

Utilities Section Newsletter

League of Nebraska Municipalities

May 2018

Purchasing off the state contract

*By Lash Chaffin, Utilities
Section Director, LNM*

Many Nebraska municipal utilities and public works departments take advantage of purchasing goods from vendors at the price negotiated by the State of Nebraska. Nebraska law allows municipalities to purchase materials and equipment “at the same price and from the same seller as materials or equipment which have formally been obtained pursuant to the state bidding procedure.” Thus, there are numerous opportunities for municipalities to purchase a wide range of products at a greatly reduced cost. Also, if a municipal-

ity purchases a product from the state bid from the vendor that has the state bid, the municipality can WAIVE ALL BIDDING PROCEDURES.

The Nebraska Department of Administrative Services Purchasing Division has hundreds of contracts for items such as vehicles, adhesives, air conditioning filters, pipe and tube fittings, water and wastewater treatment supplies, computer software and bookbinding. If a municipality uses a product, there is probably a contract for that product.

To access the current state purchasing contracts you can call 402-471-2401 or see the contracts

at <http://das.nebraska.gov/material/purchasing.html>. When you get to the website, click on the red section entitled State Purchasing Bureau Issued Contracts. There is a helpful contract search function.

For instance, the state currently has a contract for a 2018 1/2 Ton Crew Cab 4x4 4-Door Truck FFV E85 for \$30,278. Another example is the current contract for liquid de-icer at \$1.20 per gallon. There also are numerous other vehicle bid contracts.

These contracts do expire regularly and often have conditions, but it is worth your municipality's time to regularly check the availability of a state contract.

Natural Gas Operator Award given to Richard Shearer

Richard Shearer of Stuart received a “Natural Gas Operator Award” from the League of Nebraska Municipalities Utilities Section on May 4, 2018. Rick started with the Village of Stuart as a Utility Lineman 23 years ago in 1995. In 2000, he added Gas Foreman to his duties. Since then, he has continued to operate, maintain and upgrade the Stuart Municipal Gas System. In 2013, Stuart purchased a rural natural gas system from Central Valley AG, located mostly Northeast of O’Neill and expanded the Stuart System northwest of Stuart. Rick has overseen the expansion of the O’Neill System by 11 miles

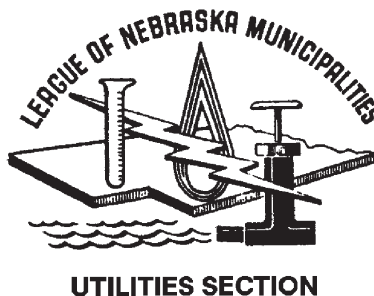
of main line and 19.6 miles of service lines while increasing the line pressure from 35 psi to 95 psi; 13.5 miles of main line were built North/West of Stuart with 17 miles of service lines; 1,364 feet 65 psi bypass line to feed the North/West system without raising the municipal pressure. That increased the total number of the summer center pivot gas load by 178 systems and three 20-30 million British thermal unit corn



From left: Rob Pierce of LNM presents a Natural Gas Operator Award to Richard Shearer of Stuart.

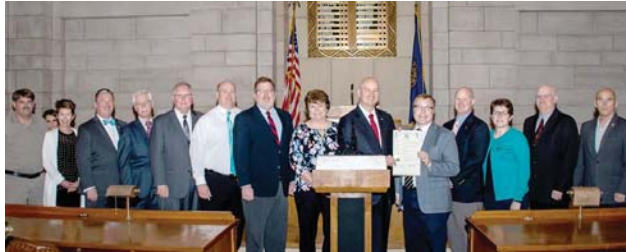
driers. In town, new residential and commercial property expansion prompted the installation of another 3,000 feet of main line. Congratulations, Richard!

1335 L Street, Lincoln, NE 68508
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Lash Chaffin
Utilities Section Director
Rob Pierce
Utilities Field Representative

Governor's Proclamation Signing Ceremony held



On May 7, 2018, Gov. Pete Ricketts signed a proclamation declaring May 6-12, 2018, as Drinking Water Week in Nebraska.

