

Utilities Section Newsletter

League of Nebraska Municipalities

May 2023

Legislature adopts several measures affecting utilities and public works departments

*By Lash Chaffin,
Utilities Section Director*

The 2023 Nebraska Legislature adopted several measures that will affect Nebraska municipal utilities and public works departments. **LB 683** contained an amended version of **LB 122** related to the one-call system. The adopted measure has two main concepts. First, the measure attempts to address the issue of repeat locate requests. It now will be a violation of the one-call act to request a locate if work cannot be commenced within 17 days or request a relocate if work cannot be commenced within 14 days. This provision was added to the law at the request of the League, the Rural Electric Association, OPPD, the gas companies, and many others.

The second concept forms what is being called the “One-Call Hit Court” that will have authority to deal with small one-call disputes when infrastructure is damaged.

The amendment creates the Underground Excavation Safety Committee (the Hit Court) comprised of five members:

- State Fire Marshal (or designee);
- Two Operators (underground facility owners); and
- Two Excavators.

The duty of the Committee will be to review complaints of One-Call Act violations, determine if violations have occurred, and determine if a civil penalty should be assessed when a violation has occurred.

If the recommended civil penalty is less than \$10,000, a process is initiated where the party can pay the fine or request a hearing under the APA, etc. The Committee can require continuing education for a violator.

If the recommended civil penalty exceeds \$10,000, the matter shall be referred to the Attorney General for prosecution. The changes to the One-Call Act will become effective Sept. 2, 2023.

Among the amendments adopted to LB 565 was the contents of **LB 289** which authorizes the Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska (MEAN) to provide service to members such as advanced metering and cybersecurity. MEAN was formed under the Municipal Cooperative Financing Act and in order to provide these services to municipalities, MEAN needed specific statutory authority. A city or village already has the authority to provide these services on their

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own but many cities and villages want to participate and manage these services on a cooperative basis through MEAN.

The language of LB 289 now amended into LB 565 was supported by NMPP Energy, Crete City Administrator Tom Ourada, the League, and the Nebraska Power Association.

Also among the amendments to LB 565 was the language of the original **LB 567** which strikes the prohibition on a high-level manager employed by a public power district from serving as a member of the board of directors of another public power district. A high-level manager is defined as a person employed by a district who serves in a high-level managerial position, including chief executive officer, president, vice president, chief financial officer, chief operations officer, general manager, or assistant general manager. The original LB 567 also adds a definition of reliable or reliability. This definition does not constitute a new standard for an electric supplier.



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UTILITIES SECTION

Lash Chaffin
Utilities Section Director
Rob Pierce
Utilities Field Representative

Classifieds

The City of North Platte is hiring! Due to growth and retirements, the City of North Platte is currently looking to fill the following job positions:

- Sanitation Driver-Loader
- Part-time Parks Maintenance I
- Personnel & Payroll Technician
- Assistant Accountant/Internal Auditor
- Senior Accountant

Please refer to the City of North Platte's website for the job descriptions of each job position: ci.north-platte.ne.us/. A job application is on the City of North Platte's website or you may get an application at the City Clerk's Office at City Hall. Please submit completed job applications by email to info@ci.north-platte.ne.us. Mail to: City of North Platte, Attn: City Clerk's Office, 211 West 3rd Street, North Platte, NE 69101.

Apprentice Lineman. City of Benkelman is accepting applications for the position of Apprentice Lineman in the Electric Department. This position's responsibilities include, but aren't limited to: Construction and maintenance of overhead and underground electric distribution systems, operate a high lift bucket truck, digger derrick, and other equipment, assists other city operations, and perform other duties as required, available for 24-hour emergency calls. Requirements include high school graduation, ability to obtain a CDL license issued by the State of NE within 1 year of hire. Excellent benefits package is included. Employment is contingent upon successful completion of a post-offer physical and drug test. The City of Benkelman is an EOE. Applications can be picked up at the City of Benkel-



man Office located at 126 7th Ave E, Benkelman, NE 69021 or by calling 308-423-2540. The City of Benkelman is an EOE.

Journeyman Lineman. The Village of Morrill, Nebraska (Population 934) is accepting applications for the position of full-time Electric Journeyman Line Worker with a pay range of \$22-\$30 per hour DOQ. This individual will perform skilled line work in the operation,

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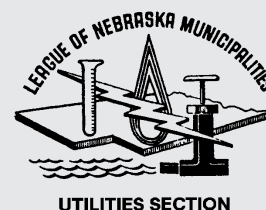
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Nebraska utilities history – Curtis

The Utilities Section Newsletter will continue to feature histories of both utilities and associate members. Any historical data and/or photos of your utilities, a specific facility, or articles already written are welcome, along with permission to print. If you have questions, contact Rob at 402-476-2829 or robp@lonm.org.

By Rob Pierce, Utilities Field Rep./Training Coordinator

Curtis is located in Frontier County which was organized Jan. 17, 1872, and approved by the Legislature in 1873 with Stockville appointed the county seat. About 1872, homesteads were being acquired under the Homestead Act. On April 11, 1877, a post office was established and located in a farmstead cabin about three miles southeast of the present town site near where Curtis Creek joins with Medicine Creek. Mail was delivered by freighters between Indianola and Fort McPherson. *Several stories or statements as to how the name "Curtis" came about. One was that the townsite was named after Oscar Curtis, an early settler. Another after a trapper who settled near the mouth of the creek about 1866. Yet another version was Ambrose Shelley, a trapper who was in the area about 1871, wrote a letter on March 8, 1926, which noted a stream and canyon*

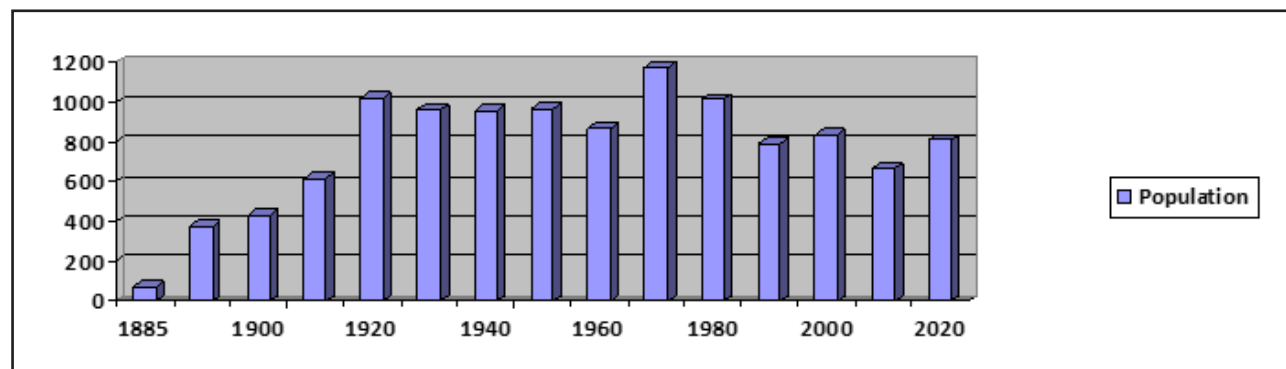
named in honor of Major James Curtis who had been stationed at Fort McPherson. The first business built was a blacksmith shop which was built when the railroad was surveying the area. Land purchased from Bakers and Kibbens was laid out for a townsite by Capt. R.O. Phillips of the Lincoln Land Company. The site was located about eight miles northwest of Stockville. With the coming of the railroad, the post office was moved to the rails. In October 1885, the Burlington and Missouri River Railroad arrived at the townsite and was selected as a division point between Holdrege and Sterling of the Nebraska and Colorado Railroad Company, known as the "High-Line." It was leased to the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy Railroad Company in 1883. A dam was constructed, forming a 60-acre lake for the water powered flour mill. The railroad added a coal chute, roundhouse, and machine shop. Citizens Bank filed for incorporation in March 1886. On May 13, 1886,



Curtis water tower. 2000 photo.

the town was established with a petition to incorporate in August, which was later withdrawn and a revised petition in January 1887. In 1886-87, a cemetery was laid out with the first lot sold and a two-story school was moved from Stockville to Curtis. The school with bell tower was located on the corner of 6th and Ord Streets. Curtis was officially incorporated as a village Jan. 13, 1887. By 1887, some form of firefighting was available and the Methodist Church was organized with a building erected. The Lakeview Hotel was operating in 1888 and a frame Congregational Church was

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Nebraska utilities history – Curtis

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built at Fifth and Howard Streets.

