JANUARY 2022 Utility Bill Insert ALMIRA TOWN HALL 639-2601

<u>NEW TOWN HALL HOURS:</u> OPEN MONDAY THROUGH THURSDAY <u>8-4. CLOSED ON FRIDAYS!!!!</u>

Bills are due on the 10th of the month and late after the 25th. They are due the 25th even if I am not in the office. You can pay by debit or credit card online through the website; OR drop a check or money order off in the payment box. Please do not use my absence as a reason not to pay your bill.

New Utility rates start this month.

JANUARY COUNCIL MEETING: Jeanette swore in new Council Members Hannah Hand and Tim Jennings.

Red Croasmun requested having the highway access on A Street permanently closed. Council said they would like to do more research and would table it for now.

<u>UPDATES BY STAFF</u>: The Accountability Audit is still underway.

The Sheriff's contract for 2022 is up 2%, \$20,393 per year.

Brent has been doing a lot of snow plowing.

The water and sewer is finished for the portables for the school. A new meter was purchased for the school.

The school is talking about putting a pole building in up by the bus garage and had inquired whether Alder Street ran clear through. After researching it was determined that the street ends prior to the bus garage so it is their property and not a street.

Brent and Jeanette had a meeting with the Department of Ecology on suggestions to change the flood zone. The last flooding in town was in 1976 and at the time there were vehicles in the drainage ditch. The ditch has also been cleaned out and widened in the past few years. They said we would have to get a Hydraulic Engineering report. Brent will check with the engineer and see what the cost is.

<u>NEW BUSINESS</u>: Juneteenth was added as a holiday to the Personnel Policy for approval.

Ordinance 569, the utility rate increase was reviewed again for final approval.

Resolution 2020-129, Payroll increase was approved.

<u>STATUS OF UTILITY ACCOUNTS:</u> 25 water off notices were sent out the end of December.

RECYCLING: Please remember to break down your cardboard so we can get as much in the bin as possible. No Styrofoam or trash in the bin and <u>cardboard must be corrugated cardboard only</u>, no cereal boxes. It costs \$194 each time we dump the bins so we want to fill them as full as possible. You can put plastic in both sides of the 10-bin. If one side is full go to the other side, please don't leave it barely hanging there and smash your plastic if possible.

If you live in town you pay \$1.25 a month for the privilege to use the recycling bins, we ask that anyone not from in town please pay the same cheap fee. (Fees just increase to help pay for the heavy use of the recycling bins.

The next council meeting is February 8th, 2022 at 7 pm Please attend and have an input in our community.

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ADJUSTED HOURS: CLOSED ALL FRIDAYS

February 2nd – closing at 3:15 pm February 7th – closing at 3:45 pm February 14th – closing at 3:45 pm February 17th – Closing at 3:45 pm February 21st – CLOSED February 24th – Closing at 2 pm Other closures will be posted

The <u>Wilbur Food Pantry</u> is open the third Wednesday of every month from 11 a.m. – 1 pm and 5 – 6 p.m. It is located at the Lutheran Church Campus <u>The Food Pantry is for Almira, Wilbur and Creston.</u> If you need more information or want to donate call Lori Rettkowski at 647-5402.

WE STILL HAVE MASKS AVAILABLE AT TOWN HALL AND HAVE A LIMITED NUMBER OF COVID TESTS AVAILABLE. PLEASE CALL IN ADVANCE TO PICK THEM UP.

SNOW PLOW GUIDELINES: Parking on the street is prohibited. Alleys must be kept at a 20' width. Please check your alleyway to make sure it is free and clear by removing all clutter, including all overgrown bushes, shrubs and trees. If a car is parked on the street the snow plow will not clear that side of the road. There will not be a second trip if the plow comes by before vehicles are moved. The same applies to parking in the alleys.

*Snowmobiles are permitted only on arterials, only at a slow speed, only to get in and out of Town.

*Leaving faucets turned on slowly during low temperatures can help avoid frozen

IF YOU SEE OR HEAR ANY ALARMS AT THE SEWER PLANT , RESERVOIR OR WELLS PLEASE CALL ONE OF THE FOLLOWING NUMBERS TO REPORT IT!

977-1218 – Brent Robertson 1-509-770-5604 – Mayor Jason Evers 1-509-237-5320 – Dave Phillips

PLEASE PURCHASE YOUR DOG TAGS BY FEBRUARY 28TH TO AVOID A \$10 LATE FEE.