

2017 AT-A-GLANCE

Twenty-seventeen was somewhat of a low key year with no major projects or misfortunes. We continued old services for the people, and gained some new ones; saw improvements around the village; upgraded equipment; took an opportunity to lower certain costs; passed major inspections; and even discovered hidden treasures.

Council managed to once again give to the people by providing the **June meal** at the community center and putting on another successful **Fun Day** in September. The budget allowed for continued **mosquito abatement**, something many communities forego in the current economy. Dunkirk is one of two entities that now have a **second recycling day** due to the amount of participation by the people. Council revisited the sharing of the costs for the **Spring Cleanup** providing its citizens a chance to dispose of their collected waste for free. FO Spencer worked with ONU's Health Wise coordinator in arranging for the **ONU Mobile Clinic** to include a day of service within the village each month. For so many, these services can prove helpful to the health of the community in several different ways. Protecting the safety of its people, council also financed the **downing of several dead trees** that were under the village's responsibility.

Several improvements were accomplished starting with the park. There council was able to place the **outfield fence** for the new diamond, completing the entire fencing of that field. The annual **field conditioner** was purchased without the customary assistance of HN. Thanks to the Hardin Community Foundation, we were able to **plant more trees**, continue planting all the **downtown flowers**, and obtain some much needed **commercial grade light strands** for the downtown Christmas decorating. One emergency improvement was a major **tile repair** which relieved some substantial flooding issues from its collapse. This year also brought relief to those on South Main Street as ODOT finally **resurfaced all of South Main**. The Board of Public Affairs officially began its process of a greatly needed improvement, that of a **new well field**. While this project will take place over several years, the ability to start this process is a major step for the village.

Funding allowed council to continue its two-year cycle for **mower replacement**. The Board of Public Affairs took a chance on a new salt treatment which has paid off with actually **lowering the annual cost of salt** while lengthening the life of the equipment using that salt. Salt costs were as follows: \$25,479.61 (2015), \$33,788.41 (2016), and the 2017 YTD is only \$16,980.78 with one delivery yet to bill as an estimated cost just shy of \$4K. Another savings has shown itself with only a partial year in effect. Council **contracted with IGS as its electric supplier**. With a partial year in, comparing to 2016, our **savings** are as follows: General Fund \$565.38, Water Fund \$5,116.13, and Sewer Fund \$13,921.78. These are differences which show that council's decision to enter into that contract was a wise one.

This year was also the year for the water tower inspection and a USDA compliance finance review. The water tower passed the inspection with ease. FO Spencer passed her USDA review but was given a heads up of the physical inspection coming in which some building changes would be needed to comply with their A.D.A. requirements.

Lastly councilman Dan Marshman, thanks in part to prior clerk Robert L Douglas, **discovered a treasure in the Town Hall attic**. Two trunks bearing items dating back to the late 1800's had been placed in storage there by former mayor and historian, the late Jim Shuff. The majority of the contents were from the Grand Army of the Republic, with a few items belonging to the Women's Relief Corporation and The Order of Odd Fellows. Council decided that the Hardin County Genealogy Society would be the best steward of these treasures and donated the entire find to them.

Once again, council has averted any major issues or large project expenditures and managed to continue serving its people well. I look forward to yet another successful year in 2018, in which I will celebrate **10 years** since my return to this office as your fiscal officer and income tax administrator!