The population by 1890 was between 378-763, depending which source was correct and some of the businesses included a bakery, an ag implement business, a drug store, a real estate office, general stores, a meat market, two banks (Frontier County Bank, State Bank of Curtis), a jeweler, a barber, a confectioner, a harness maker, a blacksmith, a hardware store, a flour mill, a millinery, a lumber/coal yard, and Greens Hotel. There were two newspa-

pers being published, the *Frontier County Farmer* and the *Weekly Record*. A flash flood in 1894 destroyed some of the flour mill dam and drained the lake. The school was enlarged in 1896 and in 1899, the Curtis Cooperative Creamery was opened and a dray line was established between Curtis and Stockville.

In 1900, the population was 435 and in 1902, a grist mill was built in Maywood, which installed facilities to furnish electricity for the mill and the towns of Maywood and Curtis. Early settlers in

the area likely hauled water from the springs where Hugh Butler Lake is now located and from Medicine Creek. Up to 1909, water was supplied by individual wells and windmills. A water bond issue of \$15,000 was voted on and was approved in 1909. The \$15,000 bond issue was for 20 years at 4.5 percent interest and a water system was constructed. Telephone service was available by 1906, Crete Mills purchased the Curtis Roller Mill in 1907, and a Cemetery Association was

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Nebraska utilities history – Curtis

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formed in 1909.

By 1910, the population increased to 613, the mill lake was used for recreation as it adjoined the park. The fire department was formed with equipment stored in a shed next to the pump house. Early equipment consisted of a hand pump hose cart and some hand tools. The business area had wooden boardwalks along the dirt streets and school sessions were held in a two-story public school building. An attempt was made to move the county seat from Stockville to Curtis, but it was defeated. In 1910, the people agreed if the Agricultural School was located in Curtis, an electric system would be built. The school was created by the Eastman Agricultural School Act enacted by the Nebraska Legislature in 1911. On May 30, 1911, Curtis became the site for the Nebraska School of Agriculture. A three-story brick building was erected. In June 1911, a petition was presented to the village board asking that a special election be held to vote bonds for an electric light plant. P.B. Cole was contracted as superintendent of the construction and to run the plant after completion at a monthly salary of \$125. Total cost of the original construction and material was \$11,835.00. By 1912, the population was estimated at 800, an addition was made on the school, crews were harvesting ice from the mill lake, and the \$4,500 electric bond issue was for 20 years at 5 percent interest. On Jan. 1, 1913, power was turned on for the first time. The plant had a 50-horsepower (HP) engine and a simple distribution system. In April, a special election voted for

another bond issue to finish paying for the light system. On Sept. 9, 1913, the State Agricultural High School started on the 463 acres of land, purchase cost was \$29,733.04 (not all was donated). The power plant only operated a few years before an upgrade was needed and was enlarged to 120 HP capacity. By 1915, the Curtis plant had 325 HP gas engines with a generator rating of 325 kilovolt ampere (kVA). The first addition to the cemetery was purchased in 1915. A gymnasium was built at the college and in September, the Lakeview Hotel was destroyed by fire.

The population increased to 1,017 in 1920 and an addition was made to the cemetery in 1921. On Jan. 5, 1922, Curtis was incorporated as a city of the second class. A brick Curtis Grade School was built in 1922 for \$100,000 and opened Sept. 4. The electric system in 1926 converted from a direct current (DC) system to an alternating current (AC) system. The municipal power plant in 1928 had rates of \$0.15 per kilowatt hour (kWh) and a new unit was put in operation in 1929. In 1928, the municipal water system had rates of \$0.15 per 1,000 gallons with a minimum of \$2.50 per quarter. The cesspools and septic tanks were replaced in 1927 as a sanitary sewer system with sewage treatment was being constructed.

In 1930, the population was 960 and by 1932, Main Street was paved along with 10 other blocks of principle streets. The fire bell was replaced by an electric siren in 1934 and Curtis was a member of the League of Nebraska Municipalities. During the 1930s, a

sewer system was installed and in 1934, a water reservoir was built (\$5,161). In January 1935, the electric distribution system was operated by the City of Curtis and the power plant was operating a five-cylinder Fairbanks-Morse 33D 14 engine. By 1936, the municipal power plant had a capacity of 525 kW using an internal combustion power generation. In 1937, 20 more blocks of streets were paved (PWA project) and in 1939, the Curtis power plant was providing wholesale electric service to Moorefield.

In 1940, the population was 952 and the Federated Women's Club took charge of the library with some funding from the city council. A board was established and in 1945, the library moved to a building at 3rd and Center Streets. The city in 1945 purchased 160 acres for an airport, one-and-one-half miles east of town with plans by June to secure a Class I airport. The Rural Fire District was formed in 1947. By 1949-50, all remaining streets in the city were paved and concrete street storm sewers were installed. In December 1949, the city officially established a municipal library and a library board was appointed.

The population was 964 by 1950 and there once again was a discussion to move the county seat from Stockville to Curtis, but failed to get the required 60 percent vote. The airport was built and by September 1951, consisted of a Class II airport with two lighted runways, an administration building, and a lighted beacon on 160-acres. An addition was made to the cemetery in 1954 with money being raised for fencing and a flagpole

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Nebraska utilities history – Curtis

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donation by the Legion (1955). In 1955, the power plant had an eight-cylinder Fairbanks-Morse OP 38 one-half non-turbo diesel engine in operation, a capacity of 0.90 megawatts (MW) along with plant improvements costing \$146,000. In 1956, the city had 575 meters in service with lighting and water pumping at \$0.03 per kWh. In 1958, an Easter Pageant was held, which later led to being titled the “Nebraska Easter City” in 1981.

The population decreased to 864 by 1960, a (40 ft x 100 ft) municipal swimming pool was built, and a project was proposed for the marking of streets and houses. The water system consisted of 320 meters with rates of \$0.20 per 1,000 up to 50,000 gallons (gals.) then \$0.10 per 1,000 over 50,000 gals, with a minimum of \$3.60 per quarter for 18,000 gals. The electric system consisted of six miles of lines with 750 meters in service and the cost of street lighting and pumping water at \$0.03 per kWh. A new street sweeper was purchased (\$10,000) in 1961. A project was started for a new public wastewater treatment plant, which was completed in 1963. In 1967, the Kansas-Nebraska Natural Gas Company purchased the Curtis Gas Company & LP gas retailer. On May 23, 1968, the city received the official deed to Mill Park. The Curtis “Aggies” (red/white/black) High School closed in 1968 and the Medicine Valley Junior/Senior High School was established. In July 1969, the library was moved to a building between Center and Pope Avenue. A 10-cylinder Fairbanks-Morse OP 38 one-half diesel with a ca-

capacity of 1.140 MW was put into operation in 1969.

In 1970, the population was 1,166, ambulance service started in 1972, and work began on enlarging/updating the wastewater treatment facility, which was completed in 1974. A 12-cylinder Fairbanks-Morse OP 38 one-half diesel, capacity 1.360 MW was put in operation in 1975. The electrical distribution system was owned/operated by the city and supplied by MEAN. In the fall of 1975, the Rural Fire District purchased a fire hall at Pope and First Street. In September 1879, Mrs. Doris Klyte donated \$25,000 toward a new library to be called the “Klyte Burt Memorial Library.” The new library was located north of the power plant on land earlier donated to the city by the Langevin family. In 1979, Medicine Valley School District #120 and Curtis Public School District #70 merged to form Medicine Valley School Class III District #125.

