager or Mayor. This group serves to fund road improvements throughout Berrien County. With Abonmarche assistance, the City has been successful in receiving significant funding for the eligible major street network – the most recent win was for funding Empire Avenue improvements.

15. Michigan Gas Utilities has prepared plans and a permit for improvements to the Ox Creek between highland and Main Streets. We met with representatives of MGU and city staff to better understand their plans. We are now coordinating review with the city's legal counsel before it is brought to the City Commission. There is no change to this item since last month.

16. DPW and Lift Station Maintenance Plan – Abonmarche has outlined an O&M program for Water, Sanitary (including lift Stations, and Storm Sewers) in the first phase of this plan. The plan is broken down the appropriate tasks into weekly, semi-annual, and annual checklists. The plan is designed to improve the level of service provided by these utilities and ensure they continue to function reliably in the future. Abonmarche staff will be meeting with Dimetrius Meeks on April 6th to help plan annual calendar of these tasks.

In subsequent phases, streets, sidewalk, parks, and trash collection will be addressed as well.

17. Parking Plans – At the request of Public Safety, we are assisting with the preparation of downtown and neighborhood parking plans to address the possibility of paid parking and accessibility issues with two-sided parking on narrow streets.

18. Water Department – we are assisting as needed on various items for the water department. Items include:

- a. Water plant roof repairs and replacement plans
- b. As built locations of existing facilities
- c. DWINSA Study
- d. ACO and TMF
- e. Filter to Waste
- f. Sludge removal in overflow lagoon
- g. Corrosion Control Optimization Study
- h. Intake dive inspection improvements
- i. SCADA
- j. Additional Tier 1 sampling addresses

19. 2021 DWSRF Plan Update – We have been working on a project plan update for the City for Drinking Water State Revolving Funds. A draft update is due to EGLE by the end of April with a public comment period and public hearing set to be completed in June. Projects to be listed include distribution projects, valve improvements, hydrant improvements, \$2M in potential water plant upgrades, and \$3M in Lead Service replacements.
20. FEMA Maps – We have reviewed the letter and maps from FEMA to assist the city in reviewing the maps and requesting comments and appeals from city residents and businesses if they have information that indicates that the flood hazard determinations are not scientifically or technically correct. Press release/public notice/website postings have been completed to solicit feedback. Two appeals (Whirlpool and New Products) were forwarded to FEMA by the March 19, 2021 deadline.
21. 2021 Sign Replacements – The City Commission authorized accepting bids for replacing Stop, Yield and street name signs. Last year's program replaced signs on the major street corridors. This year's program will finish the remaining intersections in the city. A public bid opening was conducted on March 17, 2021 with one bid received from Rathco Safety Supply. We intend to bring this to the Public Safety Committee in April for consideration of awarding the construction contract to Rathco. Tim Drews is the Project Manager for this project.
22. 2021 Street Improvements – We are working with city staff to develop a plan for street improvements for the 2021 construction season. The program will be similar to last year's including milling and resurfacing streets and grading and placement of asphalt millings on gravel alleys. We expect to wrap up the plan in April for presentation to the City Commission. Tim Drews is the Project Manager.
23. CDBG Sidewalk Improvements – We worked with city staff to develop a bid package for sidewalk improvements on Pipestone Street from Weld Street to Empire Avenue using CDBG funds. The public bid opening is scheduled for April 22, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.
24. Farmers Market – Phase 2 – City Commission authorized submittal of a grant application for a second pavilion structure to be funded by a USDA Rural Business Development Grant. The grant application was submitted prior to the February 26, 2021 deadline. We do not expect to hear back from USDA until the summer/fall. Evan LeDuc and Jason Ficklen are leading this project.
25. 2021 Address Markings - Street numbers are again to be added in several areas of the City similar to what was completed in 2020. Included on this year is completing markings on newly construction curb and gutter on Pipestone, Wall, Highland, Territorial, Maple, Vineyard, and other locations throughout the City. Jason Marquardt is leading this project along with Kinexus and local youths.

26. Electric Vehicle Charging Stations – coordination has been ongoing with a vendor to provide these stations on city property next to Piggini and Grinnin' in early 2021. Comments have been received from the city attorney on the license agreement. Eric Kamps is leading these installation and coordination efforts.

Projects Recently Completed

1. Public Facility Water Meters - Completed installation of water meters in currently unmetered locations such as city parks to address comments/concerns raised by Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE), formerly Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). Munawar Azam is the Project Manager.
2. Empire Avenue Resurfacing Project from Pipestone to the east City Limits was approved by TwinCATS for funding in 2022. The construction cost was \$562,000 with \$384,000 federal participation. The project was advance constructed in 2020 with reimbursement in 2022. Work is complete and open to traffic. Tim Drews is the Project Manager.
3. Street Repairs - The 2019 plan repaired the worst streets to make them safe and passible. Approximately \$1M from Income Tax funds was used to complete improvements to numerous streets around town. For 2020, the low bidder was Kalin Construction. The expenditure was \$450k and consisted of milling and resurfacing streets and grading and placement of asphalt millings on several alleys. Work is complete and open to traffic. Tim Drews is the Project Manager.
4. Pavement Markings - The major street pavement markings were last completed in 2016. The markings were refreshed last summer to make the streets safer. We utilized Berrien County Road Department crews to complete the work. Planning is underway for the Spring of 2021 for pavement markings and intersection markings in conjunction with the Berrien County Road Department's county-wide plan. Tim Drews is the Project Manager.
5. 2020 Sign Replacements – Sign Inventory was completed in September 2016. Focus is on stop/yield/street name replacement adjacent to major streets. Rathco was awarded the bid for the work. They are complete with their work. Tim Drews is the Project Manager.
6. 2020 Address Markings - Street numbers were added in several areas of the City: Empire, Pipestone, Colfax, Britain, Riverview, and Market Street. Bret Witkowski led this project along with Kinexus. Local youths completed around 300 properties. Plans are currently being formulated for doing more with Kinexus and local youth in 2021.
7. Waterfront Emergency Plan – We completed a coastal emergency section addressing current and potential high-water issues to be added to the City/County emergency Preparedness Plans. The Public Safety Department is responsible for

