

ASSESSMENT DEPARTMENT:

Tentative Roll - The 2009 Tentative Roll was completed and filed on January 15th. The stated level of assessment on the roll is 92.5%. I fully expect the State's determination of our equalization rate to also be 92.5%. The 2009 roll represents a \$5,045,233 or 0.51% increase in taxable value from last year. A decrease in the taxable value for the MGNH (Mercy Hospital) property of \$7,123,600 acts to understate the amount of growth in the City.

Board of Assessment Review - As required by City Charter, the Board of Assessment Review (BAR) met February 10th to hear complaints on the 2009 Tentative Roll. The BAR received applications containing 40 complaints. The BAR heard and decided the majority on the 10th and adjourned the rest pending additional information. A final meeting of the BAR is scheduled for March 20th to consider the remaining cases.

Litigation - An Article 7 Tax Certiorari trial to determine the '06 & '07 assessments for Stateway Plaza is scheduled to begin on March 4th in Jefferson County Supreme Court.

Real Estate Market - The decline in sale price first observed in the Oct-Nov '08 report seems to have been short lived. The last two months show a continuing decrease in the number of property sales but a somewhat surprising strength in prices. While not conclusive, the decline in both volume and price of multifamily homes and commercial property may be a sign that investors are not as active in the market as they had been previously.

<i>Single-family homes</i>	<i>Current Period Dec-Jan 09*</i>	<i>Prior 2 Months Oct-Nov 08**</i>	<i>One Year ago Dec-Jan 08</i>	<i>2 month averages for last 2 years Jan 07 -Jan 09</i>
Number of valid sales	28	35	57	48
Average sale price	\$123,266	\$122,813	\$119,412	\$123,205
<i>2 & 3 family homes</i>				
Number of valid sales	4	6	11	10
Average sale price	\$ 62,875	\$111,092	\$99,005	\$100,214
Commercial				
Number of valid sales	0	1	2	4
Average sale price	N/A	\$160,000	\$168,500	\$231,684

*Only sales for which deeds were recorded on or before January 31st.

**Includes previously unreported deeds.

CIVIL SERVICE:

Job Classification/Salary Survey - Revised job specifications have been received from Fox Lawson & Associates. All titles are being graded in order to evaluate jobs to assure appropriate salary grades and compensation. A data collection form has been sent to 27 municipalities and businesses to gather comparable pay data from the labor market. Fox Lawson & Associates is in the process of collecting and analyzing the data to be compared with the City's compensation package.

Exam Announcements - The following exams have been announced for the following dates: GIS Technician - 4/18/09; GIS Coordinator - 4/18/09; Code Enforcement Aide - 4/18/09; Police Officer - 5/9/09

CODE ENFORCEMENT:

Building Permits - Building plans for the Franklin Building renovation for a mixed occupancy of both business and residence have been received. This office has issued 21 Building Permits for new construction and demolitions, and 22 Repair Permits. Several completed projects have been issued Certificates of Compliance--including the temporary entrance structure for Samaritan Medical Center; Buildings 3B, 4A, 5B, and 6B at the Summit Wood complex; Taco Bell on Arsenal Street; Kinney Drugs on Washington Street; and Kinney Drugs on Coffeen Street.

Complaints - This office received and investigated a total of 276 complaints, with 48 cases being referred to DPW for compliance and 2 cases being referred to City Attorneys.

Winter Weather - This office has received 147 complaints for sidewalks not being cleared. Of those, 32 have been referred to DPW for compliance.

Appearance Tickets - This office issued five Appearance Tickets to City Court to owners of City properties for a range of violations from trash and debris to New York State Property Maintenance Code violations to Front Yard Parking.

ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT:

State Street Reconstruction Project - The project is 100% complete. The final supplemental with the NYSDOT for reimbursable items is still pending.

Streetscape/Public Square Reconstruction Project - The project is complete except for a small punch list that is to be completed this Spring.

J.B. Wise Parking Lot Reconstruction - The Draft Design Report was submitted by the consultant and was reviewed with comments from City staff. The consultant is currently progressing with detailed design.