The population was 1,014 in 1980 and in December, the new brick Klyte Burt Memorial Library building was dedicated. The natural gas system was operated/supplied by Kansas-Nebraska Natural Gas Company. The electric system was completely rebuilt in 1985 and the city served retail electric service to Maywood. A second ambulance was purchased in 1980 and in 1985, an addition was made to the fire hall, doubling the size. A new pumper was purchased to go with the 1959 fire truck and the fire department had about 25 volunteer firefighters. The water distribution lines were upgraded in 1985.

By 1990, the natural gas system was operated/supplied by

Midwest Energy then in 1995, operated by KN Energy Inc. The municipal power plant by 1998 had four Fairbanks Morse engines installed in 1935, 1955, 1969, and 1975 with a rated capacity of 2.72 megawatts of generation. The sewer disposal plant consisted of a facultative retention lagoon system. The population increased from 791 in 1990 to 832 in 2000 and in 2004, the municipal power plant had three Fairbanks Morse engines installed in 1955, 1966, and 1975 with a rated capacity of 3.4 megawatts of generation. In 2007, the natural gas was operated by Kinder Morgan until 2007-2008, then operated by SourceGas and supplied by ACE. A new community center was constructed with the help of a generous donation from an alum of Curtis High School. The center housed a recreation space, city offices, and a public meeting place.

The population in 2010 was 664 and in 2014, Curtis won the “Best Water Taste Test” contest at the National Rural Water Association competition held in Washington, D.C. The water system had 101 commercial and 427 residential customers, all metered. By 2015, the natural gas system was operated by Black Hills Energy (supplier in 2020 was Tall Grass Energy). A new park was completed in 2020 and the airport had a concrete runway (3,402 ft x 69 ft) and a turf runway (2,200 ft x 120 ft). Today, Curtis has a population of 806, has been incorporated for 136 years, and is a League of Nebraska Municipalities and Utilities Section Member.

References: Nebraska Directory of Municipal Officials, 1960,

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Nebraska utilities history – Fullerton

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By Rob Pierce, Utilities Field Rep./Training Coordinator

Fullerton, located in Nance County, from the late 1700s to the mid-1800s, saw French traders, migrating Mormons, and settlers come through the area. The area where Nance County and some of the nearby counties reside was made into Pawnee Reservation by a treaty in 1856. An Indian School was built in a nearby town, and villages were established near the present site of Fullerton. After the Civil War, displaced citizens, immigrants, and entrepreneurs followed the transcontinental railroad. Initially, Nance County could not be settled by the provisions of the Homestead Act because it was an Indian Reservation. In 1871, the Pawnees were transferred to Oklahoma and the land was auctioned off “to benefit the Indians” with a minimum bid set at \$2.50 per acre. Land was purchased and by 1871, a town site was surveyed. In July 1876, Randall Fuller was driving a herd of cattle from Minnesota to

Colorado and decided to establish his future headquarters in the Fullerton area rather than continuing on to Colorado. Other settlers soon followed and in 1877, an 80-acre town site was surveyed. It was located at the junction of the Loup and Cedar Rivers (one source noted a plat in 1878). R. Fuller, from the area, and D. Willard, from the Genoa area, were competing for the county seat. On Jan. 19, a Methodist Church was organized and by August, a post office was established as Cedar Rapids, located just to the east. The townsite had a system of streets marked only by stakes as Fullerton was named the temporary county seat, pending the organization of a county government. Fuller had donated 60 acres of land to the county to build a courthouse. A private school was being taught in the area and in August 1879, the Cedar Rapids Post Office was moved to the Fullerton site. The streets were platted at 80 feet (ft) wide except Broadway which was 100 ft and the lots were 66 ft x 165 ft. That fall, the

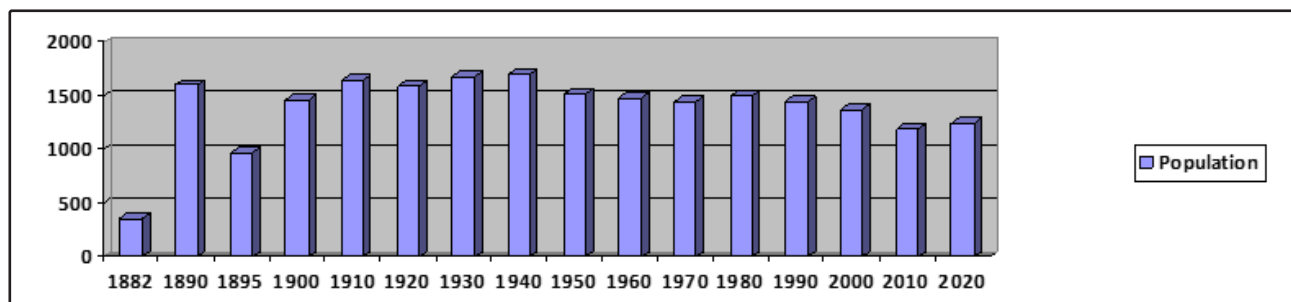


Fullerton water tank. 2015 photo.

Cedar Valley Hotel was built and the first issue of the *Nance County Journal* newspaper was published in October. By November, the Nance County Bank opened and later incorporated Oct. 1, 1881. On Dec. 8, 1879, the post office was established as Fullerton.

In the fall of 1880, the Fullerton Flouring Mill was erected and on April 15, a plat was filed in Nance County. On July 27, the Reynolds addition plat was recorded along with the County addition plat. On Jan. 19, 1881, the Cedar River Lodge (A.F. & A. M.) was organized, and a courthouse was built

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Nebraska utilities history – Fullerton

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in 1881. In March 1881, the Fuller and Slaughter Additions were platted and on Oct. 22, the *Nance County Republican* newspaper was first published. First National Bank & Trust was established and by 1882, the population was about 350. In June, the Fullerton State Bank was incorporated and about 1883, the School District #1 was organized (one source listed public school was established in 1884). On June 16, 1884, Fullerton was incorporated as a village

(one source listed March 1, 1881). Reynolds Park was established and a block was platted for Nebraska Wesleyan University.

On Feb. 13, 1885, the Fullerton Cemetery Association held its first meeting to purchase 10 acres for a cemetery with lots sold for \$10 and \$15. On Feb. 25, 1888, the *Fullerton Post* newspaper was published. Also that year, the settlement supported about 40 businesses and the first high school class graduated.

By 1890, the population in-

creased to 1,600 and some of the village businesses included a brick manufacturer, a general store, a confectionery, a cigar manufacturer, a bakery, a shoemaker, a grain elevator, Citizens State Bank, a wagon maker, a hardware store, Fullerton Roller Mills, a livery, *Nance County Journal* newspaper, a ag implement dealer, a meat market, a blacksmith, a barber, a furniture store, and Commercial House Hotel. Early water likely was hauled from the Cedar Creek

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Nebraska utilities history – Fullerton

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to the north and the Loup River to the south. In 1890, the Roller Mill operated with two turbine wheels (48- and 60-inch), a 200-foot mill race, which empties back into the river, was owned by the Martin, Potter & Company. By 1892, water mains were laid for a water works system and a creamery was established. In October 1892, the village was to have electric lights by winter operated by a Dynamo at the mill run by water-power (Hydropower). In 1892, a library was organized and several brick buildings were erected in the business district. The population dropped by 1895 to 968 but increased by 1900 to 1,464. From 1902-1918 the Fullerton light plant was drawing 200 second feet from the Cedar River with a 12-foot head and using a 273 horsepower (HP) engine. A fire in 1902 damaged the Fullerton Drug Store with damages amounting to \$3,000-\$5,000. The hydroelectric plant was located on Cedar Creek and the Fullerton Electric Light Plant began operation in 1903.