The following individuals attended the signing ceremony (from left): Allen Schoemaker, City of Blair, Donna Garden, City of Lincoln; Jim Macy,

DEQ; Dr. Tom Williams, DHHS; Steve Goans, DEQ; Andy Kahle, DHHS; Jim Shields, MUD; Mary Poe, DHHS; Gov. Pete Ricketts; Bruce Dvorak, UNL; Craig Reinsch, Olsson Associates; Becky Schuerman, DHHS; Rob Pierce, LNM; and Richard J. Burch, MAP.

Construction zones: A collection of orange cones!

Grand Island is constructing a new hydro-pillar-style water tower on Englewood Street (west side of the city).

If you have construction projects or new facilities, let us know so we can share your progress with other members who may be looking at similar projects and may want to share experiences or information.



Would your utility like to host a 2019 workshop?

If you and your utility are interested in hosting a workshop or safety

meeting, contact Rob at robp@lonm.org or 402-476-2829.

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Classifieds

Utilities Assistant. The Village of Elwood is accepting applications for a full-time Utilities Assistant. Duties include assisting with maintenance of streets, operation of sewer and water systems, park and swimming pool. Drug testing and a valid Nebraska driver's license are required. Salary is negotiable. A benefit package is offered with the position. Applications may be picked up at 304 Calvert Avenue, Elwood, NE 68937 or call 308-785-2480 for more information. E-mail requests for applications to villwood@atcjet.net. Please include a resume with your application. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. The Village of Elwood is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Water Operator Class I. The City of Tekamah is accepting applications for Water Operator Class I. State certification Grade IV and Sewer Grade I must be obtained with six months of hire. Pay rate \$16-\$21/hour depending on experience and qualifications. Drug test required. Applicants must be at least 18 years old and hold a valid Nebraska driver's license. Application and job description may be requested at:

City Office, 1315 K Street, Tekamah, NE 68061 or tekwater2@tekamah.net. Applications will be accepted until position is filled. Equal opportunity employer.

Public Works Dept. Maintenance II. The City of Hickman is seeking applicants to perform various tasks in the Public Works & Parks Departments. Applicants must have a valid Nebraska Driver's License and ability to pass drug screening. DHHS Water, Wastewater and/or electrical certifications preferred. Full time position with benefits. Hourly wage dependent on qualifications presented and verified. Full job description and employment applications available at City Hall, 115 Locust Street, Hickman, NE 68372 or www.hickman.ne.gov. Please deliver completed applications and resumes to Hickman City Hall. Screening process begins immediately; position open until filled. The City is an E.O.E.

Utility Worker I. The City of Aurora is accepting applications for the position of Utility Worker I. Applicant must be able to perform a variety of general maintenance work and operate a variety of equipment in the construction,



operation, repair and maintenance of the City's water, sewer, waste water, parks, cemetery, sanitation and street facilities. Must have a valid Nebraska Driver's License, and be able to obtain a CDL. Salary is DOQ, with an excellent benefit package. Applications can be obtained at the Aurora City Offices, 905 13th Street, Aurora, NE 68818 or by calling (402) 694-6992 or via email at utlysupt@cityofaurora.org. Position will remain open until filled. The City of Aurora is an EOE.

Utilities Section Members can place an ad in the classifieds section of the *Utilities Section Newsletter* for free.

Email your ad to brendah@lonm.org.



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Nebraska utilities history

The Utilities Section Newsletter will continue to feature histories of both utilities and associate members. Any historical data and/or photos of your utilities, a specific facility, or articles already written are welcome, along with permission to print. If you have questions, contact Rob at 402-476-2829 or robp@lonm.org.

