

Citywide automated water meter upgrade means improved service

In early March, utility crew replaced the city's final mechanical water meter with a new automated meter.

The new automated water meters are meant to reduce operating costs,

alerting customers of potential waterline leaks and breaks, and allowing the utility crew to focus on making repairs and upgrades to other city infrastructure. The project replaced 4,037 meters and

took approximately 14 months to complete.

The automated water meters send water usage totals every 15 minutes to the city utility billing clerk's computer.

In the past, two utility crew members would physically read each meter in the city, which took about seven days on average to complete. Now, the information is sent electronically to the Finance Department allow-

ing monthly water usage statements to be calculated each month on the same day.

The automated meters are programmed to send alarm notices to the utility billing clerk when water

usage is out of an account's normal range. By working with customers directly, most of the issues are resolved quickly, reducing the number of leak checks requiring a technician to perform a service request.

Boone *from A1*

"I'm really looking forward to trying to help with the city's communications efforts. I think this will be a useful addition to what the city has to offer for its residents."

— Jake Boone, Assistant to the City Manager

from a variety of backgrounds.

Applicants were awarded scores based on seven qualities: decision making and problem solving; organization and planning; written communication; oral communication; interpersonal relations; supervision and leadership; and composure and stress tolerance.

In the first round of screening, the list was trimmed down to 10 candidates based on application forms, letters of reference and meeting minimum requirements.

As one applicant dropped out, a short list of nine candidates were then given four assignments, which included tasks such as analyzing and solving real Cottage Grove issues and writing a press release.

The work was judged by a six-member panel including Meyers, City of Cottage Grove department heads and Wes Hare, a former city

manager who has served the cities of Oakridge, La Grande and Albany.

Meyers said that this second screening round was done blindly.

Following Boone's resignation from his city council position and announcement of his intent to apply for the assistant position, some Cottage Grove residents speculated that favoritism could compromise the integrity of the selection to Boone's advantage.

To ensure a selection based on merit, Meyers said information which could indicate the identity of the candidates was blacked out by someone outside the panel and the anonymized work was handed to the panel for judgement.

Through this process, candidates were then reduced to a final three: a Cottage Grove resident who works as a senior planner in Springfield; a court clerk from Utah; and Boone. Meyers said he conducted "grueling" 38-question interviews which factored into the scoring of candidates' composure and stress tolerance.

The final scores were extremely close, Meyers noted, but Boone's breadth of experience in areas such as the League of Oregon Cities (LOC) placed him above the others.

As well as serving as treasurer, vice president and president of the LOC, Boone has also represented the city on

the boards of the Cottage Grove Community Foundation, the Lane Regional Air Protection Agency, the Cottage Grove Community Development Corporation, the Lane Area Commission on Transportation, and on both the General Government and the Finance and Taxation policy committees for the LOC.

In the Cottage Grove City Council, Boone was elected by the council as council president in 2017 and was selected to continue as council president in 2019.

As first orders of business on Monday in his new role, Boone will be put to work on negotiations of franchise agreements with internet

providers Charter Spectrum and CenturyLink and tasked with putting together accessible information on the city's website regarding water, stormwater and sewer infrastructure.

Other proximate assignments will include looking at transportation issues, researching human resources programs, organizing the reopening of the Cottage Grove Community Center and making regular online updates to issues of city interest.

"I'm really looking forward to trying to help with the city's communications efforts," said Boone, pointing to a need for residents to have a place where questions can readily be answered. "I think this will be a useful addition to what the city has to offer for its residents."

Boone is beginning his position at the bottom of the city's pay range, which is \$6,206 per month. He will be under a six-month probationary period, meaning he

can be let go if he underperforms.

Other applicants from the pool may be tapped for future city jobs as well, said Meyers.

"Because we have some staff retiring at the end of this year and as a result of going through these applications, we have a few people — some of them are local — that we've actually encouraged and said, 'Hey, watch for this job, this is going to be coming open later,'" he said.

Mayor Jeff Gowing reacted to Boone's appointment today and said he was pleased with the result.

"I'm excited about it," he said. "I think it's going to be a really good fit, just because the council knows him, so there's not really a learning curve. ... The roles are different and the work relationship is different, but the respect and appreciation of each other is there, so it's going to be a smooth transition."