From 1905-07, the village had the Fullerton Electric Light & Power Company.

By 1910, the population was 1,638 and the village had a two-and-one-half story brick public school building. In 1913-14, the brick Carnegie Public Library was built. The municipal water works had a gross income of \$2,000 in 1915. The system consisted of two, 15-foot diameter, 35 ft deep wells located one-quarter mile from the distribution center. A 432,000-gallon capacity Gould pump and a 576,000-gallon capacity Fairbanks Morse pump were belted to a 15 kilowatt (kW), 440-volt three phase 60 cycle General Electric (GE) and a 15 kW 440-volt two phase 60 cycle Fairbanks Morse electric motors. The electric current was provided by Fullerton Electric Light & Power Company. The water was pumped into a 200,000-gallon reservoir. The distribution system had seven miles of four- to eight-inch cast iron pipe, 50 Kupferle and Iowa fire hydrants with three-inch hose connections, 22 right- and left-hand turning valves, and 312 National and Pittsburgh meters. The average daily consumption amounted to 150,000 gallons, serving about 320 connections with a pressure of 70

pounds (lbs.). In 1915, a privately owned brick power plant owned by the Nebraska Gas & Electric Company Power with residential rates at \$0.08-\$0.20 per kilowatt hour (kWh) and commercial rates between \$0.05-\$0.15 per kWh. In June, a special election was held to vote for a bond to build a municipal electric plant, it was defeated. In 1916, the Continental Gas and Electric Corporation acquired the Fullerton Electric Light and Power Company. The Fullerton Electric Light and Power Company had been contemplating the installation of a new gas engine and generator. Additional equipment also needed to be installed in the water works. The main business street was paved in 1917. The cemetery installed a metal gate with arch and amended its constitution for perpetual upkeep at \$100 per lot, replacing the \$2 per year assessment. It was later reduced to \$50 per year assessment. In 1922, the Fullerton Electric Light & Power Company and Ice Plant building was located on the corner of 3rd Street and the alley between Broadway and Ester Streets. Public street lighting was

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Nebraska utilities history – Fullerton

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available and the fire department consisted of 30 volunteer firefighters, one Ford truck, one hook and ladder wagon, two hose carts with 1,200 feet of 2-½-inch hose, and an electric siren at city hall. The Nebraska Gas & Electric Company supplied gas to the village in 1922. By October, the water system had five deep wells, one (8 x 12) Fairbanks-Morse pump with a capacity of 450 gallons per minute (gpm) operated by a 30 HP motor. One (8 x 10) Gould triplex pump capacity 300 gpm operated by a 20 HP Cushman gas engine. The 30 ft x 22 ft elevated tank had a capacity of 118,000 gallons. Daily consumption was 100,000 gallons with a domestic/fire pressure of 58 psi. The distribution system had six miles of four-, six- and 8-inch water mains with 50 double fire hydrants. In October 1922, the electric system was operated by the Iowa-Nebraska Light & Power Company. In 1925, the Nebraska Gas and Electric Company was spending several thousand dollars on building a completely new electric distribution system in Fullerton. In 1926, the hydro power plant was owned and operated by the Iowa Nebraska Light & Power Company. In 1927, the cemetery added five acres and on July 8, 1928, the cornerstone of the new \$150,000 high school building was laid. The Farmers State Bank closed and Fullerton became a member of the League of Nebraska Municipalities in 1928. The privately owned electric power plant in 1928 had rates ranging from \$0.09-\$0.135 per kWh. The municipal water plant and distribution system had water rates of

\$1.50 per 1,000 cubic feet (cuft) with a minimum of \$6 per year.

From 1930-1940, the population increased from 1,680 to 1,707. In 1933, Loup Public Power District was established and rural lines were contracted by 1938. The Iowa Nebraska Light and Power Company still was operating the 410-kW hydroelectric power plant. A Public Works Administration (PWA) project planted 3,000 trees in Fullerton. The Fullerton to Palmer highway was graveled in 1938 and a natural gas line was installed to town.

By 1946, two newspapers – the weekly *Nance County Journal* and a bi-monthly *Nebraska Taxpayer* – were being published. In 1950, the population was 1,520 and in 1955, bonds were let to construct a second water storage tank. The city operated a municipal water plant with 550 meters and a publicly owned sewer system maintained from a tax levy. In 1956, a new bond issue of \$50,000 for a swimming pool (28 ft x 42 ft x 100 ft) with an estimated cost of \$40,063. The airport was privately owned, garbage collection service was provided by a private collector with resident rates at \$1 per month with business rates varying. The cost of streetlighting in 1958 was \$2,400 and the cost of pumping water was \$2,100. The natural gas system in 1958 was operated/supplied by Kansas-Nebraska Natural Gas Company. The electrical system in 1960 was supplied by Consumers Public Power District with the cost of street lighting of \$190 per month and the cost of current for pumping water was \$220 per month. In 1962, a sewage plant project

consisted of a lagoon system to be built to handle a population of 1,500. Twenty-three new lights were replaced in 1969 along Highways 4 and 22 through the city limits at a cost of \$4,796 by Loup Public Power District.

The population decreased slightly from 1,475 in 1960 to 1,444 in 1970 and a new hospital was built. In 1972, the Patriot Inn Motel opened and a new city/fire hall on 2nd & Fuller Streets. New restrooms and shelters were built in the city park and new tennis courts were built for \$5,000. The city council approved of a three-year lighting improvement program and a \$53,118.56 storm sewer project was completed (intersection from 3rd to Fuller northeasterly to Cedar Creek). In 1973, a school addition was made to the school and St. Peter's Parochial School closed. In 1976, the Nance County Courthouse was built for \$440,000 and dedicated in May. The electric distribution system was operated by Loup Public Power District.

The population reached 1,506 in 1980 and a wastewater treatment plant project was underway by 1983. In 1995, the city received a grant for \$29,528 for a closure assessment and closing of an old landfill. The Pawnee Hills Golf Course, a semi-private course, was opened and the natural gas system in 1997 was operated by KN Energy Inc. Wastewater treatment in 1998 consisted of an aerated lagoon system designed for 0.2 mgd stored for land application (sprinkler irrigation) to cropland. The population dropped slightly from 1,452 in 1990 to

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Nebraska utilities history – Fullerton

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1,378 in 2000 and the city maintained a swimming pool, park with playground equipment, and a ballfield. By 2003, the natural gas system was operated by Kinder Morgan and the water system in 2004 consisted of three wells (avg. depth 300 ft) with a capacity of 0.40 million gallons per day (mgd), a peak demand of 1.0 mgd and storage capacity of 385,000 gallons. The city had mostly paved/curbed streets (76 percent in 2005) and the wastewater plant in 2007 had a rated capacity of 0.200 mgd and a demand capacity of 0.230 mgd. Solid waste collection was provided by a private collection service. Up to 2015, the natural gas system was operated/

supplied by SourceGas and since has been supplied/operated by Black Hills Energy.

Today, Fullerton has a population of 1,244, has been incorporated for 139 years, and is a League of Nebraska Municipalities and Utilities Section member.

References: Nebraska Directory of Municipal Officials, 1956, 1958, 1960, 1962, 1964-75, 1977-87, 1990-2003, 2006, 2015-2021, 2023; Nebraska Municipal Review Magazine, 1928, 1972, 1995; Water Resources of Nebraska, December 1936; Perkey's Nebraska Place Names, 1995; Nebraska Place Names, 1925, 1960; Fullerton First 100 Years (1879-1979), 1979; The Granger Newspaper, Auburn, 1915; Sargent Leader

newspaper, 1902, 1925; Maps Tell A Story, 1991; NEDED Website, 2005; The Crete Democrat Newspaper, 1891-92; Andrea's History of the State of Nebraska, 1882; U. S. Atlas Adams County, 1890; Nebraska State Gazetteer & Business Directory, 1890-91; Nebraska Blue Book, 1918, 1926, 1942, 1946, 1978; Who's Who in Nebraska, 1940; Electric World, 1917; Moody's Manual of Railroads and Corp. Securities, Part 2, 1921; Wikipedia website, 2018; Department of Labor and Department of Compensation, 1917-18; History of Hamilton & Clay Counties, Nebraska, 1921; BLS Report 1905-06, 1907; McGraw Waterworks Directory, 1915 and the Sanborn Map, October 1922.