Sidewalk Program - The sidewalk crew has completed the 07-08 assessment district. Work was started on the 2008-09 assessment district in August 2008 and ceased for the season in October. Work will re-start in the spring of 2009.

Ten Eyck Street Phase I & II - Work started in mid-June 2008 and is progressing. The remaining work to be completed: paving, sidewalk, topsoil and seeding. The project is scheduled to be complete in the spring of 2009.

NYSDOT Arsenal Street Reconstruction – Staff continues to coordinate on an as-needed basis with NYSDOT representatives on closeout items on this project.

Project Design Work –

North Side Trunk Sewer - The consultant has been chosen through the RFP process and the Engineering Services Agreement was approved by the Council. Design is underway.

Butterfield-Barben & Chestnut St. - Final plans are approved by the NYSDEC. A public meeting was held on March 4, 2008. Bids for this project are due in March.

Breen Avenue - The project is currently being designed in-house by department staff. The project is scheduled for construction in the spring of 2010.

Riggs Ave - The preliminary design is complete. A public meeting was held on August 27, 2008. Detailed design is progressing. There is currently one easement outstanding for construction. This project is scheduled for FY 2010-11.

N. Michigan-Bronson St. - The project is currently being designed in-house by department staff. The project is scheduled for construction in FY 2012-13.

Washington Street Sidewalk - The design is 85% complete. A public hearing was held on October 1, 2008 to acquire grading releases from property owners. Four releases have been signed to date.

Algonquin Ave. Sewer Main - Project plans are approved by the NYSDEC. The work will be completed by DPW in 2009.

Emmett Street Storm Sewer - Project survey is complete and detailed design is underway.

Washington Street Signal Light - The design is complete. An easement for the pole bases is approved. Bids for the poles have been received and are being fabricated.

Greensview/Ives Sanitary Sewer - Updating plans and bid book for bid in spring 2010. The department is preparing for a meeting with the property owners.

CSO Long Term Control Plan (LTCP) - The completed model of the five basins and final report was received in March 2008. The department is working for approval to conduct modeling of four additional basins with the consultant. WWTP staff prepared the LTCP and submitted it to the NYSDEC by December 1, 2008. We are waiting for comments from the DEC and EPA.

DEC Sewer Extension Requirements - 6 NYCRR Subpart 750-2 requires DEC approval of sewer extensions with flows greater than 2500 gal/day or more than one connected lateral. Part of this approval is assurance from the City that adequate sewer capacity exists in the system.

Developments with assurance letters submitted to the DEC since January 2008: Samaritan Medical Center, JCC Storage Building, Crescent Woods Ph II, MCA FY-07 Projects, Jefferson Apartments, and Creek Wood I & II.

Developments with capacity under review: Liberty, Black River Development, Mall Expansion, Morris-North Star Hatchery, Columbia Development Ph II, Site 3 Housing, North Hills Community, Remington Park Expansion, North Country Village, North Hill Community, Candlewood Suites, Pine Plain Barracks, 10100 Barracks, and the Unaccompanied Officers Quarters on Fort Drum.

Sanitary Sewer Flow Management Program - The City has begun the process to implement the requirement under 6 NYCRR Subpart 750-2 to enact and enforce legal instruments to control discharges to the Pollution Control Plant. The City has held discussions with DANC to develop allocations for Fort Drum and all DANC outside users. DANC will provide the required flow data that will be used to develop each allocation. DANC has also provided copies of their approval process and inspection procedures for approval from the City. The allocation and the documents will be referenced in the Sewage Treatment Agreement with DANC. The City and DANC is currently negotiating the agreement.

A similar process is also being progressed with the remaining outside user sewer districts. Updated agreements are being prepared with allocations, an approval process and inspection procedures.

FIRE DEPARTMENT:

Fire Response - The Fire Department responded to the following emergencies within the City during the months of January and February. Eighteen total fire related incidents were responded to which included cooking fires, house fires, building fires, vehicle fires, a furnace malfunction, a bulletin board fire, a microwave fire, and a chimney fire. Additionally, the department responded to three calls for mutual aid.

