

Community Services

City of Dixon

By Susan E. Hohman

The staff that fulfills the day-to-day operation of a community is responsible for what residents and guests recognize as the “visible presence” of that village or town. A crew of 38 both full- and part-time personnel is employed by the City of Dixon, which includes officers, maintenance, administration, city council, and the library. With so much to do, these workers stay busy, both maintaining and enhancing our city for its residents.

Water supply, sewer maintenance, trash handling, street repair, and park upkeep are managed by the city’s 12 employees, some of whom are identified by the bright yellow-green shirts they wear. Whether mowing Lion’s Club park grounds, patching city streets, repainting parking guides, picking up trash, or a myriad of other tasks, Dixon city workers are on the job!

Also included on that city payroll is the Dixon Police Department. Eighteen full- and part-time employees are utilized for the all-important task of ensuring the security of our city and maintaining law and order. Part of their responsibility is to oversee the city jail, which houses four to six prisoners at any given time.

The City Council consists of six councilmen and women: Paul Watson, Betty Thilges, Marilyn Timmons, Effie Higginbotham, Wayne Brandt, and Jimmy Doyle, and current Mayor, Shawn Wethington. These individuals meet once a month on the first Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m. at either the Mid-America Bank Community Room or the Dixon Senior Center, to discuss the business of the City. Anyone is welcome to attend the public session of meetings, as council members hear residents’ and business owners’ concerns, work on budgets,



and plan for improvements.

City Hall also doubles as location for Court on the second Tuesday of each month, beginning at 6:30 p.m. Municipal Judge John Ward presides over court, handling local cases of law-breaking incidents.

Rounding out the employee roster are Collector Paula Balzer, City Clerk Jesse Fleming, Court Clerk Kathy Smith, and Librarian Patty Binder. These folks’ jobs enable the city of Dixon to function at its utmost.

In addition to its daily operations, the City of Dixon has enhanced city-owned properties in recent years. Lion’s Club Park has benefitted greatly through the installation of new sidewalk, and the implementation of “monumental” lighting fixtures and benches. Citizens wishing to memorialize loved ones have contributed in the cost of installing these lovely old-fashioned lights. The benches, also with memorial plaques, are situated prominently along the “Betty Crews Walking Trail,” a paved path at the park. Painting of the pavilions, picnic tables, and other buildings at the park also help beautify this facility.

During the past couple of years, an extensive sewer project has been underway. Although Phase 1 of the repair work sometimes caused disruptions to some homeowners in the city, the outlook for the replaced, realigned, or repaired water lines is very good, and will be worth any problems experienced in the interim. Phase 2 is now in operation, focusing on repair at the wastewater treatment plant. The improvements in the city’s sewer system will further the city’s ability to provide adequately for its residents.