Nebraska utilities history – Curtis

Continued from page 4
1962, 1965-75, 1977-87, 1990-2017, 2019-2023; Nebraska Municipal Review Magazine, 1928, 1932, 1934, 1989; Water Resources of Nebraska, December 1936; Public Power Magazine, Vol. 51, Number 1, January-February 1993; Department of Energy Website, 2004; The First 100 Years, Curtis Nebraska, 1986; Maps Tell a Story, 1991; NEDED Website, 2005; Curtis website, 2019, 2023; Wikipedia website, 2017-2019; Nebraska State Gazetteer & Business Directory, 1890-91; Who's Who in Frontier County Nebraska, 1940; Electric Power Development in the United States, Dept. of Agriculture, January 1916; Nebraska Historic Buildings Survey Reconnaissance Survey Final Report of Frontier

County, March 1, 1991; Early History and Reminiscence of Frontier County, Nebraska Pre-1923, W. H. "Paddy" Miles and John Bratt, 1910; Nebraska Blue Book, 1920, 1928, 1936, 1942, 1946, 1978; Curtis Nebraska The First 100 Years (1886-1986), 1986; Diamond Dust Curtis 75th Jubilee, 1961; The "Auburn Granger" newspaper, 1913-15; Directory of Electric Utilities in the United States, Federal Power Commission, 1941; Electric Rate Survey: Domestic and Residential Electric Rates in Effect January 1, 1935 by U.S. Federal Power Commission, 1935; and the Biennial Report of the Auditor of Public Accounts to the Governor of the State of Nebraska, Auditor of Public Accounts, Nebraska, 1916 Report, 1919.

Classifieds

Continued from page 2
construction, maintenance and repair of overhead and underground electric distribution and transmission systems. A Class B CDL with Airbrakes is required. Applications, with resumes, will be accepted until the position is filled. A complete job description for this position and an application is available at www.villageofmorrill.com or at the Village Office located at 118 S Center Avenue, Morrill, NE. This position includes an excellent benefit package including health insurance, retirement, vacation, sick leave, and paid holidays.

For Sale. The City of Friend has Sensus Series B Electrical meters for sale. \$5 each. Contact John R. Schwab, City Clerk/Treasurer, 235 Maple Street, Friend, NE 68359; phone: 402-947-2711.

SAFETY/HEALTH CORNER

Machine guarding

By Rob Pierce, Utilities Field Rep./Training Coordinator

The topic of machine guarding is on the “top 10 list” put out by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). Their general requirements state guards shall be affixed to the machine where possible and secured elsewhere, “Machine Guarding (1910.212).”

Each year, 18,000 machine operators/maintenance staff suffer from debilitating injuries of which 800 result in a fatality. The most common injuries are cuts or lacerations but burns (heat and chemical), crushes (hands, fingers, toes), injury from snags (clothing, jewelry, etc.), and amputations also may occur.

There basically are three areas that need to be machine guarded: 1) point of operation, 2) power

transmission device(s), and 3) operating controls. The four types of machine guards are fixed, interlocked, adjustable, and self-adjusting. The main two are fixed and adjustable. There are two primary safeguarding types: hard guards and safeguarding devices. Hard guards are physical barriers to moving parts. Safeguarding, for example, may be two-handed controls so neither hand can enter a danger zone.

Any machine part, function, or process that may cause injury should be safeguarded. Moving machine parts may have the potential to cause workplace injuries such as crushed hands/fingers, burns, amputations, cuts/lacerations, or eye damage from projectiles which could cause blindness. Saws, spinning lathes, and any type of equipment that can launch wood chips, sparks, splashes, or



sprays from chemicals should be guarded. Items such as weed trimmers, edgers, cutting equipment like saws, pruners, etc., can send or launch rocks, chunks of concrete, chunks of branches/twigs, and other debris. Always wear proper personal protective equipment (PPE), including heat resistant. Note: OSHA standard 1910 requires standard guards when at least seven feet in height from the floor or platform.

Reference information on the osha.gov website includes a sample of the K-State manual “Mowing and trimming safety for landscaping and horticulture services industry.” Remember the minimum requirements of machine guarding are to prevent contact and be secure. Do not remove guards unless maintenance is being performed with the power off.

May: Monthly Celebration Acknowledgments

National Electric Safety Month www.esfi.org

National Water Safety Month www.nationalwatersafetymonth.org

National Heatstroke Month www.nhtsa.gov

Other events recognized in May include Older Americans Month, Clean Air Month, Healthy Vision Month, Building Safety Month, National Police Month, and EMS Week (15-21).

If you access this website www.calendarr.com/united-states/observances-2023/, there is a celebration or event listed for every day of the year.

Do you know the difference between Memorial Day and Veterans Day?

Memorial Day, originally called Decoration Day, was decorating graves of those lost in the American Civil War when citizens placed flowers on the graves of those who had been killed in battle. After World War I, it came to be observed in honor of those who had died in all U.S. wars, and its name was changed to Memorial Day. Later, the day became a national floating holiday. The Uniform Monday Holiday Act in which Congress permanently moved three Federal holidays in the United States (Washington's Birthday, Memorial Day, and Labor Day) permanently to Monday. The Act also made Columbus Day a federal holiday. This created long weekends with three days off ending

with the holidays, such as Memorial Day Weekend and Labor Day Weekend.

Veterans Day commemorates those currently serving and veterans of all wars. The day occurs on Nov. 11 of every year in the United States in honor of the "eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month" of 1918 that signaled the end of World War I, known as Armistice Day. President Dwight D. Eisenhower officially changed the name from Armistice Day to Veterans Day in 1954. In 1968, the Uniform Holidays Bill was passed by Congress, which moved the celebration of Veterans Day to the fourth Monday in October. The law went into effect in 1971, but was changed back to

Nov. 11, by President Gerald Ford in about 1975 or 1978 due to the important historical significance of the date. *Note: Great Britain, France, Australia, and Canada also commemorate the veterans of both World Wars I and II on or near Nov. 11. In Canada, its Remembrance Day and in Britain, its Remembrance Sunday, the second Sunday in November.*

Memorial Day honors those who died in service and Veterans Day pays tribute to all American Veterans, living or dead. Many of our municipal employees are veterans and I would like to personally take this time to say, "thank you" and also to remember those who have passed for their committed efforts for the country and its people.



Clockwise from upper left: Memorials in Taylor, Wood River, Columbus, Kenesaw, Lincoln, Dodge, and Auburn.

Nebraska utilities history – Wakefield

The Utilities Section Newsletter will continue to feature histories of both utilities and associate members. Any historical data and/or photos of your utilities, a specific facility, or articles already written are welcome, along with permission to print. If you have questions, contact Rob at 402-476-2829 or rob@lonm.org.

By Rob Pierce, Utilities Field Rep./Training Coordinator

Wakefield, located in both Dixon and Wayne Counties, had settlers in the area by 1869 as one source noted the first structure built was a barn. School sessions were held in January of 1875 at the home of C. T. Barto who was one of the first settlers in the area. About 1878 a grist mill was built on Logan Creek about one and a half miles from Taffe. Taffe (or Taffee) was located southwest of present-day Wakefield. In 1880, land was deeded to the Sioux City and Nebraska Railroad Company for \$1 plus value derived from the location of a depot.

