



**HASTINGS**  
**UTILITIES**

*At Your  
Service*

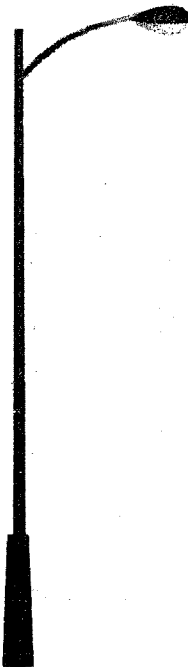
PROVIDING  
ELECTRIC, GAS, WATER AND  
SANITARY SEWER SERVICES

## *Progression of the Community's Street Lighting Upgrade*

January 2019

In 2015, the Utilities Department entered into a multi-year project to convert the community's street lighting system over to LED technology. The project, which is still in progress, was initially estimated to cost \$1.58 million.

Eventually, all street lights will employ LED (Light Emitting Diodes) technology. LED lighting is less maintenance intensive and more energy efficient. Through the years the local street lighting system has transitioned from incandescent bulbs to mercury vapor bulbs, to high pressure sodium bulbs and now the LEDs. Each of those progressions provided more energy efficiency. In the case of LED lighting, the fixtures are expected to last for many years as opposed to the previous types of lighting. Bulbs might only last days, weeks or months. LED fixtures are expected to last approximately 20 years. In addition, the LED fixtures provide a brighter light than the previous varieties did.



Approximately 90% of the system has been converted. As older forms of lighting need to be addressed, they will be replaced by LED lighting. All newly installed street lights are being equipped with the LED technology as well.

At the end of 2018, the total conversion work cost is under budget for the project. Originally, LED associated lighting was more expensive than traditional forms of street lighting. Significant strides have been achieved in recent years that have made the LED lighting more cost effective. Coupled with the lower energy usage and extended lifetime of the LED fixtures, this transition is more feasible.

The conversion work is now scheduled to be completed mid-2019 and is also costing less than expected.

## *Sanitary Sewer Rate Charges*

The Utilities Department reminds its residential customers that the water consumed on their January, February, and March utility invoices will affect their sewer bill for the following twelve months. This portion of the sewer bill, commonly called the sewer base, is the average of the water usage on the January, February, and March utility bills.

Water usage during the winter typically excludes residential lawn watering; therefore, the amount of water billed during these three months represents a more accurate amount of water that enters the sanitary sewer system. After the wastewater enters the sanitary sewer system it flows to the Pollution Control Facility where it goes through the wastewater treatment process.

The Utilities Department encourages its customers to conserve water whenever possible throughout the entire year - not just in the summer. Water is a precious resource that is becoming more costly to supply and treat.

Improvements and upgrades to the wastewater treatment process at the Pollution Control Facility, driven by environmental regulations, have pushed local sanitary sewer rates higher over the past few years. In October of 2018, sanitary sewer rates increased by 10%. Residential customers can help to control their monthly sanitary sewer bill by monitoring their water usage.

### **UTILITY BOARD**

Jack Schreiner, *Chairman*

Bill Hitesman, *Vice Chairman*

Shayne Raitt

Shawn Hartmann Joanne Seberg

### **UTILITIES MANAGER**

Kevin Johnson



**HASTINGS**  
**UTILITIES**

*P.O. Box 289 • 1228 N. Denver  
Hastings, NE 68902 • 402-463-1371  
[www.hastingsutilities.com](http://www.hastingsutilities.com)*