

Notes from the Mayor

Happy New Year!!

Sheridan starts 2024 with the accomplishment of a redundant well having been drilled. This is a project that has been several years in the making and finally reaching the final steps. As 3 of our 6 current wells do not produce any more, the concern for losing a well is real. Three wells have stopped pumping due to cascading water, the aquifer shifting during the earthquake, the pipe bending (possible due to an earthquake) and the screens getting plugged. If either well 5 or 6 (our larger producing wells) were to quit pumping, we would be in fairly dire straits. Now we will have the reassurance that we won’t be without water. We still need to connect the well to the existing manifold building (pump house). There are a couple of steps in there where the inner workings of the well need to be installed but we are hopeful that it will be working soon.

While the new well will provide some additional water for the town, it does not solve all our problems. We still have the outstanding issue of water storage. Most of the year we do just fine but in the summer, we pull down a lot of water from the tank and the pumps need to run almost constantly to keep up with demand which is not a good scenario. Add to that is the increased fire danger in the summer and we are at a critical point. In the near future, the issue of a new storage tank will need to be addressed. They are expensive, we would need to find land to build it on and put in pipe. We will be watching for grants that will help with the project.

The need for less water usage in the summer brings me to another point I’d like to have your thoughts on; the best way to reduce water consumption. The major difference between winter water use and summer is the watering of lawns. We will be working with the Conservation District and the Extension Service to look at how we can learn to landscape with more native plants and natural features. A wise woman in town that I respect suggested having some community classes on natural landscaping which I think is a great idea. Watch for information coming on that! And your feedback is welcome through email or stopping by Town Hall.

I think winter is about to show up so get ready and stay safe!!!