In the spring of 1881, construction began on the Sioux City and Nebraska Railroad Company, which was later sold to the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha Railroad. In August 1881, a hotel was built with the townsite named for L.W. Wakefield, the engineer in charge of the surveying party which platted

out the townsite. A post office was established Oct. 22, 1881. By fall, the settlement had a store along with several dwellings constructed, three structures moved from LaPorte and by Dec. 1, the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad had arrived.

On Jan. 1, 1882, a frame C & NW Railroad depot was built, the population was about 100, and businesses included two general stores, a hardware, a drug store, a blacksmith shop, an ag implement dealer, a hotel, a lumberyard, a bank, and a brickyard. Most of the brick buildings erected from 1882-1884 were built using Wakefield brick. The *Wakefield Star* newspaper, established in 1882, later became the *Wakefield Republican*. In May 1882, a frame school was built and donated to the town as District #60 was formed. By 1883, the population was estimated to be 200 and noted by one source that Wakefield was incorporated as a village that summer. In 1885, the two brickyards were making 875,000 bricks per year. By 1886, the Occidental Hotel was built

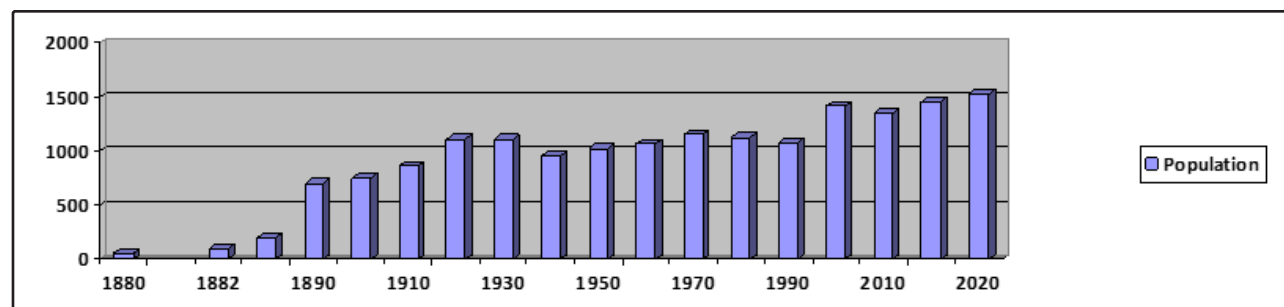


Wakefield water tower. 2018 photo.

and the population was about 800. By 1887, some of the businesses included three general stores, a meat market, a harness shop, two banks, two hardware stores, two lumberyards, two grain elevators, two drug stores, and two hotels.

In July 1892, bonds to construct waterworks were voted on and in 1894-95, a waterworks was built for approximately \$10,000. By 1896, the waterworks consisted of driven wells, a Buffalo

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Nebraska utilities history – Wakefield

Continued from page 14
duplex pump with a capacity of 4,000 gallons (gals) pumping to a 65,000-gal (12 ft x 80 ft) stand-pipe. The system had 22 taps to lead and iron services, nine fire hydrants, no meters, and a system pressure of 37 pounds per square inch (psi). Daily water consumption averaged 3,000 gals with a maximum of 6,500 gals, and minimum at 2,000 gals. In 1896, the water system had a bonded debt of \$7,000 at 6 percent interest. The population was noted at about 300 in 1890 but between 700-800 by 1895 (one source noted almost 1,000). Businesses included two flour mills, a broom factory, a grocery, a barber, a wagon maker, three churches, two banks, a blacksmith, a restaurant, a millinery, a livery, a saloon, and a lumberyard. By 1896, it was noted there were about 50 business houses in town. The brick school, which was built in 1895, had 200 pupils by 1896 and an addition was platted to the village in 1898. In 1899, the Wakefield Cemetery Association was reorganized at the cemetery which had lots sold in 1880.

By 1900, the population was 755 and the water system had two, six-inch wells, a Buffalo duplex steam pump, one mile of four- and six-inch water pipes, a system pressure at 48 psi and an average daily consumption in summer at 18,000 gals and winter at 2,000 gals. In January, there was no regular organized fire department, but fire protection included two hose carts with 1,000 ft of hose, a fire alarm whistle, and a bell. In 1902 a (50 ft x 90 ft) frame city auditorium was built. In the early 1900s, the Wakefield

Manufacturing Company was manufacturing “shark pliers,” a soda factory was in operation, and Wakefield become incorporated as a city of the second class. The fire department was organized in 1908 with 40 charter members, a hand-cart and a hook and ladder crew. By 1909, there were two volunteer companies (15 men each), two hose carts with 950 ft of hose and a hook and ladder cart. The water system by July consisted of three, six-inch wells and a Deming Triplex pump with a capacity of 705 gallons per minute (gpm) using a 75 horsepower (HP) engine. There were about one and one-half miles of four- and six-inch water mains along with 18 double hydrants. A fire station was located at Third Street which had a fire bell by the water standpipe. Discussion of an electric or a gas lighting plant in 1906 resulted in a 93-80 vote for a plant. In July 1909, the city had public lights lit by gas. About this time, there were complaints of high gas prices as high-test gasoline used in the plant was \$0.24 per gallon and regular gas was \$0.15 per gallon. The first Wakefield Library was housed in the northwest corner of the auditorium building (1902-03). Following an ordinance approval, the city took over the library in June 1904.

The population by 1910 was 861, a high school was established, and the Logan Valley Golf Course was operating

The Wakefield Bottling Works “pop factory” was shut down in 1913. The Logan Hotel was built in 1913 and in November, a fire destroyed the Wakefield Roller Mill. In 1914, some of the businesses included five grain elevators, a plier factory, a tombstone

factory, five ice houses, four cafes, two liverys, two hotels, three harness shops, five coal yards, three drug stores, three lumberyards, two meat markets, and three banks. The Wakefield Municipal Light Plant was built (1914) with private ownership costing \$75,000. The plant had 50 horsepower (HP), 100-HP and 240-HP engines. A diesel engine was installed in the light plant in 1915 and by 1917, the municipal electric system was established. In the spring of 1915, the cornerstone of the public library was laid and Philo Graves presented the city with a library in memory of his son, which opened in November.

The population increased to 1,114 by 1920 and the water systems had five, six-inch wells, two and one-half miles of four- and six-inch water pipe, and 27 double fire hydrants. By December, the Wakefield Electric Company Light Plant had two 50 HP engines along with a 100 kilowatt (kW) and 235 kW generators. The fire hall consisted of one company of 30 men, two hose carts, 1,500 ft of hose, a hook/ladder truck, and a 50-gallon chemical wagon. A frame school was built in 1921 for junior high classes, the main street was paved, and discussions were held on operating the power plant 24 hours a day. On April 1, 1925, the municipal power plant audit showed \$24,000 net earnings in two years. A second railroad depot was constructed in 1925. In 1927, the Security State Bank closed, and the Farmers National Bank closed in 1928.

In 1931, a three-story brick school was built for \$70,000 and the fire department purchased a

Continued on page 16

Nebraska utilities history – Wakefield

Continued from page 15

chemical fire truck along with equipment for \$2,993. Water rates were first: 5,000 gals at \$0.30 per 1,000 gals, and excess of 5,000 gals at \$0.15 per 1,000 gals with a minimum charge per meter, per quarter. Electric rates were: first 23-kilowatt hours (kWh) at \$0.08 per kWh, next 25 kWh at \$0.06 per kWh, and in excess of 50 kWh at \$0.04 per kWh. The minimum charge per month was \$1.50, provided power users pay a minimum of \$0.50 per Hp and not less than \$1.50. By November 1931, natural gas was available in town and supplied by Peoples Natural Gas Company. In 1936-37, CWA street projects were underway and the municipal plant had a capacity of 252 kilowatts of internal combustion power generation. The population decreased from 1,113 in 1930 to 961 in 1940 and a new 0.2-megawatt engine was installed at the municipal power plant. During the 1940s, a Works Progress Administration (WPA) project at Graves Public Park added an ice rink and tennis courts and the land north of the park was graded for an athletic field (1942). The railroad passenger service was discontinued and the cemetery had financial problems so it was deeded to the city.

