

## Public Works Advisory Committee Report 3/19/2012

On June 23 2011, at the request of Mayor Tom Curran the Public Works Advisory committee was formed.

The Mission Statement as determined by the Mayor and Committee Members is as follows:

**The purpose of the Public Works Advisory Committee is to objectively investigate and report options that could reduce the cost of essential services provided by the village to the taxpayer, all while maintaining an acceptable standard of systems and services. The committee will advise the mayor and the village board based on its findings.**

The members of this committee are: Edgar Acevedo - Chairman, James Simmons - Co-Chairman, Stephen Campbell – Secretary, Jim Klinger, Marty Schmitt, and Rusty Vazac. The following members have contributed in a limited fashion due to time constraints or other limitations: Bob Meehan, Peter Palleschi, Walter Vosburgh.

The Committee has been meeting on a monthly basis interviewing parties who have information pertinent to helping it achieve the goals stated in the above Mission Statement.

The following topics have been discussed at length and the Committee wishes to send their conclusions to the Mayor and Trustees at this time.

- 1) In regards to the village water tower: Because of it's age, the lack of routine inspection and maintenance, the frequency of repairs needed and the age of the last inspection, the recommendation of the committee is that the tower should be inspected by an unbiased party (recommended by the village engineer) to determine what future actions should be taken to repair or replace the structure. A routine maintenance schedule should be adopted and budgeted for by the village.
- 2)
- 3) In regards to the village reservoir: This committee has determined that the village engineer should supervise a course of action to determine the amount of leakage from the reservoir. Complaints from residents located below the reservoir of increased water flow onto their properties is one reason to investigate. Another reason would be to determine the potential waste and cost of energy to pump water to the reservoir if there was a significant loss of that water through leakage. The results of testing for leakage would influence the decision to replace the reservoir with a tank or to reline the reservoir with whatever medium would be practical to stem the loss of water. Once an action has been taken, a maintenance schedule should be instituted and budgeted for by the village.

- 4)
- 5) Because of deteriorating infrastructure, the residents of Ghent will be looking at a significant increase in their water bills should the water piping need to be replaced. It is recommended by the committee that the Town of Ghent form its own water district, which has been proposed numerous times in the past, so they would be eligible for monetary aid should any extensive repairs become necessary. It is also recommended that the people who would be effected by rate increases when the lines need to be replaced should be made aware of the inevitable added costs that will occur when the repairs are needed.

The above three topics are the first items to be presented to the Mayor and Board of Trustees. The Committee will be presenting more recommendations as other concerns are addressed.