

## **Powers Lake Highlights of 2015-2016**

The last few years have been a busy period for the City of Powers Lake.

The city has been selling a great deal of water and at the same time making sure the residents supply is not jeopardized. The city has had excellent income the last few years, but the water sales have slowed way down because the oil activity has stopped.

The city council has been trying to improve the infrastructure of the city as well as help various community groups that are trying to meet the challenges during the oil boom. In the spring of 2015 the city received a 1.8 million dollars Surge Fund Grant from the State. The money was to be used to improve infrastructure.

We used some of the grant money to finish our street resurfacing project. About eighteen blocks were resurfaced and a new asphalt surface was applied to about four blocks of Hillcrest Ave. and Anderson Street. The city also had the streets we resurfaced the last few years chip sealed.

A new street sweeper was purchased because we have had a lot of problems with trying to hire someone to clean the streets or run a used machine.

Another problem we have had is a dead end water line on Ueland Street and also on 5<sup>th</sup> Ave. These areas tend to build up sediments so this summer we are going to have a construction project to connect them and also supply water and sewer to more lots in the northeast part of the city.

As a result of the Elementary School being moved we are planning a walking path from the downtown area to the new Cenex to make a safe route for children. We have applied for a TAP Grant to cover some of this cost. In order to get the speed limit reduced on Highway 50 the Cenex needs to put in turning lanes into the new station and the city might add turning lanes on our side as well for more safety.

Other projects the city had this year that were largely funded by water sales include new street lights for the Lake Park, camping area, tennis courts and pier area with underground wiring to improve the appearance. A large Fogger was purchased to be used to control mosquitos and other water bugs that have been a nuisance in the community. The city council has helped several community organizations during 2015. The Fire Dept. received \$15,000 to help with an addition to their building. The Ambulance Dist. received \$15,000. The Summer Rec. received \$4,000 for operating expense. The Park Board received \$15,000 for the improvements in the parks. The city purchased a dredge to be used by the Powers Lake Watershed Project to clean up the lake. They will have funds to rent the machine from the city and that will pay for it.

A new Alcohol ordinance was developed to replace a very outdated one. Our new city attorney, Amber Fiesel, developed it from the state laws and other city ordinances and it is now posted on the bulletin board at City Hall.

The city hired Eric Payne to help with city water and sewer and street sweeping as well as other maintenance. Our second police officer resigned, but we hired a replacement that will be starting in April. His name is Alex Schwab and he is from the Devils Lake area. Most of his salary is covered by a State Police Officers Grant for one more year.

City meetings are open to the public and public comments are always welcome. If you are interested in serving your community there are two positions on the city council open for election this year.