

December 23, 2014

As the yearend nears, we have completed our planning for 2015 and made the necessary appropriations to cover the expected expenses. We have been very fortunate over the past 10 years to enjoy significant growth in our industrial base and in our housing market. We certainly appreciate the commitment of our local businesses and residents and continue to try to make improvements in our infrastructure and in the overall appearance of our community to make sure we are doing everything we can at the village level to keep Fort Recovery compliant with all state and federal regulations, while also continuing to make improvements to our streetscapes including curbing and sidewalks and trying to provide other amenities in our parks to meet the needs of the community. As always there are many projects that we would like to complete but finances require that we prioritize and budget to stay within our means.

A few projects that we are looking at for 2015 include some necessary improvements to our sanitary lagoon system that will enable us to stay compliant while also making sure we have the proper flow and treatment capacity to handle future growth within the village for many years. We are researching the options and meeting with the Ohio EPA to make sure that how we proceed will meet all requirements and at the same time be the most cost effective and efficient project to meet our objectives. We are also preparing for the possibility of some utility extensions and roadwork to handle future growth in both our industrial and residential areas. While nothing is finalized at this time it is important that we are ready to move when the need arises as both are critical to the long term success of Fort Recovery. We will also be looking into allocating some funds to overlay some streets next summer, mainly those in the area of the recently completed Sewer Separation Project. We will monitor the streets and complete the work on as many as funding allows. Our park project for 2015 will be to add a parking area to Community Park to help alleviate the lack of parking available during our summer activities. The village will also be replacing some older vehicles and equipment while possibly adding a small bucket truck for various uses including street light maintenance. We will also complete the addition to the water plant garage area that will include a new sanitary lab that will be utilized by village personnel to complete our own testing in-house to provide quicker and more cost effective test results.

Again – plenty to accomplish and many more projects on our to-do list over the next few years including getting back to completing street reconstruction on those streets in need of curbs and sidewalks, keeping our water plant up to date and working properly and making more improvements to our pool and parks.

In continuing to recognize the various boards and committees, this week I want to acknowledge the Cemetery Board members. Our current board consists of John Ickes, Ray Houck and Mike Fullenkamp. Their duties include overseeing the operation of the two village owned cemeteries just west of town, Spring Hill and Green Mound. John is the current president and acts as cemetery manager and is the go to person with anything dealing with the cemeteries including the purchase of burial lots, coordinating the burials with funeral homes and seeing that records are properly maintained. John has been doing this for years and is a huge asset to our community. Ray and Mike assist John as necessary and help with setting policy and procedures for the cemeteries. As with most committees and boards they do their work in the background and most people don't realize what it takes to successfully operate a cemetery. We certainly understand the commitment and commend each of these gentlemen for their continued service to our community. Thank you!!

We here at the Village wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and hope that you have plenty of time to enjoy your family during this holiday season!!

!! MERRY CHRISTMAS !!