

# MUNICIPAL POWER NEWS

Town of Winamac



**IMPA**  
INDIANA MUNICIPAL POWER AGENCY

Volume 22, Issue 2 | Summer 2016



Winamac Power & Light purchased a new bucket truck as well as a new pickup truck to help aid in daily operations. Winamac Power & Light consists of four employees: Tim Fox (left), Steve Burton (middle), Jake Berger (right) and Doug Shorter (not pictured).

The Anatomy of a  
Utility Pole  
Page 2

IMPA Solar Park  
Update  
Page 6

Town Council  
President Remembered  
Page 8

## Winamac Power & Light Purchases New Equipment

After years of using older equipment, Winamac Power & Light recently purchased a new bucket truck and a new pickup truck, which will be used to help complete maintenance tasks throughout town. The new bucket truck, which is replacing an aging one, can reach 60 feet into the air, making it perfect to use for projects that deal with high power lines or tree trimming. The utility's other bucket truck only reaches 35 feet in the air, so this new truck will provide access to previously unreachable tasks.

The new pickup truck will serve as the utility's main vehicle, transporting staff from project to project across town. "We use both the bucket truck and the pickup truck every day, so having

-continued on page 4

# Equipment

-continued from page 1

new vehicles that run properly will really be a big benefit,” said Steve Burton, Lineworker for Winamac Power & Light.

Winamac Power & Light consists of four employees who are responsible for maintaining the town’s electrical infrastructure. Doug Shorter, Superintendent of the department, has worked for the town since 1996. The other three employees - Jake Berger, Steve Burton and Tim Fox - are all lineworkers for the utility. Berger and Burton have worked for the town since 2014, and Fox has been a lineworker for the town since 2009.

The Town of Winamac appreciates its electric department employees and the role that they play in ensuring that the community has access to reliable, affordable and safe electricity. ●



Winamac Power & Light purchased a pickup truck to assist in daily operations.

## Winamac Utilities Employees Learn New Tasks

**A**fter taking over the reins as Town Manager in early 2015, Brad Zellers began implementing new processes and procedures, all aimed at increasing efficiency within town departments. Most recently, Zellers instituted a cross-training policy, where all utility employees in each department, which includes water, wastewater, electric and streets, learn more about the work of the other departments.

While the main focus has been cross-training throughout the water and wastewater departments, Zellers said it’s his goal to ensure that all his utility employees have a better understanding of the roles that each employee plays. Because the water and wastewater departments share similar tasks, it’s been easiest to start this training in those two departments, but the cross-training will definitely continue within the streets and electric departments as well.

“We really have the best employees,” stated Zellers. “They all get along really well, and by cross-training them, we have brought them together even more and really helped them appreciate each other and the work that each employee does on a daily basis.”

Zellers knows that there are certain tasks, especially in the electric department, that untrained individuals should not complete, such as working on live power lines. Despite that, he says there are still tasks that those in the water, wastewater and street department can learn about the electric department, and can assist when needed.

“It’s all about creating greater efficiency and implementing a better understanding of job duties,” continued Zellers. “Now, our employees can assist as needed across any department.” The Town of Winamac employs four individuals in the electric department, three in the wastewater department and four within the water and street department. ●

# Celebrate Indiana's Bicentennial!

In an effort to celebrate Indiana's Bicentennial all year long, IMPA is bringing readers of the *Municipal Power News* fun facts about Indiana history. Read on to learn more about the Hoosier state.

Indiana's state motto, "Crossroads of America," has been in existence since the early 1800s when river traffic along the Ohio River was a major mode of transportation. Today, more interstates and highways intersect Indiana than any other state.

Southern and central Indiana contain an abundance of limestone, which has been used in the construction of famous buildings such as the Pentagon and the Empire State Building.



Indiana's state flag was adopted in 1917 and was designed by Paul Hadley as part of a contest celebrating the state's 100th birthday.

Source: Indiana Department of Education

## Tidbits & Trivia

**Question:** Which type of wire on a utility pole carries the high voltage electricity from a substation?

- a) Secondary wire
- b) Primary wire
- c) Ground wire
- d) None of the above

Send your answer to the question to IMPA, and we will randomly select winners from all of the correct entries to receive an energy efficiency prize pack. Please send your name, e-mail address and address with your answer to:

newsletter@impa.com

OR

MPN Energy Efficiency Quiz  
11610 North College Avenue  
Carmel, IN 46032

The **Indiana Municipal Power Agency (IMPA)** is a not-for-profit organization that provides a low cost, reliable and environmentally-responsible power supply to its members.

IMPA member utilities purchase their power from IMPA and deliver that power to the residents and companies within the community.

## Substation

*noun.*

A facility used for switching and/or changing or regulating the voltage of electric energy. A substation may tie generating stations to transmission systems or transmission systems to distribution systems.



The Municipal Power News is published by the Indiana Municipal Power Agency and the Town of Winamac.

IMPA Commissioner: Brad Zellers

## Town Remembers Council President

Following his passing on June 25, 2016, the Town of Winamac and its residents mourn the loss of former Town Council President, Ken McFarland. McFarland was a community leader, serving in several leadership and community roles throughout his life. McFarland was a town employee for 28 years, working as a lineworker within the electrical department, and then serving as the Winamac Town Manager for 10 years. After retiring as Town Manager, McFarland became a member of the Town Council from 2000-2006, and then again in 2015 when he took on the role as Town Council president.

“He was a really involved and respected member of the Winamac community,” stated Brad Zellers, Winamac’s Town Manager. “He was a thoughtful decision maker and really had the town’s best interests at heart.”

The town mourns the loss of this community leader, and appreciates his service to the Town of Winamac. ●