In the late 1940s, a WPA project consisted of constructing a new filter plant, cleaning the water standpipe, and flushing the hydrants.

By 1950, the population was 1,027, a Community Hospital was constructed, and Milton Waldbaum bought a creamery and founded the Waldbaum “Egg” Company. A meeting was held in 1952 for the blacktopping of

streets with five inches of bituminous mat on the streets for \$21.10 per square foot (sq ft) or \$2.26 per foot frontage along with paving of alleys. Two new filter tanks and a pump were ordered in 1956 for the water plant and plans were being made to construct a new water storage tower. In August 1956, a \$35,000 bond was issued for the construction of a swimming pool, which opened in June 1957. In 1961, 14 rural school districts merged, organizing District 60R, and an elementary school was built in 1966. The power plant had the initial operation of a 0.9-megawatt engine in 1960 and a 1.4-megawatt engine in 1965-66. A 200,000-gallon elevated water tower was erected in 1969-70.

The population increased slightly from 1,068 in 1960 to 1,160 in 1970 and a \$15,600 federal grant was approved for construction of a new wastewater treatment lagoon system and a remodel of the existing lift station. The 1902 city auditorium was razed in 1972, the library basement was remodeled in 1975, and on March 15, 1977, the last freight train ran through town as service was discontinued to the area. The electric distribution system was owned/operated by the city and supplied by Nebraska Public Power District. A new brick school was built at Eighth and Highland Streets in 1977 along with a wastewater project in 1979. In 1980, the population was 1,125 and the city began purchasing its total requirements from Nebraska Public Power District. In 1981, more land was acquired for the park and a new lagoon system was installed by 1987.

In 1990, the population was 1,082 and the aerated facultative

lagoon system was designed for 0.045 million gallons per day (mgd). A five-year project to expand and improve the electric system began in 1999 along with plans to expand the lagoon treatment system. The population increased from 1,082 in 1990 to 1,411 in 2000 and the municipal power plant had a capacity of 4.30 megawatts by 2001. The electrical system was upgraded in 2004 and by 2005, the city had 11.5 miles of streets, all of which were asphalt, concrete, or brick surfaced. The natural gas system in 2003 was operated by Aquila and the city maintained a park with three ball fields, shelters, a swimming pool, and playground equipment. The sanitary sewerage and storm sewerage system in 2005 had an average daily flow of 563,000 gals and a historic peak of 1.2 million gals. Solid waste was collected by private collectors and hauled to the LP Gill landfill in Jackson with rates at \$12.50 per month for a 15-gallon tote and \$13 per month for a 90-gallon tote. A well project was completed in 2007 with a \$500,000 bond for a new 600 gallon per minute (gpm) well and improvements to the filter plant. The natural gas system by 2009 was operated by Black Hills Energy and in 2010, the population was 1,349. A new 600,000-gallon water storage tower project was built along with 5,500 linear feet of transmission line installed in 2015. The city received a \$1.7 million CDBG for a public works project, \$225,000 for street storm sewer, sidewalk ramp, and a curb/gutter improvement in 2015. Construction began in the fall of 2017 for a new commu-

Continued on page 17

Nebraska utilities history – Wakefield

Continued from page 16
nity center with a grand opening by 2019. The electric system in 2021 was owned/operated by the city and supplied by Big Rivers Electric.

Today, Wakefield has a population of 1,522, incorporated over 140 years, and is a League of Nebraska Municipalities and Utilities Section member.

References: Nebraska Directory of Municipal Officials, 1956-, 1958, 1960, 1962, 1964-75, 1977-87, 1990, 1992-2023; Nebraska Municipal Review Magazine, 1928, 1971, 1987, 2016; Seedlings in a Shoebox, a History of Wakefield. Lynn Holm, 1981; Lincoln Journal Star Newspaper, 2000, 2017; Sargent Leader

newspaper, 1913; Nebraska Place Names, 1925, 1960; Water Resources of Nebraska, December 1936; Public Power Magazine, Vol. 51, Number 1, January-February 1993; NMPP Energy News newsletter, 1996; Essent magazine, 1999; Department of Energy Website, 2004; Nebraska Our Towns...North Northeast, 1990; Maps Tell Nebraska's History, 1991; NEDED Website, 2005; Wakefield Website, 2005, 2021-2023; Wikipedia website, 2018-2020; 4th Annual Issue: The Manual of American Water Works, 1897; The Crete Democrat Newspaper, 1891-92; Andrea's History of the State of Nebraska, 1882; History of Dixon County, Nebraska, 1896; Seedlings in a

Shoebox, a History of Wakefield, 1981; Lincoln State Journal, June 1887; History of Dixon County; Its Pioneers, Settlement, Growth and Development and Its Present Condition-Its Villages, Townships, Enterprises and Leading Citizens, 1896; Nebraska Blue Book, 1915, 1918, 1928, 1936, 1942, 1946, 1978; Sanborn Maps, January 1900, July 1909, December 1920, 1930; Directory of Electric Utilities in the United States, Federal Power Commission, 1941; Utilities Section solid waste survey, 2015; and Federal Power Consumers Electric Rate Survey, Domestic and Residential Electric Rates in Effect January 1, 1935 in the state of Nebraska, 1935.

Nebraska Breaktime Trivia “Just For Fun”

- Q-1.** What incorporated municipality in Nebraska is located between Venango and Madrid?
- Q-2.** What city in Nebraska was named for a mill near a ford across the Blue River?
- Q-3.** How many miles is it from

- Dodge, Nebraska to Dodge City, Kansas?
- Q-4.** Where in Nebraska is the Heartland Museum of Military Vehicles located?
- Q-5.** Where in Nebraska is this memorial located?

Answers on page 19.



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Electric Rubber Gloving School held

The Eastern Nebraska Rubber Gloving School was held May 16-18, at the Utility Line Facility on the Northeast Community College Campus in Norfolk. Six municipal systems participated this year with linemen from Broken Bow, Central City, Cozad, Grand Island, Hastings, Holdrege, Nebraska City, North Platte, Ord, Randolph, Sargent, Stuart, and West Point.

The first morning started with brief vendor presentations then followed by a presentation on equipotential grounding procedures by Hubbell. The participants then were split into hands-on work groups, with two advanced, four intermediate and three beginner or basic. A classroom session covered regulator and breaker training. The advanced groups covered a C7 changeout and an arm changeout C9-1/C7-1. The intermediate groups covered suspension trauma and transformer changeout, equipotential of downed overhead conductors, and bucket/digger derrick truck inspections. The basic groups covered insulator changeout (pole top and crossarm), bell changeout on single-phase dead-ends (pole and arm), crossarm changeout on single phase, single phase pole changeout, and transformer changeout on an energized pole.

A special thanks to the instructors and their respective companies. The instructors for the advanced stations were Chad Doyle of Stuart and Damian Carda of Hastings. On behalf of the Utilities Section and the Rural Electric Association, a special thanks to the companies



Clockwise from upper left: C7-C7 changeout-advanced station; regulator/breaker classroom station; suspension trauma station; equipotential of downed powerline station; and transformer changeout station.

that provided trucks, demo trailers, material, and their knowledge when performing rubber gloving techniques.

The next Rubber Gloving School is scheduled for Aug. 29-31, 2023, in Sidney at the Don Winkelman Training Field, the Wheatbelt Public Power District's training field located on the north edge of Sidney. Participants may be limited so be sure to register in advance so meals, materials, and workstations can be scheduled.