By Rob Pierce, LNM Field Rep./
Training Coordinator

Oodell, located in Gage County, had a post office in the area established Nov. 7, 1877 as Charleston, which was located one mile from present day Odell (south of Big Indian Creek). On Jan. 12, 1878, School District #74 was organized at the house of W. B. LaGorgue. By 1879, land was opened for settlement and Big Indian Creek likely was an early source. In 1880, the railroad surveyed north of the creek and a quarry of limestone was discovered. On Sept. 21, 1880, Anselmo B. Smith of the Lincoln Land Company surveyed and laid out a town-site located on the former Otoe Indian Reservation. The residents (about 20 families) of Charleston moved to the Burlington and Missouri Railroad town site and on Oct. 21, 1880, the Charleston post office moved to the Odell site. In 1881, railroad tracks were laid and businesses and a school were

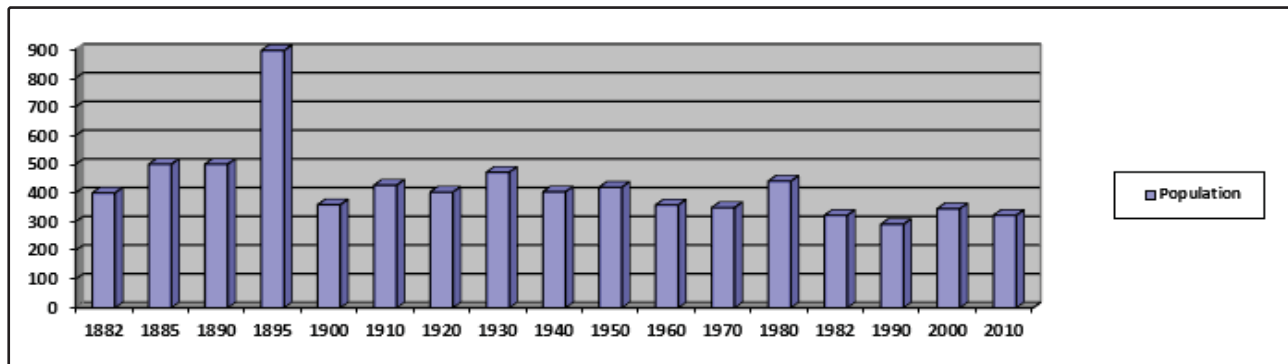
built. On Nov. 11, 1881, a plat was filed and Odell was incorporated as a village. The population was estimated at 400 by 1882 and many businesses were operating. In 1885, the population was about 500 and the village had two lumberyards, a Commercial Hotel, an Opera House, a limestone block bank and a new four-room school building. The hotel burned down in 1885 as the village had no fire-fighting equipment. A water well was located at the intersection of Perry & Lincoln Streets. In 1889, a two-story frame school building was built. In 1892, a bank was located at the corner of Ida and Main Streets and in 1893, the *Odell Wave* weekly newspaper was established. From 1890-1895, the population increased from 500 to 896. In the 1890s, brick businesses with boardwalks were built along the dirt streets.

In 1900, the population was listed as 359, although one source noted a population of about 600. Some of the businesses included a grain elevator, wagon shop, a

brick lodge building, a brick hardware store, a livery, meat market, a hotel and a brick and limestone bank. In 1902, a railroad depot was erected and in 1907, a new bank was built.

By 1910, the population was 427 and by 1911, the village had graded streets and 90 telephones were in service. By 1912, the Joy Opera House and three lumberyard companies were in operation. In 1913, the three-story Anna C. Odell Opera House was built with the second floor walls and ceiling adorned with stencils and paintings. That same year, the two-story brick Odell Telephone Building also was constructed. Some of the businesses included three lumberyards, two grain elevators, two implement houses, a drug store, harness shop, three general stores, a furniture store, three garages, an undertaking establishment and one pump shop. In September 1912, the Odell Electric Lighting Power Plant on Perry Street was operating with steam power

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Nebraska utilities history

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(coal fuel), a 25 horsepower (HP) engine, a Dynamo as the village had electric street lights. In 1915, electric current was provided by J. S. Barry with a lighting rate of \$0.06-\$0.14 a kilowatt hour (kWh).

By 1920, the population was 403 and by 1925, a new brick two-story school was built. The brick City/Fire Hall Building was located two doors north of the bank on Main Street. By 1925, the village had a 20-volunteer firefighter department with equipment that included one 40-gallon chemical cart, 100 feet of hose and the alarm was a church bell. No public water system was operating as individuals had their own well. The unpaved streets were graded and lit by public electric lights with electric rates at \$0.15 per kilowatt (kW). By about 1925, the electric distribution was supplied by Blue Valley Power Company from the hydroelectric power plant at Barneston. In 1929, a new school and a two-story brick Clarence Rice Hospital were built.

