

As mayor of the village, I am required to address the condition of the village each first meeting of the new year. The financial status of the village is very good. Ashlee Stevens started in the spring as the fiscal officer replacing Kelly Wells who retired. The water and sewer accounts are in good shape and all accounts are in the black as well. All accounts are good and in line with state of Ohio accounting procedures. Angie Westfall has done an excellent job of keeping up with the water and sewer billing, with very few outstanding bills per month, and is currently preparing for the tax season. Bill Smith has continued working this past year on replacing obsolete equipment and received the H2Ohio Rivers Initiative Chloride Reduction Grant for reducing the amount of salt used and reducing the amount of salt runoff going in local streams. With this grant Malta received new and updated snow removal equipment plus brine tanks for mixing and spreading of brine. This will help greatly in preparing the hills to reduce snow and ice making it safer for residents driving.

Some of the accomplishments this past year have been the building of the new shop building which will allow for the safe and secure storing of equipment as well as allowing a safe and dry place for employees to work on equipment. New water line was installed along Front Street and portions of Main Street. This replaced lines which were in bad shape and will reduce the amount of time being spent by employees patching of these lines. This was not accomplished without some disruption to the resident, including water shut offs, sewer lines broken and streets and yards destroyed. There are still sidewalks to be replaced and yards to be fixed in the spring. Also, along with this project the well field and north tower area was fenced in and a new water well drilled and will be on line in the near future. Since Malta is a major supplier of water to many parts of the county it was necessary for more well production. The federal government is supplying funding for another well which will go out for bid in the spring.

We also added some more equipment this year. We were able to purchase a backhoe in excellent condition and only two years old. We have installed four new cameras around the village for much need security, these are connected to monitors within the village office and can be viewed by officials as needed. Malta was able to replace decking on the boat docks and are looking at ways to improve and increase the situation where possible docks could be rented out for boat storage during the boating season.

Malta had applied for grants to replace a walking trail along the river from the veteran bridge to Kiwanis Park, and a possible camping area along the river by the Kiwanis Park to allow visitors coming to the area for ball games etc. happening at the park. Also, there would be funding for the improvement of the parking lot at the park. We expect to hear more from this grant in the coming year as this funding has not yet been approved. Malta also this year installed benches and some other playground equipment at the Manley Park. This park has been a great asset to Malta as it used by residents and visitors almost every day.

I congratulate the employees and this council of the village of Malta for a job well done and thank everyone for their cooperation in making Malta a safer and better place for its residents to live and work.



Terry McGrath

Mayor Village of Malta