Electric Meter Conferences scheduled

The dates for future Electric Meter Conferences have been scheduled and contracts signed with the Kearney Holiday Inn.

- Feb. 6-7, 2024
- Feb. 11-12, 2025

May 7-13 was Drinking Water Week in Nebraska

Gov. Jim Pillen issued a proclamation declaring May 7-13 as Drinking Water Week in Nebraska. In our state, as well as around the globe, Drinking Water

Week provides an opportunity for water professionals and the communities they serve to recognize and celebrate the vital role that water plays in our daily lives.



Picture taken after Gov. Jim Pillen signed a proclamation declaring May 7-13 as Drinking Water Week in Nebraska. From left: Craig Reinsch (Olsson), Donna Garden (City of Lincoln), Tessa Yackley (Olsson), Rob Pierce (LNM), Chuck Seufferer (JEO Consulting Group), Gov. Pillen, John Keith (City of Lincoln), Mary Poe (NDEE), Rick Kubat (MUD), Laura Johnson (NDEE), and Jim Macy (NDEE). Photo by Erika Hill, City of Lincoln.

Crow Line: A line of positive communication that all can share

Congratulations! **Incorporation Anniversary Recognition:** 115 years – **Wynot** (1908-village); 130 years – Dixon (1893-village) and Newcastle (130-village); 140 years – Ayr (1883-village), **Pierce** (1883-village), **Nelson** (1883-village), and **Papillion** (1883-village); and 150 years – Adams (1873-village).

Utilities Section members and associate members are bolded.



Do you, your department or facility have something to crow about – new hires, promotions, awards, certifications, anniversaries/milestones, accomplishments, grants/funding, or projects? Let us help you celebrate events and accomplishments! Please send information to any of the League/Utilities staff.

Six listings added to National Register of Historic Places

History Nebraska added the following locations to the National Register of Historic Places: the Centenary Methodist Episcopal Church in Beatrice; the Inavale Community Center; the Iowa-Ne-

braska Light and Power Company Plant Building in Lincoln; the Bohning Memorial Auditorium in Ravenna; the Agricultural Society Building in Weeping Water; and the Municipal Auditorium in York.

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"Just For Fun" Answers

- | | |
|--|---|
| A-1. Grant (the unincorporated community of Brandon also is between these). | A-3. 397.9 miles.
<i>Reference: Google Maps, 2021</i> |
| A-2. Milford. | A-4. Lexington. |
| | A-5. Bellwood. |

2023 Training calendar

Visit our website at lonm.org
for a complete list of workshops and conferences.

June

June 27Solid Waste Screening Workshop Fire Training Facility, Norfolk

July

July 25Solid Waste Screening Workshop Fire Hall, Gering

August

Aug. 15Backflow Workshop The Venue, Beatrice

Aug. 16Backflow Workshop Fire Hall, Wayne

Aug. 17Work Zone Safety Training Workshop Fire Hall, Wayne

Aug. 22Backflow Workshop MidPlains Community College, Ogallala

Aug. 23Backflow Workshop Grand Island

Aug. 29-31Electric Rubber Gloving School Wheatbelt Training Field, Sidney

September

Sept. 19Water Operator Training Workshop North Platte

Sept. 20Water Operator Training Workshop City Hall, McCook

Sept. 21Work Zone Safety Training Workshop Utilities Services Building, Grand Island

Sept. 27-29League Annual Conference Cornhusker Marriott Hotel, Lincoln

October

Oct. 17Water Operator Training Workshop Public Library, Norfolk

Oct. 18Water Operator Training Workshop Fire Hall, South Sioux City

Oct. 19Work Zone Safety Training Workshop Fire Hall, South Sioux City

November

Nov. 7Work Zone Safety Training Workshop Library, Blair

December

Dec. 5Water Operator Training Workshop Lincoln

Dec. 6Water Operator Training Workshop Auburn

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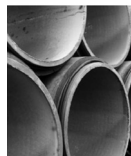
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Utilities Section Webinars

(Credit hours for water 1-4, 6 and wastewater available where listed)

Safety Committees by speakers Rob Pierce and Lash Chaffin, LNM, topics cover requirements, liabilities, financial benefits, unions, etc.

(Approved for 1 hour grades 1-4 and 1 hour wastewater)

Members \$0 (free), non-members \$35

Safety Session Series (If you purchase all five sessions as a bundle, the cost for members is \$140 and for non-members is \$180.)

Implementing an Effective Safety Meeting by speaker Rob Pierce, LNM, topics cover requirements, topics selection, how and when to present, safety focus along with building a safety culture.

(Approved for 1.0 hour grades 1-4 and 1.0 hour wastewater)

Members \$35, non-members \$45

Safety: Lockout/Tagout Programs (Practices and Procedures) by speaker Rob Pierce, LNM

(Approved for 1.0 hour grades 1-4 and 1.0 hour wastewater)

Members \$35, non-members \$45

Safety: Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) by speaker Rob Pierce, LNM

(Approved for 1.0 hour grades 1-4 and 1.0 hour wastewater)

Members \$35, non-members \$45

Safety: General Roundtable Discussion (safety programs, injury/near miss issues and hot topics) by speaker Rob Pierce, LNM

(Approved for 1.0 hour grades 1-4 and 1.0 hour wastewater)

Members \$35, non-members \$45

Safety: Slips, Trips & Falls by Speaker Rob Pierce, LNM

(Approved for 1.0 hour grades 1-4 and 1.0 hour wastewater)

Members \$35, non-members \$45

Water/Wastewater Sessions

Asset Management by speaker Shelly Rekte, DHHS, covers a general overview on asset management and associated record keeping options

(Approved for 1.0 hour grades 1-4 and 1.0 hour wastewater)

Members \$35, non-members \$45

Pump Application, Operations & Maintenance by speaker Brad Harris, Layne Christensen

(Approved for 1.0 hour grades 1-4 and 1.0 hour wastewater)

Members \$35, non-members \$45

Well Rehabilitation and Relining by speaker Brad Harris, Layne Christensen

(Approved for 1.5 hours grades 1-4 and 1.5 hours wastewater)

Members \$35, non-members \$45

Steps and Guidelines to Drilling a New Water Well by speaker Brad Harris, Layne Christensen

(Approved for 1.5 hours grades 1-4 and 1.5 hours wastewater)

Members \$35, non-members \$45

Water Storage Tank: Operation/Maintenance by speaker Jake Dugger, Maguire Iron

(Approved for 1.5 hours grades 1-4 and 1.5 hours wastewater)

Members \$35, non-members \$45

Utilities Section Webinars

Backflow Sessions (If you purchase all four sessions as a bundle, the cost for members is \$60 and for non-members is \$100.)

Cross Connection Control Programs: Past & Present by speaker Mike Wentink, DHHS
(Approved for 1.0 hour grades 1-4, 1.0 hour grade 6 and 1.0 hour wastewater)
Members \$35, non-members \$45

Cross Connection/Backflow Safety: Confined Space by speaker Rob Pierce, LNM, topics cover a variety of confined space issues.
(Approved for 1.5 hours grades 1-4, 1.5 hours grade 6 and 1.5 hours wastewater)
Members \$35, non-members \$45

Basic Requirements of a Cross Connection Control Program by speaker Rich Koenig, DHHS. Rich covers requirements, regulations, in a summary overview.
(Approved for 1.0-hour grades 1-4, 1.0 hour grade 6, and 1.0 hour wastewater)
Members \$35, non-members \$45

Public Education concerning a Cross Connection Control Program by speaker Rob Pierce, LNM, covers options for educations, communication options, monitoring, feedback etc.
(Approved for 1.5 hours grades 1-4, 1.5 hours grade 6, and 1.5 hours wastewater)
Members \$35, non-members \$45

Landfill/Transfer Station Session

Hazardous Waste Identification and Random Load Inspections by speaker Rob Pierce, LNM
Members \$35, non-members \$45