

Clerk-Treasurer Council Report
October 2024

Education and Trainings:

Attending

ESMC Meeting , October 10 am

Ottertail Power Energy Audit Oct. 10, 2 pm

TrainsFo: October 15 at 10 a.m.

Attended:

Clerks Meeting, Friday, Sept 13 in Detroit Lakes from 9-3.

“Good Mental Health in the Workplace”

1 in 5 adults live with a mental illness; Anxiety is on the rise; 4% of violent crimes are from people with mental illness.

City Employees are dealing with difficult interactions as 70 of adults reported they do not think people in government care about them.

When dealing with angry citizens: listen-people want to be heard. Do not interrupt-Do not raise your voice. Focus on Facts-do not stand to close or point.

Remember you are human. It is easier to forgive others than yourself-give yourself a break. Remember government employees are humans even when citizens do not treat you like one.

The mental health system is not broken – it was never built.

Human Resources needs to let employees know the cities expectations of off the clock. Do employees need to respond when they are not working. Human Resources (City Council) needs to treat mental illness like any medical illness. Resources available: The Village Program-Fargo. 988 hotline.

Clerk’s Advanced Academy, Sept 19-20, Staples

Ethics:

What you do when no one is watching.

City employees need to focus on facts not opinions but also remember 91% of spreadsheets have an error in them.

I will be updating the Council Code of Conduct statement.

Leadership:

Listen more than you talk. Have clear goals. Try to catch people doing things right. End each day with “What did I do well and what do I need to change” A performance review is like a final exam. When reviewing employees: Essential functions of the job, visit goals and if they were attained. If goals were not attained, how can I help employees reach them.

When no one is telling you what you are doing wrong – they do not care about you anymore – Randy Pausch

Public Speaking:

Tell your audience what you are going to tell them.

Tell them.

Tell them what you told them.

How to make good slides: no more than 8 lines per slide, no more than 8 words per line. Titles need to be 32 point. All other text 20 point. Be consistent: sentences or phrases.

IIMC Clerks Meeting Friday, October 4, 2024 8 am – 4pm zoom

Clerks from 11 states attended and we discussed the book “Death of the Public Servant by Daniel Rosemond

Extremely helpful to see how government employees are being treated in today’s world. It is getting more difficult to find government employees.

Crosswalk

Otter Tail County was able to work it out with the contractor that temporary paint crosswalks were installed until the county’s next project through Vergas, which is expected within the next five years. The County will install the Linden St. crosswalk and better crosswalks with more longevity with the upcoming project, and it would be city responsibility to maintain the markings after that time. Latex paint was the only option to install this time of year.

Elections

General Nov. 5-will be voting the Vergas Assisted Living the week before the elections.

Government Services Building

Front door was replaced. Latching system is not working properly and hopefully will be repaired soon.

PTO

I currently have 212 hours of PTO. I will be taking PTO from Oct 16-18 and Oct 22-25.

I will not be available on Oct 23 for phone calls, text messages or emails.

Vergas Small Cities Development Grant

Vergas was awarded the Small Cities Development Grant in 2012 for \$817,800 for Residential and Commercial repairs for 'slum and blight' conditions in Vergas and Dent. The final funds have been distributed as of Oct. 8, 2024. I will be submitting the final reporting form for the Small Cities Development Program closing the program.

Vergas Community Fund/Park Fundraiser

Phase 1 on the Long Lake Park Masterplan Fundraising from June 8 to September 28 with goal of \$200,000. Received \$30,277.51. Park Advisory Board has not made any decisions on how they plan to proceed. Vergas Community Fund will be meeting to discuss raising funds.