Training - The Department conducted training for all operational platoons on the AHURA First Defender device which we received as part of the CEDAP grant.

Personnel - Fire Captain Donald Howell retired from the Department effective January 17th after 34½ years of service to residents and visitors to the City.

The Department has submitted an Assistance to Fire Fighters “Fire Prevention and Safety Grant Application.”

FLOWER MEMORIAL LIBRARY:

Business After Hours - The Chamber seemed very pleased with the turnout for the *Business After Hours* that was held at the Library on January 24th. In a thank you letter sent to the library from the Chamber’s Director of Events, Nellie Mathous, she stated, “Everyone was very complimentary of the night and hope that you were as pleased as we were with the turnout. The attendance was impressive: 307!”

Ask Us 24/7 – The library conducted its first official session of their new virtual reference service—*Ask Us 24/7* on Wednesday, January 7th. During the hour, there were patrons asking questions from the United Kingdom! Fortunately, there were also librarians from the United Kingdom signed on to take those questions. On Wednesday, we also had a demonstration of the Ask Us 24/7 webpage in the lobby of the Library. Jaclyn McKewan, Special Projects Librarian, Western New York Library Resources Council was on her way to the Northern New York Library Network to give an advanced workshop on Ask Us 24/7 and offered to help us promote our new service by setting up a display near the circulation desk. She showed people how the site worked by submitting their questions to the site. They could then see how a librarian would pick up the question and answered it by showing web pages with the information. Our commitment to the project is four hours per week.

Snowflake Festival - Despite the extremely cold weather that day, the 4th annual Snowflake Festival was a big success with approximately 360 people in attendance! There were 12 volunteers helping out, plus ten staff members. Kohl’s Department Store also generously contributed five employees to volunteer for the day. The display table from the Sci-Tech Center was a big hit with the kids, and the two story times we did during the festival packed the story time room with at least 50 people each time. Games, crafts, face painting, story times and refreshments were enjoyed throughout the four hours.



INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY:

New Staff Member - Mr. Ralph Connor joined the IT staff on Jan 5, 2009 returning the IT/GIS staff total to 4 members.

HP Thin Client Rollout - Staff is continuing the deployment of thin clients and developing a network boot environment. New thin clients have been installed in the Clerks, Comptrollers,

Benefits and Planning office to date. A total of 20 thin clients are slated for installation in City Hall and the Fire Department.

Citrix - Staff is continuing the rollout of Citrix based applications on both thin clients, field laptops and desktops.

TraCS – This office has worked hard to operationalize the new TraCS (Ticket and Accident) reporting system in all patrol vehicles. Tickets are now automatically transferred to New York State on a daily basis.

Helpdesk Statistics - CITRIX - 3, EMAIL - 25, FIREHOUSE - 23, HARDWARE - 56, PRINTERS – 16, NETWORK - 31, PHONE - 15, SOFTWARE - 52, WEBSITE - 22.

GIS - A multi-user geodatabase has been established as a central repository for all of the City's geospatial data. Initially this will be utilized to supply data to our new web based GIS application that supports multi-user editing. This allows field crews to update and maintain records in real time from anywhere in the City.

GPS – This office oversaw the installation of real-time GPS tracking devices in DPW sanders. This allows DPW management up to the minute location information as well as speed and activity reports.

PLANNING DEPARTMENT:

Bicentennial Park & Marble Street Park - Draft final design plans were sent back to EDR for final modifications prior to bidding. Bid specifications will be ready in March 2009.

Black River Parks Project and Hole Brothers - Construction of this project, which included a riverfront trail connecting Bicentennial Park to JCC, a riverfront trail at the Abe Cooper site, a stairway at the Veterans Memorial Riverwalk and a trail system, parking area, overlooks and decking at the Hole Brothers Whitewater Park is complete. The contractor will have to return in the spring to finish of some landscaping and to address minor punch list items. A ribbon cutting will be held in the spring.



Black River Advisory Council (BRAC) Grant - The City has been awarded a \$6,000 grant from the BRAC for site amenities at several riverfront parks. The grant, funded by Brookfield Power, will pay for new benches, trash cans and picnic tables along the Bicentennial Park Trail, Hole Brothers Whitewater Park and at the Abe Cooper Site.

