

2015 AT-A-GLANCE

This year council managed to take on a few smaller emergency related projects as well as handle actual emergency needs while continuing with business as usual. They also found ways to make operating and aesthetic improvements along the way.

In the category of emergencies the first big purchase was a much needed **hydrant on the south end** of the Village that has been needed but cut from the budget for many years. It is now installed and operating. **Repairs to another hydrant, and replacement of a broken hydrant** were also performed. Drainage problems at the town hall lead to the discovery of a **tile issue** which was quickly resolved. Later in the year a **water leak** was discovered underneath town hall which was repaired and included some new, improved lines for service. While Dunkirk has been approved for an Issue II grant for catch basin replacement on Main Street, funding won't be here until 2016. With three **catch basins** in dire need of repair to avoid accident or injury, council found a way to fund these immediately rather than wait for the grant funding to come. A strong storm came through and took out a couple rather large Village trees, leading to a search for any more **dead trees**. Again, to avoid accident or injury, council had these trees removed. Council also had to spend a nice size chunk of change to repair the **score board** at the park. This was greatly appreciated by the teams that play on Polar Bear Field!

In the category of business as usual, Dunkirk continued its **mosquito abatement** program and the more pricey routine purchase of the two-year rotation of **mower**. Other business-as-usual would be that council donated their time and personal resources to provide one of the **monthly community center meals**, and put on another successful **HN Community Family Fun Day**. More **trees** were granted and empty spaces from trees past were filled. Lastly for routine business, several ordinance violations went unanswered and the Village stepped in to take action when owners didn't.

Operating improvements were numerous in the water and sewer departments. The year began with the completion of the USDA grant funded **water-sewer offices** which were moved into and operating by February. This addition included a **plant tap** that the EPA has been demanding for many years, so that is another mark off the books! The installation of a **new brine pump system** allotted for a much **better quality salt** to be used. It is a table quality salt which runs much cleaner and will help the equipment in the plant last longer... as well as in residents' homes. Since the new sewer system, the lift stations have been warmed by portable ceramic heaters that continually burned out and needed replaced. This year all lift stations were equipped with **direct baseboard heating** systems that will not require the ongoing costs for replacement.

Last but not least, the aesthetics. Less noticeable would be the **freshly painted clearwell**. At the park council, with the help of the Dunkirk CIC and grants, managed to get **bleachers** for the new field. The final **toddler playground piece** was also granted and will be installed next Spring during a community day being planned. Downtown has taken on a much needed facelift thanks to generous donations. The **memorial benches** and **flower pots** have gotten many a compliment. And this is with only one of the eight large donated pots out! I think all are anxious to see what it looks like next year with all the large pots in place.

In summation, Dunkirk Council can once again smile at the accomplishments made in 2015. Thanks to all for working together and listening to each other in order to make Dunkirk a better community for all.