

City of the Village of Clarkston
City Manager Report
February 25, 2019

Annual Insurance Review

This week DPW Supervisor Mile Speagle and I met with Jerry Graczyk from the Michigan Municipal League for our annual Loss Control Consultation. With the exception of our September 2018 Cyber Attack claim, Jerry indicated that our claim rates are low and headed downward. Jerry had two recommendations: (1) utilize the extensive library of safety training videos available on the MML website in an attempt to proactively minimize worker injuries and (2) attend a training program for workplace violence and active-shooters. He also walked us through some of the many other municipal resources available on the website.

Cyber Attack Update

Speaking of last year's Cyber Attack, this week I attended a Network Security seminar where it was made clear that Cyber Attacks and other forms of computer hacking are increasing at alarming rates. Business loses in 2017 totaled \$4.2B and when 2018 is summarized, that number is expected to double. Firewalls and anti-virus software will help, but forms of network monitoring and detection are needed as well. In March I will be bringing to Council a summary of the total cost of our 2018 Cyber Attack as well as a proposal for ongoing IT support and system monitoring.

Email Hack

One last note on computer security, this week I spoke with an Oakland County Sheriff from the Computer Crimes Division who confirmed that the email hack we experienced earlier in February was part of a large attack on numerous local businesses and government offices, including Oakland County. Many of the hacks are similar, with emails being sent under a legitimate employee email account to other business associates asking that payments or other financial transactions be redirected to a new bank account. The sheriff warned that these attacks are ongoing and it is nearly impossible to catch the perpetrators. The best defense is to change your password frequently and question odd email requests of any type.

Treasurer Replacement Update

I am working with City Auditor Rana Emons to prepare a job posting for the City Treasurer position as well as identify any candidates from other municipalities that may be looking for a change. Rana is also advising me on the possibility of outsourcing any components of the Treasurer responsibilities, based on successful practices in other municipalities.

City Hall Building Status Update

In their February 19th meeting, the Historic District Commission reviewed and approved the most recently submitted plans for the City Hall / DPW Building expansion and renovation. With this approval, the designer will proceed with the previously authorized full construction drawings that can be used for accurate cost estimating. City Engineer Hubble, Roth & Clark is also working on a detailed site plan which will be needed by the Planning Commission for their plan review on Monday, March 4th. A more formal status update – including cost estimates – is targeted for the March 25th Council meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan Smith

February 21, 2019