Brownfields - The City was reimbursed on the final portion of the EPA grant, approximately \$26,000, for the \$200,000 grant. The final reporting is being put together on this grant to submit to the EPA. Once this reporting is complete, draw downs will begin on the NYSDEC's ERP grant. Both of these grants are being used for the Sewall's Island project, which is currently underway. A representative from Lu Engineer's met with planning staff to discuss revisions to the work plan, due to the discovery of buried barrels with various contaminants last fall. Lu Engineers intends to begin work again in the spring. They are currently preparing reports on the findings from the summer and fall of 2008.

The RFP is being written for the City's BOA (Brownfield Opportunity Areas) grant. There is specific care in ensuring that this grant will align with the LWRP that the City has, in order to get the most out of each of these grants.

Downtown Apartments Program - Three buildings have been selected for the first phase of this program. GYMO has been selected to complete preliminary designs to determine the feasibility of each project. They will also work with property owners to get them ready for future phases.

Erosion Management Plan - The draft Erosion Management Plan has been reviewed and sent back to GYMO for modification. The final plan should be ready in March 2009.

J B Wise Parking Lot - Lu Engineers is working to finalize the final design based on feedback received from the preferred draft design. This project has been added to several stimulus funding lists. Design and bid specifications will be completed on this project in March 2009.

Local Waterfront Revitalization Program - Working with NYSDOS to redo our consistency review law and planned changes to the zoning ordinances. Hope to complete draft LWRP in March/April and send out for 60 day review.

Main Street Grant - Staff is working with Neighbors of Watertown and the Watertown Local Development Corp. to finalize plans for the façade and building renovation program. Work has begun on this program and construction will start in spring 2009.

Public Square - Staff continues its support of this project with grant administration for the various funding sources. Planning Staff has submitted final reports, closed out several of the grants that helped fund this project and has submitted reimbursement requests totaling \$427,000 during the last two months.

Restore NY - Both contracts have been approved and executed. Work on Riverview Plaza on Newell Street and the Franklin Building has begun and will continue through the winter. Staff is working with Mike Treanor on an application for Round 3 for the redevelopment of the Woolworth Building into a hotel.

River Committee - Staff continues to attend River Committee meetings and has been working with the committee as they recommend names for various unnamed riverfront parks in the City. This is in conjunction with a grant to produce interpretive signs and name signs for most of the parks along the river.

Street Tree Program - Tree Watertown has been making plans for Arbor Day 2009 which will be held this year on April 24, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. at Sherman Street School. In addition to our ceremonial tree planting and Mayoral proclamation, we will be honoring the late Carolyn Whitney. Mrs. Whitney established a tree planting fund with the Northern New York Community Foundation at the time of her passing. A grant from that fund paid for the planting of 22 street trees in the 600 through 1200 Blocks of Sherman Street last fall.

Staff submitted a reimbursement request to National Grid through their 10,000 Trees and Growing Grant Program. The program reimburses the City \$50 for every properly selected under wire tree that is planted. A properly selected under wire tree is a small maturing tree that will not interfere with the primary power lines when it is full grown. Ninety one under wire trees were planted as part of the State Street Reconstruction Project and trees planted as part of our various 2008 projects were submitted for reimbursement under this program. A total of \$4,550 was requested. This amount will be applied to the General Fund and serves to offset the overall cost of the tree program.

Planning for the various spring tree planting projects is underway. The City will once again be working with the Watertown Noon Rotary Club to assist with their annual tree planting program. Rotary's project will take place at Hole Brothers Whitewater Park on Newell Street and in Thompson Park near the site of the new Rotary Pavilion. A total of 50 trees will be planted by volunteers on Saturday, April 25th. The City assists with this project by selecting tree species and planting locations, project coordination, by digging the planting holes and paying for a portion of the cost of the trees.

Staff also began the development of plans for the Department of Public Works' Annual Tree Planting Project. The project involves the planting of approximately 100 trees at various locations throughout the City. Areas targeted for planting this year include the 200-300 blocks of Academy Street, 300-500 blocks of Clay Street and various individual locations throughout the City requested by homeowners. DPW's annual tree planting project will be conducted during the last week in April.