implementation of the plan. We have been put on the river elevation warning system to track high water events that may be of concern to the city.

8. Main Street Drainage Issues - Main Street west of the roundabout at Riverview Drive has been experiencing ponding after rains for the past year or more. Tim Drews has been coordinating with Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) to facilitate improvements. Discussions with MDOT and state legislators has been on-going. MDOT has installed a pump station to alleviate the ponding on their road. An issue was also defined at the roundabout adjacent to TCATA. A lack of storm sewer connection was noted and Abonmarche/City staff assisted TCATA and MDOT in preparing plans to address the situation. The repairs have been completed.

9. DPW Storage Area Improvements – Improvements included site grading, concrete apron for salt storage, and additional material storage areas. The contractor, Yoder Construction, is complete with the work. Eric Kamps has been working as the lead engineer on this. Also, door replacement with Roggow Construction was completed for \$4800.

10. The Lead Service Pilot Grant - DEQ/EGLE awarded \$284,000 in May 2018 to fund an inventory and replacement of lead service lines. A total of 94 homes had service line material verified by "pot holing" where a 3'x3' hole was excavated around the curb stop so that pipe material could be identified on both the privately-owned side and the City-owned side. Additionally, 17 lead service lines that measured the highest lead readings when last tested were replaced from the main to the house. The cost for each replacement ranged from \$4,800-\$7,200. DEQ/EGLE approved using funds for work at the Water Plant, which were handled by Mike. The grant has been completed and is now closed out. Jason Marquardt is the Lead Engineer/Project Manager.

11. Benton Township – We met with the Township to discuss issues of common concern, including water/sewer/road issues at the common borders. The focus is now on the Township's river crossing to the WWTP and their need for a forcemain through city owned property north of Home Depot. It is expected that the Township will begin work in 2021 to remove their sewers from the siphon under the St. Joseph River.

Projects Being Contemplated

1. MDOT Category F Grant – The category F grant program provides funding for streets that are on the Federal Aid National Functional Classification list to enhance connection to State trunklines and bring them to All-season standards. We are evaluating Paw Paw Avenue from Main Street (I-94BL) to the Paw Paw River bridge for this program. Grant awards are limited to \$375,000 with a 20% local match. The deadline for grant submittal is May 3rd. Tim Drews is the Project Manager.

2. FDCVT Grant – The Michigan Treasury Department has released a call for new Fiscally Distressed Cities, Villages and Townships (FDCVT) grants. We are working with city staff to determine a strategy for grant submittals for this money. Likely candidates are projects that include water main and fire hydrants. Grant applications are due May 17th. Tim Drews is the Project Manager.

3. Hall Park - Gast Manufacturing has reached out to the city to assist with funding improvements to the park, including a new play structure, benches, railings for safety, etc. We are expecting more details from Gast in the future. This has been holding due to the COVID-19. Tom Runkle is the Project Manager.

4. Riverfront Shoreline - Review of stability of riverfront shoreline from the Bicentennial Bridge to Yarbrough Park is complete. Looking for funding for the recommended short-term improvements to protect the shoreline (expected to cost up to \$150,000). Project is on hold pending funding. Mike Morphey is the Project Manager.

3. Armory Renovation - The Armory formerly served as a community center until it was closed in 2009. Several renovations are required to make it functional again. Phase I work to make the building weathertight is complete. Abonmarche prepared a summary of options for next phases. The city is considering options for recreational programming at the site along with necessary improvements for occupancy. Grant applications are being started to assist with funding the repairs and programming at the site. The grant applications will require a Parks Master Plan to be included with a Community Master Plan Update to be eligible for grant funds.

4. Pipestone & Market Traffic Signal - Additional signal work in accordance with the long-term master plan for Pipestone was approved by the Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) Committee. This is the last of 5 intersections to be improved. Wall St, Jefferson/Broadway, Britain, and Empire are already complete. Project cost is \$235k CMAQ funds and \$59k local match. Project not scheduled until 2023.

5. Sidewalk Asset Management - Completed assessment of sidewalk conditions and prepared 3-year capital improvement plan to repair sidewalks and install ADA ramps. Total cost estimates per year are: 2019- \$860k, 2020- \$775k, 2021- \$506k. This project is not active, pending funding availability. Current focus is more on streets and alleys.

6. Kartar sewer connection –Township has been collecting sewer fees, but it is unexpectedly connected to the BH system. The township plans to complete the connection to their sewer system in 2022.