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Village Manager's Annual Report

Editor's note: Following is the fifth installment of Village Manager H. L. Woolhiser's annual report made to the Village council recently. The report is a comprehensive survey of every phase of municipal administration of the village during the past fiscal year and should be of vital interest to every taxpayer and voter in Winnetka. It affords an insight into the great responsibility which lies with our municipal servants, a responsibility far greater than the casual observer can ever comprehend. Other installments of the reports will follow from week to week until the entire survey is in the hands of the readers of WINNETKA TALK.

ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT

It is believed that the needs of the Council will be served best by a few concise statements summarizing the outstanding facts relative to the electric department.

1. Consumption of electric current for all purposes increased 11% over the previous year. Consumption for lighting increased 15% and for power 29%.
2. The gross revenue was \$290,198, an increase of 17% over the previous year.
3. Operating expenses were \$106,215, an increase of 15% over the previous year.
4. Operating surplus for the year, after deducting depreciation of \$18,185 and the 8% dividend to the General Fund of \$35,542 was \$130,256, an increase of 25% over the previous year.
5. During the year, \$100,389 of the foregoing surplus was spent for improvements and replacements, covering the following principal items:
 Fan house for new boiler \$ 3,288
 Installation of new 500 H. P. Boiler (not complete) 3,304
 Completion of 2,000 K. W. Turbo Generator 75,826
 Distribution System 12,250
 Meters 2,970
 Office Equipment for new billing system (portion) 3,824
6. The present surplus in the Electric Fund, subject to auditor's adjustments, is \$42,121, and in the Electric Deprecia-

tion Fund \$58,064, making a total surplus in the electric department of \$100,185, as compared with \$87,132 a year ago.

7. The average coal consumption per kilowatt hour for the year was 3.58 pounds, as compared with 3.48 pounds last year, this 3% increase being due to the necessity of operating the new 2,000 kilowatt turbine at reduced steam pressure until the installation of the 500 H. P. boiler, now in progress.

8. The coal consumption for the year was 7,917 tons, an increase of 15% over the previous year, with an increase in plant generation of 13%.

9. The total plant generation for the year was 4,414,615 kilowatt hours.

10. The average price of coal per ton for the year was \$4.66, as compared with \$4.13 the previous year.

11. The average cost per kilowatt hour sold, including depreciation was 3.13c as compared with 3.07c the previous year, this small increase being due partially to the increased price of coal and partially to the slightly higher unit fuel consumption explained above.

12. The distribution loss was 13% of current distributed, which is considered to be a low figure in public utility operation.

13. The total number of electric meters in service on April 1, 1927 was 3,112, an increase of 278 meters for the year, or 10%.

14. The operating ratio for the electric utility (i. e. ratio of operating expenses to gross revenue) for the past year was 46.5%, including an allowance of \$29,000 for general property and other taxes which would have been paid by a private utility. Operating ratios as high as 70% are not unusual for electric utilities.

Gives Operating Statement

The Council may be interested in the following theoretical operating statement, based on the foregoing figures, assuming that our electric utility were privately owned and capitalized at \$1,200,000, with \$800,000 in 5% bonds and \$400,000 in 7% preferred stock:

Gross Revenue	\$290,198
Operating Expense	106,215
Net Revenue	\$183,983
Depreciation	18,185
	\$165,798

(Continued on page 52)

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