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Worship Directory

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| <p>COTTAGE GROVE:
 6th & Gibbs Church of Christ
 195 N. 6th St. • 541-942-3822
 10:00am
 Christian Education: Pre-K through 5th
 Tim Baker, Senior Minister
 www.6thandgibbs.com</p> | <p>First Presbyterian Church
 3rd and Adams St
 541-942-4479
 Rev.: Karen Hill
 Worship: 10:00am
 Sunday School: 10:00am
 fpcgrove.com</p> | <p>St. Andrews Episcopal Church
 1301 W. Main • 541-767-9050
 Rev. Lawrence Crumb
 "Scripture, Tradition, Reason"
 Worship: Sunday 10:30am
 All Welcome</p> |
| <p>Calvary Baptist Church
 77873 S 6th St • 541-942-4290
 Pastor: Riley Hendricks
 Sunday School: 9:45am
 Worship: 11:00am
 The Journey: Sunday 5:00pm
 Praying Thru Life: Wednesday 6:00pm</p> | <p>Hope Fellowship
 United Pentecostal Church
 100 S. Gateway Blvd.
 541-942-2061
 Pastor: Dave Bragg
 Worship: 11:00am Sunday
 Bible Study: 7:00pm Wednesday
 www.hopefellowshipupc.com</p> | <p>Seventh-day Adventist Church
 820 South 10th Street
 541-942-5213
 Pastor: James D. Boram
 Bible Study: Saturday, 9:15 am
 Worship Service: Saturday, 10:40
 Mid-week Service: Wednesday, 1:00</p> |
| <p>Church of Christ
 420 Monroe St • 541-942-8565
 Sunday Service: 10:30am</p> | <p>Living Faith Assembly
 467 S. 10th St. • 541-942-2612
 Worship Services Sundays: 9a & 11a
 Youth Worship Sundays: 11a (all ages welcome)
 Mondays: 5:30p (6th-12th grades)</p> | <p>Trinity Lutheran Church
 6th & Quincy • 541-942-2373
 Pastor: James L. Markus
 Sunday School & Adult Education 9:15am
 Sunday Worship 10:30 am
 Comm. Kitchen Free Meal Tue & Thur 5:00pm TLC Groups
 tlccg.com</p> |
| <p>Cottage Grove Bible Church
 1200 East Quincy Avenue
 541-942-4771
 Pastor: Bob Singer
 Worship 11am
 Sunday School: 9:45am
 AWANA age 3-8th Grade,
 Wednesdays Sept-May, 6:30pm
 www.cgbible.org</p> | <p>Non-Denominational Church of Christ
 1041 Pennoyer Ave
 541-942-8928
 Preacher: Tony Martin
 Sunday Bible Study: 10:00am
 Sunday Worship: 10:50am & 5:30pm
 www.pennoyeravecoc.com</p> | <p>United Methodist Church
 334 Washington 541-942-3033
 Worship 10am
 umcgrove.org</p> |
| <p>Cottage Grove Faith Center
 33761 Row River Rd.
 541-942-4851
 Lead Pastor: Kevin Prueff
 www.cg4.tv
 Full Children's Ministry available
 Services: 9:00am & 10:45am</p> | <p>Our Lady of Perpetual Help and St. Philip Benizi Catholic Churches
 1025 N. 19th St.
 541-942-3420
 Father John J. Boyle
 Holy Mass:
 Saturday Vigil - 5:30 pm
 Sunday - 10:30 am
 For weekday and Holy Day of Obligation schedule see website OLPHCG.net
 Confession: 4 PM to 5 PM
 Saturdays or by appointment
 St. Philip Benizi, Creswell
 552 Holbrook Lane
 Sunday 8 am</p> | <p>"VICTORY" Country Church
 913 S. 6th Street • 541-942-5913
 Pastor: Barbara Dockery
 Worship Service: 10:00am
 Message: "WE BELIEVE IN MIRACLES"</p> |
| <p>Delight Valley Church of Christ
 33087 Saginaw Rd. East
 541-942-7711 • Pastor: Bob Friend
 Two Services:
 9am - Classic in the Chapel
 10:30am - Contemporary in the Auditorium</p> | <p>First Baptist Church
 301 S. 6th st • 541-942-8242
 Pastor: David Chhangle
 Sunday School 9:30am
 Worship Service 10:30am
 Youth Wednesday 6:30pm
 cgfirstbaptist.com</p> | <p>CRESWELL:
 Creswell Presbyterian Church
 75 S 4th S • 541-895-3419
 Rev. Seth Wheeler
 Adult Sunday School 9:15am
 Sunday Worship Service 10:30 am
 website www.creswellpres.org</p> |



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