The population increased

slightly to 472 by 1930 and in August 1931, the fire department purchased a new fire truck. In the 1930s, the Main Street was paved (oil), a water well was dug and a municipal water distribution system was installed, both WPA projects. By 1940, the population dropped to 404 and trees were planted in the proposed park in the 1940s. By May 1941, the water system consisted of about two miles of four-inch by six-inch mains, 20 double fire hydrants with one drilled well and two dug wells, a 50,000-gallon storage tank located 150 feet above the business section. One Fairbanks-Morse turbine pump capacity was 25 gallons per minute (gpm) and one air lift pump had a capacity 15 gpm. The well house was located on Garfield Street between Main and Perry Streets. Average daily consumption was 12,000 gallons with domestic and fire pressure in the business district at 65 pounds.

The fire department in 1941 consisted of 12 volunteer firefighters, one Ford hose truck with 800 feet of two and one-half inch hose, and an electric fire alarm on a steel tower in the back of the

lot west of the city hall building by the alley. In 1941, the Norris Public Power District purchased the properties served by the Blue Valley Power Company. The population by 1950 was 420 and the natural gas system was operated/supplied by Peoples Natural Gas. In the early 1950s, a sewage disposal plant (Imhoff tank) and sewer system were installed. The sewer system and disposal plant were publicly owned and maintained by a tax levy. In the 1950s, the Odell School consolidated with several rural school districts. The fire department had 20-25 volunteer firefighters and in 1956, electric rates were: first 100 kilowatt hours (kWh) at \$0.075, next 100 kWh at \$0.04, next 200 kWh at \$0.025 and all over at \$0.0175 with a minimum of \$2. The cost of street lighting was \$106.50 per month and the cost of pumping water was \$30 per month with billing every two months. In 1956, the village had 130 meters in service and by 1958, had 145 meters and by 1960, there were 150 meters. The population in 1960 was 358 and a new junior and



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senior high school building was built. In 1962, the publicly owned sewer system and disposal plant were maintained by a tax levy of 7 mills.

In 1956-58, water rates were: first 5,000 gallons at \$0.60 per 1,000 gallons; 5,000-10,000 gallons at \$0.40; all over 10,000 at \$0.30. In 1960, water rates were: first 5,000 gallons at \$0.60/M; second 5,000 gallons at \$0.40; all over 10,000 gallons at \$0.30. In 1962, electric rates were: first 100

KWH at \$0.07; next 100 KWH at \$0.04; next 200 KWH at \$0.025; with a minimum of \$1 per month.

In 2010-2011, the monthly water fees were: \$14.75 and then \$3.50 per 1,000 gallons.

From 1970-1982, the population decreased from 349 to 322. A wastewater system project was underway in 1973 as an activated sludge extended aeration system designed for 0.05 million gallons per day was installed. A Big Indian NRD Recreation Area was located six miles east of town,

which was built in the 1970s.

By 1990, the population was 291 and in 1998-99, the Diller and Odell Schools consolidated to form a cooperation in sports activities (Diller-Odell Griffins). In 2000, the census listed the population at 345, a sidewalk project was completed and in 2005, the village received a grant of \$32,823 to improve firefighting and emergency services operations. The railroad depot was torn down in 1961 and the last Concordia line

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Continued from page 6
railroad train came to Odell in 2004. The Old West Trails Center opened in an 1885 limestone building in 2007. The natural gas system was operated and supplied by Aquila until 2009 when Black Hills Energy took over operation. The electric distribution system was supplied by the Norris Public Power District. In 2009, the water system consisted of two active and two inactive municipal water wells, a water tower, and 158

residential and 19 commercial connections. The population in 2010 was 322. In 2014, the water tower was refurbished.