Thompson Park Zoo Otter Exhibit - Staff has been working with the Thompson Park Conservancy on this project with regard to the review and approval of the project plans, the State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) and grant contracts with New York State.

Wayfinding Signs - NYS DOS is working with NYS DOT to find a solution. It appears that NYS DOT has a pilot wayfinding sign program. NYS DOS is trying to get Watertown into the pilot program so that we can produce the signs that we want.

ZBA - The Zoning Board of Appeals met on January 28, 2009 to discuss three area variances and one use variance. At that meeting they approved one area variance to vary the number of parking spaces for the new location for a Kinney Drug's Store located at 1304 Washington Street. The other three variances were tabled for the February 18, 2009 meeting.

Prior to the February 18, 2009 meeting, one of the applicants applying for an area variance withdrew their application. The remaining two variances were for the same property located at 859 Mill Street to allow a garage to be used in a side yard and to vary the distance of the garage

from the lot line. The use variance was voted on first and was turned down. Since the use variance was turned down the area variance was not considered due to the nature of this case.

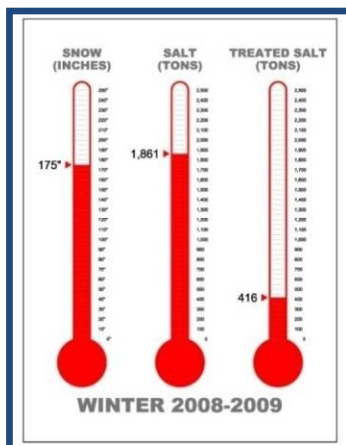
POLICE DEPARTMENT:

High Profile Case - On December 8, 2008, a 33 year-old Watertown woman was reported missing to the Watertown Police Department. During the next two months, numerous interviews and searches were conducted. On February 2nd, a Watertown Police Detective and a Spanish speaking member of the New York State Police traveled to Puerto Rico to locate and interview the missing woman's ex-boyfriend. They located this individual and were able to develop enough information that an arrest warrant was signed out of Jefferson County Court. The victim's remains have not yet been located due to this winter's heavy snowfall. Detectives have been checking areas in Jefferson County and are hopeful that as the snow melts, the remains will be recovered. The case is proceeding and we are anticipating a Grand Jury presentation and the defendant being extradited from Puerto Rico when his charges there have been settled. This case represents a fine example of how various police agencies and District Attorney work well together to serve the people.

Retirement - On February 27th, Officer Michael F. Ryan retired from the Watertown Police Department after almost a 30 year career. Mike has recently been appointed as the new Pastor of the Watertown Assembly of God Church on Haley Street here in Watertown. We wish Mike the very best in his new Pastoral Duties and he will be missed here at the WPD.

Weather Related Activity - This winter's heavy snowfall found the department issuing two "no unnecessary travel warnings" in January. On two consecutive weekends the heavy snowfalls clogged city streets making some impassable. The PD, in conjunction with Public Works, sought to limit traffic to expedite snow removal efforts.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT:



Snow Removal Operations - As of February 24, 2009, the total snow accumulation for the season was logged at one hundred seventy five inches (175"). This season's snowfall accumulation is now the second highest amount recorded within the City for the past one hundred years. Snow removal operations continue to take place around the clock. These operations include sanding, plowing, and the removal of snow from the City's streets, parking lots, crosswalks and sidewalks. Since the beginning of the season, crews have

logged a total of 16,261 man hours and 12,685 equipment hours performing snow removal operations. The department has also ordered 1,860.79 tons of salt and an additional



415.75 tons of treated salt, which will be used during snow removal operations.

Sanitary and Storm Sewer Infrastructure - Sewer crews have investigated a total of eleven (11) sewer back-ups. Crews have reset/replaced one (1) manhole frame/cover. In addition to the repair work, sewer crews have cleaned and televised the sanitary sewer system on Breen Avenue and are currently performing these operations on Clinton Street at the request of the Engineering Department. During times of heavy rain and/or snow melts the western outfall trunk sewer system becomes overtaxed. These events require crews to set-up and maintain pumps within the Butterfield Avenue area.



