

2014 AT-A-GLANCE

The Village Council managed to accomplish several small improvements in a variety of areas within the village and can once again hold their heads high.

The park saw many improvements beginning with the new ball field completion. **Rock hounding** was performed and then a **sand base** was laid to establish a proper base prior to **field conditioner** for a total prep cost around **\$2000**. With the help of the Hardin Community Foundation we were able to build **dugouts** for another **\$2000**. Other park improvements included spending **\$1900** on a new **parking lot**, more **drainage tile** for Bailey and Tuttamore fields, and **tilling all fields**. **New bases, dryline marker, pitching rubber, chain nets and backboards** were purchased at a total cost of **\$530**. Another Hardin Community Foundation assisted project, at a total cost of **\$1162**, was a pair of **toddler playground items** – teeter totter and balance bar. Yet another project completed was the purchase of the final **tables and chairs** for the closed shelter. This should entice more rentals as they made such an improvement in appearance. I personally am working on a small advertising effort to increase rentals.

Superintendent Cramer and Assistant McCoy spent the beginning of the year working tirelessly to keep the local **roads plowed** and safe despite record snowfalls and low temps. They also managed to put in just over **80 hours of work on ordinance violations** and have made several properties look better than they have in years. **Mosquito abatement** was renewed for the year, costing **\$3756** for all 12 applications. This is a service many villages have cut due to funding. In light of the Marathon accident, the downtown **fire hydrant** was put back into 100% operation at a cost near **\$4000**.

New **trees** will soon be filling empty spots thanks again to the Hardin Community Foundation and a grant for **\$750**. Some **manholes were reconditioned** to bring to street level and/or abate water infiltration. Assistant McCoy **ainted the inside of the water plant and the council chambers**, brightening both up considerably.

The larger spending included a treatment to the **dump truck bed and a new salt spreader** which cost **\$12,337**. A good clean **audit** was survived at an exorbitant cost of **\$15,621**. Purchase of a new, more query friendly, **income tax software** is about to be installed on a 5 year payment plan of **\$2000 per year**, which includes the annual support for each of those years. And construction has begun for a **water/sewer office and testing facility** which is being added on to the existing water plant. The accepted bid estimate was for **\$24,500** but Superintendent Cramer noted that some items are priced higher than they will be when purchased, therefore bringing the cost down. (\$15,000 of the cost is covered by the still remaining USDA grant monies which were for this particular facility.) Due to the dual purpose of the project, the remaining portion was budgeted through the water fund.

All in all Council should be proud of their accomplishments for 2014. While some items did have to be cut from the budget, many others were still accomplished and the residents of Dunkirk have benefited. As we set our sights on 2015, continue to work for the better of the people and we will have yet another good year!