Today, Odell has a population of 307 and has been incorporated for 137 years (1881-2018). The village maintains paved streets, a park, a ballfield, a water and wastewater system and has decorative streetlights on Main Street. The electric distribution system has been supplied (retail) by Norris Public Power District for the

past 77 years. The natural gas system is operated by Black Hills Energy. Odell is a member of the League of Nebraska Municipalities and Utilities Section.

References: Nebraska Directory of Municipal Officials, 1956, 1958, 1960, 1962, 1964-75, 1977-87, 1990-2015, 2017-2018; Nebraska Municipal Review Magazine, 1925; Nebraska's Forest Service Newsletter, April 2002; Perkey's Nebraska Place

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Nebraska utilities history

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Name, 1995; Nebraska Place Names, 1925, 1960; The Ansley Herald newspaper, 1931; Nebraska Our Towns...East Southeast, 1992; Pages of History, Nebraska High Schools (1854-1994), 1994, Lincoln Journal Star, 2005, 2007; Maps Tell Nebraska's History,

1991; Andrea's History of the State of Nebraska, 1882; Beatrice Anniversary Edition, 150 Years in the Making, 2009; History of Gage County, Nebraska, 1918; Electric Power Development in the United States, Dept. of Ag-

riculture, January 1916; Gage County History, 1983; Sanborn Maps, November 1885, September 1892, February 1900, September 1912, November 1925, May 1941; and the Nebraska Blue Book, 1928, 1946, 1978.

2018 Electric Training Workshops

Electric Underground
Sept. 5-6 – Sidney

Hot Line (Rubber Gloving) Workshops
Sept. 11-13 – Sidney

Nebraska Breaktime Trivia “Just For Fun”

- Q-1.** How many villages/cities in Nebraska contain the word “Water” in their names?
- Q-2.** The Cross Creek Golf Course is located in what city in Nebraska?
- Q-3.** Which of the statements below are not true statements?
 - 1) Davey was named after the frontiersman Davy Crockett.
 - 2) Harvard, Princeton,

- Lamar, Leshara and Lebanon are incorporated villages in Nebraska.
- 3) Stratton, Trenton, Max and Culbertson are located in Hitchcock County.
- 4) York is the 20th largest city in Nebraska by population.
- 5) George Harrison was the water commissioner at Seward in 1956.

Answers on page 9.

Power & Equipment Show scheduled

The Power & Equipment Show is scheduled for July 25-26, 2018, at the Norfolk Community College Pohlman Ag Complex. To register, visit www.northeast.edu/2018/power-show. For more information, call 402-844-7216.

The Power & Equipment Show is presented by Northeast Community College in cooperation with Nebraska Rural Electric Association Suppliers Group, Nebraska Rural Electric Association and League of Nebraska Municipalities-Utilities Section.



Crow Line: A line of positive communication that all can share

The Nebraska Municipal Power Pool (NMPP) presented **Lance Headquist** of South Sioux City with the NMPP Bob Arraj Innovative Service Award. The Municipal Energy Association (MEAN) presented **Duane Hoffman** of Oxford with the MEAN Rudy Hulgran Dedicated Service Award. Congratulations to Lance and Duane!

Olsson Associates was honored as one of the “Best Places to Work” in Lincoln in 2018. They also were listed by the *Engineering News-Record* as one of the

top 100 design firms in the United States. Olsson Associates has been a longtime Associate Member of the League. Congratulations!

Congratulations to the city of **Red Cloud** for being recognized at the Annual AWWA Conference in Las Vegas as being an American Water Works Association (AWWA) member for 50 years!

Do you, your department or facility have something to crow about? Received an award, had an article written highlighting an event or person? Have a project worthy of acknowledgement in



the *Utilities Section Newsletter*?

If so, please send your information to any of the League/Utilities staff so we can share your excitement or pride of an award, noted article or project with other members.

“Just For Fun” Answers

A-1. Five – Broadwater, Clearwater, Waterbury, Waterloo and Weeping Water. *Reference: Nebraska Directory of Municipal Officials, 2018.*

A-2. Cambridge.