Flower Memorial Library Security Camera Installation - The Electric Department installed twenty five (25) security cameras throughout the Flower Memorial Library. The work included running conduit and CAT5E cable to the various camera locations, fabricating custom mounting brackets for the reading rooms' cameras and the installation of the computer rack, recording equipment and cameras.

Parks & Recreation Security Camera Installations - The Electric Department installed fourteen (14) security cameras for Parks & Recreation at the Grandstand, the Municipal Arena and the Northside Swimming Pool. The work included running conduit and CAT5E cable and the installation of computer racks, recording equipment and cameras throughout each location.



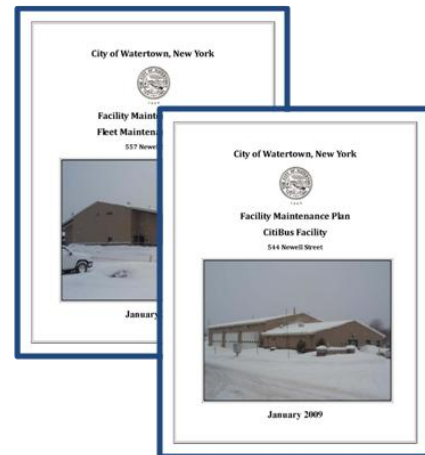
DPW Building (337 Newell St) Fire Alarm System Installation - The Electric Department is currently installing a fire alarm system within the DPW Building located at 337 Newell Street. This facility houses the City's Electric Department. The building also includes a vehicle storage area for the Refuse trucks and an equipment/materials storage area utilized by all DPW divisions. The fire alarm system being installed will include heat detectors and a pull-station within the vehicle storage bay; a heat detector, smoke detectors and a pull-station within the Electric Department offices; and a sprinkler flow alarm and pull station within the equipment/materials storage area. Audio/visual devices will also be located within each area of the building with an additional device mounted on the exterior of the building.



Tree Pruning Training & Operations - The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and the City's Planning Department hosted a tree pruning workshop for the region's municipalities. Eight (8) DPW employees from Buildings & Grounds and Thompson Park attended this workshop which consisted of both an indoor and outdoor training session. The workshop prepares the Buildings & Grounds crew for the annual spring pruning project. The City's street trees are geographically divided into three (3) sections; the north side, southeast side and southwest side. This allows for the pruning of all City street trees on a three (3) year rotation. This year's project will focus on street trees which were planted within the north side of the City. Upon completion of this year's pruning program 750-1000 recently planted trees will be pruned for structure, form and clearance.



Watertown CitiBus - Facility Maintenance Plans for the Fleet Maintenance Facility (557 Newell Street) and the CitiBus Facility (544 Newell Street) were developed and submitted to the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT). The Maintenance Plan for each facility includes an inspection schedule, detail inspection report and preventative maintenance work order for every asset located within that facility. CitiBus also received a sizable advertising contract from New York State Education Department for the Summer Food Service Program. Advertising for the Summer Food Service Program will begin June 15, 2009 and will run through July 15, 2009.



Parks & Recreation Programs & Events - The Watertown Municipal Arena has hosted the New York State (NYS) pre-sectional hockey tournament for the squirt division (those 10 and under) and will host the NYS sectional hockey tournament for the Minor Hockey Pee Wee Group (those 12 and under). Watertown competed with arenas throughout NYS to host this tournament. In addition to the local Watertown teams, the tournament will bring in teams from Bethlehem, Clifton Park and Massena. The arena was also utilized by the Figure Skating Club of Watertown to conduct a testing session. The testing session brings in skaters from all across New York. Testing sessions are held to advance skaters to their next level. Public skating has also been a hit this season with a total of 10,143 skaters thus far. At this time last year public skate had 9,099 skaters. Rock'n Skate is also up in numbers with 7,163 skaters. Outdoor events are also taking place; on February 7th an Arctic Blast Snow-softball Tournament was held at the North Side Athletic Complex to benefit local youth with untreatable medical conditions.



