

January 06, 2015

2015 has arrived and with it some very cold and snowy weather. Village crews again did a great job of getting out early and providing cleared streets by daybreak. Please make sure that you take extra caution when approaching or passing a snow plow. It is necessary for the plows to back-up at times, especially near intersections, and it is important that you keep plenty of distance between you and the truck. Also as we discuss each winter, it is very helpful to have as many vehicles parked off the street as possible to allow the crews to push the snow back to the curb in order to provide street parking thereafter. A reminder that we try to plow the main streets first, all other streets next, and then will finish up by cleaning up intersections and plowing alleys. Your patience is appreciated as the crews complete these tasks and continue to keep our streets in great shape during the winter months.

Also with this long cold weather spell, it is important to take the extra steps to avoid having frozen water lines. It is always helpful to keep the cabinet doors below sinks open, leave the faucets on outside walls dripping slightly and be sure that the vents in the crawl spaces are closed and/or insulated.

We continue to work on the planning for improvements to our sanitary lagoons. Due to some serious erosion issues along the north banks of the lagoons, it is necessary for us to contract to have some work done to prevent further damage and to provide erosion control for the long term. We anticipate this work being completed over the next couple weeks as long as the weather cooperates. We are also continuing to look at additional improvements to our existing lagoons along with the possibility of adding a third treatment pond. I, along with the village engineer, will be meeting with the Ohio EPA next week to discuss our proposed plans and hopefully formulate a plan from which to proceed. Should we achieve completion of these improvements, our village sanitary system will be in great shape for many years to come.

We also continue to work with ODOT on long term plans to address our truck traffic issues as they travel through our village on State Route 49. We are looking at making improvements to the intersection of the two highways along with reviewing and researching possible routes to improve the winding routes that trucks must follow. More will follow as we progress through our discussions and determine possible solutions.

Other paving projects, park improvements, and equipment purchases will be completed during 2015 and I will share that information as we proceed through the year.

In continuing with my recognition of the various boards and committees that serve Fort Recovery, this week I will focus on our Zoning Board of Appeals. This board meets as necessary to review various zoning requests that require that a variance or conditional use permit be granted to address specific issues that may vary from our zoning code. The most frequent request is to allow a variance to yard setback requirements which can be necessary due to have many older homes and smaller platted lots from our early years. This board consists of five members who include Dave Kaup as the council representative and at-large appointed members Cy Muhlenkamp, George Stammen, Diana Grile, and Scott Zehringer. They are volunteer members and some have been involved with the zoning board for many years. It can be a thankless job but these members do a great job of being fair while using a common sense approach to our zoning issues. THANK YOU to each of these members for their contributions to the Fort Recovery community.