A-3. *True or False Answers:*

- 1) False – Davey was named after Michael Davy, an early area settler.
- 2) True – All are incorporated villages and are listed

in 2018 *Nebraska Directory of Municipal Officials.*

3) False – The community of Max is located in Dundy County; the other three in Hitchcock County.

4) True – According to the population given in the 2018 *Nebraska Directory of Municipal Officials.*

5) True – But, he's not the George Harrison from the Beatles!

Service Awards

Remember to recognize your employees’ anniversary milestones. The League provides certificates for 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60 and 65.

You can request them by emailing the League office at brendah@lonm.org.

Retirements: Let us help recognize those municipal employees who are retiring after years of service.



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SAFETY/HEALTH CORNER

Wear sunscreen and use common sense!

By Rob Pierce, LNM Field Rep./
Training Coordinator

A survey by the American Academy of Dermatology shows that parents who applied sunblock to their children allowed

those children to be out in the sun longer than they normally would have. Health experts equate that behavior with a driver going faster just because his car has anti-lock brakes.

Remember, sunblock doesn't

completely protect skin from the damaging affects of the sun, researchers say. So take precautions to prevent skin damage, such as limiting your time in the sun to no more than two-three hours during the peak hours of 10 a.m.–4 p.m. Also, reapply sunblock on a regular basis when you're out in the sun (every two-four hours minimum).

– Adapted from *The New York Times*

2018 Solid Waste Screening Workshop held

A Solid Waste Screening Workshop was held June 26, 2018 in Kimball with 16 people in attendance.

This workshop meets the State of Nebraska requirements covering hazardous waste screening for employees of transfer stations and landfills. Other topics included: safety operations at transfer sta-

tions and landfills along with an industry and regulatory update. All participants received certificates of attendance.

A Solid Waste Screening Workshop is scheduled for July 26 in Norfolk at the Fire Training Center. The brochure can be found on the League website at www.lonm.org.

Credit hours reminder

For those who attended the 2018 Snowball Conference and the 2018 Annual Utilities Conference, your water and wastewater hours are posted on the League of Nebraska Municipalities website at <https://www.lonm.org/utilities/water-and-wastewater-credit-hours.html>.

Is your municipality or utility celebrating a historic milestone?

We encourage members to provide information on major milestones being celebrated, such as 75 years of operating the electric system. About 1942, private electric systems were being phased out in Nebraska and several municipalities took over their systems in the 1940s.

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Training calendar

Visit our website at www.lonm.org
for a complete list of workshops and conferences.

July

- July 25-26..... Power Equipment Show..... NECC Campus, Norfolk
- July 26..... Solid Waste Screening Workshop Fire Training Building, Norfolk

August

- Aug. 7..... Water Operator Training Workshop City Hall, McCook
- Aug. 8..... Water Operator Training Workshop Velvet Rose, Superior
- Aug. 9..... Water Operator Training Workshop Fire Hall, Crete
- Aug. 22..... Backflow Workshop..... Fire Hall, Wayne
- Aug. 23..... Backflow Workshop..... Beatrice
- Aug. 29..... Backflow Workshop..... Boarders Cobblestone Hotels, Grand Island
- Aug. 30..... Backflow Workshop..... Fire Hall, Ogallala

September

- Sept. 5-6 Electric Underground School..... Sidney
- Sept. 11-13 ... Rubber Gloving Workshop Sidney
- Sept. 19-21 ... League Annual Conference..... Holiday Inn, Kearney
- Sept. 27 Water Operator Training Workshop Rowe Public Safety Center, Nebraska City

October

- Oct. 2..... Water Operator Training Workshop Mid-Plains Community College, Broken Bow
- Oct. 3..... Water Operator Training Workshop Glenn Hawks Community Service Building, Lexington
- Oct. 4..... Water Operator Training Workshop Engineering Building, Grand Island
- Oct. 24..... Water Operator Training Workshop Lincoln

Mark your calendars!

Jan. 16-18, 2019
Utilities/Public Works Section Annual
Conference
Embassy Suites, Lincoln

Jan. 23-24, 2019
Annual Snowball Wastewater
Conference
Holiday Inn, Kearney

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