

To Tillamook City Council

The Public Works staff that are involved with Water, Waste Water and public safety are classified by both the Federal and State government as “Essential workers”. The City’s essential workers goals are still the same .

#1 - Clean safe drinking water. #2 - Wastewater drains to the wastewater plant for treatment. #3 - Street signs and road marking are in place for safety.

The staff have added duties responsibility that Covid-19 has placed on them at the work place, as well as their home life. The State OHA has made recommendations on face covering, cleaning of touched surfaces and social distancing. In short, the work place has changed and the way we do business has had to change to meet the new regulations.

The street crews have installed new temporary signs required by the OHA for opening the parks and play areas back up. We currently don’t have the manpower to meet the OHA requirements of cleaning the restrooms so they will need to be kept closed. We have placed port-a-potty’s in some of the parks.

Even with the added work load of the Covid- 19 cleaning requirement, the crews have been working on resetting broken street signs, patching potholes with the new hot patch machine, and cleaning and repair of catch basins. The crew had also prepare road closed signs and directions signs in the trailer in case the protests here in town required traffic control. June Dairy Parade signs were prepared so they could be put out.

The street crews have been working drainage on Hawthorne on the east end. At this location, water would spring up through the pavement braking it up and causing soft spots on the roadway. No patch will hold till the water is under control. They cut, then removed the pavement, installed a drain pipe, and connected that pipe to the storm system. This should direct the water appropriately. The old pavement was then removed and prepped for the new pavement which was installed by S&C paving.

The City Hall is still on going. The Flag pole has been removed along with the tree stumps. Our crews have been working doing finish work inside and around the offices areas as well as helping with office station changes and moves. There is still considerable amount of work to do on the outside like waterproofing of the west side ground area, in order to stop the water leaking into the downstairs. Filling in the outside window wells and connecting the down spouts to the storm drain system are included in this project.

The water crews have been doing the general plant operations and main line operations. They have installed a new meter at the High Schools as well smaller ones through out the town. Last month they installed an insert-a-valve on the 3rd St. line. This month they installed the fire hydrant in preparation for the changes on 3rd St./ Stillwell intersection widening. We are starting into the dryer season, so the crews are out and about working on projects, including main line repair in fields that are too wet to get equipment in to the repair areas during most of the year. This is the time of year for leak detection on the water mains, flushing the main lines, repairing hydrants, installing meters and other repairs.

The block grant for the sewer repairs has required the water crews to locate water lines as well as a few repairs of service lines when things did not go as planed. They have been on site when the sewer contractor is digging around the critical water mains just in case things go wrong.

The sewer crews have also been working with the block grant sewer contractor locating the sewer laterals and keeping up with the changing field conditions. The sewer crews have also been doing plant and collection system normal operations along with inspecting sewer main lines and flushing and other normal field operations.

As we return back from the Covid-19 shut down to the new normal conditions the work load will only increase on an already short public works staff.

Tim Lyda, Director of Public Works