WATER DEPARTMENT:

Variable Frequency Drive Replacement at WTP Main Pump Station - A contract agreement with Patricia Electric of Syracuse, New York was approved by the City Council on February 4, 2008 for the replacement of variable frequency drives and transformers in the main pump station at the Water Treatment Plant, in the amount of \$218,700. The work associated with this contract was completed in January and all testing has been done. The equipment has been performing well.

Shared Municipal Services Incentive Grant - The City of Watertown and Town of Watertown were awarded \$86,940 to be used for a Disinfection By-Products Study to find the most cost effective methods to deal with the development of disinfection by-products that occur as water passes through and spends time in the distribution systems. The contract with the Department of State has been approved, signed by the City Manager, and returned to the state for final execution. It is hoped that the State Comptroller will execute and return the contract soon. Proposals were received from three consulting firms and are currently being reviewed by the stakeholder committee. Recommendations will be forwarded to the City Council and Town of Watertown Board for final authorization to hire a consulting firm to perform the study, after the contract has been returned from the State Comptroller.

GPS Locations of Water Distribution Components - IT and Water Department personnel have continued to coordinate the mapping of fire hydrants, gate valves, water mains and appurtenances on the digital GIS map of the City.

Service Vehicle Purchase - During budget deliberations last spring, the City Council directed that the purchase of one of two requested service trucks be made prior to the end of the 07-08 fiscal year instead of two service trucks being purchased at the same time in the 08-09 fiscal year. A service truck was ordered in June as directed. The truck was received October 14th. The second service truck has been ordered and is expected to arrive within 120 days.



Water Main Breaks and Routine Winter Service - Departmental personnel have responded to and repaired twelve (12) water main breaks since January 1, 2009. Temporary road repairs have to be maintained through- out the winter as evidenced by the photo at the right. This repair on Stone Street was originally made on January 17, 2009 and had to be redone on February 18th, the day after this photo was forwarded to the department. In addition to the main breaks, twelve (12) water services were also repaired or thawed, and one service was renewed. Crews also responded to three fires making sure that fire hydrants were working properly and were properly drained after their use to keep them from freezing.



Departmental personnel also assisted with the pressure testing and performed the chlorination of the 10” water main that was relocated around the new construction at the Samaritan Medical Center.

A major responsibility of the Water Department’s Transmission and Distribution section personnel is making sure that the public fire hydrants are accessible. It is a daunting task to keep them clear of snow when there are back to back or continuous snowfalls. Most hydrants are close to the curb and each time the plows go by, they are buried again. We strive to keep them clear and we very much appreciate the assistance of the citizens who help, as well as the help from fire department and personnel from the other city departments who assist from time to time. In addition to trying to keep 829 public hydrants clear of snow, departmental personnel have to check the hydrants to make sure that they are not frozen and maintain them properly, so that they will be functional when and if they are needed.



Water department personnel are working closely with the Fire Department and IT Department in identifying fire flows for mapping and to be able to install color coded fire hydrant markers that will indicate the flow range of hydrants in the City. The Fire Department has received a grant to cover the cost of purchasing the fire hydrant markers.

OTHER:

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) - City staff members attended a workshop in Syracuse on February 20th and also participated in two teleconferences pertaining to the federal stimulus program to see what benefits might be available from the program. To date, it appears that the first phase of funding has been focused on State projects, but funding of first round projects with stimulus money may free up other funding in the near future. Staff will continue to do outreach with state agencies involved in the decision/recommendation process and to our elected federal and state representatives.

Tree City USA -2008 - The City of Watertown was recently notified that it has achieved “Tree City USA” status for 2008. This is the City’s ninth consecutive year with this designation.

Northern New York Leaders under 40 – Two members of City Staff were among those highlighted in an article in the Watertown Daily Times Progress Edition highlighting people under the age of 40 who are “making their home - and a difference – in Northern New York.” A special congratulation goes out to Deputy City Clerk Amanda Lewis and Confidential Assistant to the City Manager Bryan White for their commitment and dedication to serving this great City.