

# LOST LAKE UTILITY DISTRICT – Water & Sewer Management

Established 2007



September 2021

## LLUD – BRINGING YOU UP TO DATE ON YOUR UTILITY DISTRICT NEWS

### LLUD RATE INCREASE IN 2022

The word 'increase' is not something most people want to hear unless it is in relation to an increase in their income. However, it has come to the time when the LLUD must increase rates for our private utility that supplies our water and sewer. To put that in perspective, our last rate increase was in 2012. Now think if you had not had a raise in your wages for 10 years and had to still maintain your household for ten years with no increase in wages.

We truly feel that over the last 10 years we have done a good job in maintaining our utilities on the funds we have but we are now facing a number of EPA requirements to meet. Below you will see a list of the major projects we have completed since 2012 and a list of the future projects we need to fund. Currently we have a rate committee working out the details of how the rate increase will be applied most equitably. The new rates, once established, should be expected on your February 2022 billing.

In the meantime, a public meeting will be scheduled at some point for public comment to discuss the changes. Watch for postings for date, time and place for this meeting.

### MAJOR PROJECTS COMPLETED SINCE 2012

#### EPA Required Projects:

- Back-up generator at WWTP (Waste Water Treatment Plant) and Wellhouse
- Brought additional well on-line ensuring uninterrupted water supply in event of pump failure.

- Replaced 1.5 miles of undersized watermain with new 6" installation for fire hydrants

- Installed baffles in 3 tanks at WWTP and installed other piping to meet new EPA requirements

#### Other Completed Projects

- Upgrades to electric system to accommodate 2<sup>nd</sup> well
- Install VFD (Variable Frequency Drive) on the well to extend life of pump, save on electricity and reduce watermain breaks

#### *Other Completed Projects, continued*

- Upgraded and expanded the well house to accommodate piping and treatment of the second wells' water
- Decommissioned old undersized watermains and moved existing customers to newer mains
- Drained, inspected and cleaned water tower twice. This ensures no rust is developing and if so, proper repairs are made.
- Replaced piping, both inside and outside, for first well house that was over 60 years old.
- Tested fire hydrants throughout the community and marked them per the national standard.
- Replaced many fire hydrants that were not working properly.

### FUTURE EPA REQUIRED UPGRADES

- Replace nearly 2 miles of undersized watermain. Cost: \$500,000
- Replace one-half mile of 6-inch watermain that was not properly installed by the previously utility owner before the LLUD was formed. Cost: \$250,000
- Repair and repaint water tower to extend the life and avoid having to replace it. Cost: \$350,000
- Replace all 3-inch watermains with 6 inch watermain over the next 10 years. Cost: Unknown
- Install fire hydrants throughout the community to meet national standard for spacing for fire protection. Cost: \$5,000 each

### Two Trustees Leaving

With one of our current trustees moving out of the community this fall for their jobs and the other making some changes, the LLUD had to post for these two openings. The applicants then had to apply through the Taylor Township Board and be approved. The Trustees leaving are Mike Schwartz and Mike Elmendorf. We wish Mike Schwartz the best in his new hometown and new job and thank them for their time as Trustees on the LLUD.

## Welcome To Our New Trustees

### Meet Mike Steffens



Mike and his wife, Susan, have been residents of Lost Lake since 2002. Mike currently works for the Ogle County Highway Department as Head Mechanic. Mike has experience in road repair, road maintenance, bidding vehicles, purchase and maintenance of equipment and snowplowing. Mike states "I am happy to have been appointed by the Township and look forward to serving on the Lost Lake Utility board." Mike was appointed at the July meeting.

### Meet Joe Bajko



Joe Bajko, a graduate of Columbia University with a BA in Marketing & Sound Engineering, has spent the last 28 years as a field manager for new construction homes and community developments in the Chicagoland area. This includes working with local municipalities for permitting, inspections and approvals. Joe also has knowledge of Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plans (SWPPP) and is a Certified Site Stormwater Representative. Joe and his wife, Kris, have lived in the community for over 16 years when Joe decided to apply for one of the Trustee openings. Joe was appointed at the August meeting, to the LLUD and we look forward to his participation.

#### **LLUD ADDRESS, PHONE & EMAIL ADDRESS**

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