History

of

Rembrandt, Iowa

Waterworks System

(1919 to 1936)

Scrapbook

of

Newspaper Articles, Pictures, and Notes

(Latest Update - 5/27/2017)
Rembrandt Proposed Water System

The council will buy a dumping ground, place a lot of gravel on the streets and build several new cement crossings. It is proposed to put in a complete water system in our little city. It is greatly needed for fire protection. The saving of one big fire would go a long ways toward paying for the system.

We are now making several substantial improvements in the town and quite likely the water system will be built.

Rembrandt Consolidated School Freshmen – Debate Waterworks

The Freshmen have decided to give their debate on Monday evening, February 22. The subject is, "Resolved, that Rembrandt should install municipal waterworks now." A very small fee will be charged at the door. They are to decorate the stage in green and white and have adopted as their motto: "Green, but growing."

Rembrandt will apply for New Water System

Mayor Gaes and other members of the town council met with mayors and councilmen of Buena Vista county at Storm Lake Monday evening and discussed plans for community projects under F. D. R. Rembrandt will apply for new water system.

Rembrandt Waterworks Project

A petition is being circulated among the Rembrandt voters requesting an election on the municipal water works project for Rembrandt.

Rembrandt to have Water System

The town council met Monday evening for a final review of the considered municipal water works project, the estimated cost of which will total about $10,500 a third of which will be covered by government appropriation.

The plans used are those prepared 12 years ago when a waterworks system was considered and Monday night's check-up disclosed them to be incomplete and inadequate for present day needs. The Municipal Waterworks Co., Buell and Winters of Sioux City have been consulted and their engineers will be in Rembrandt Wednesday and will assist in revising the plans, as necessary.

Another meeting of the council will be held Thursday evening. During Monday night's meeting the council also levied taxes for the year 1934 with a total reduction of $600 under the 1933 tax levy.

REMBRANDT TO VOTE ON MUNICIPAL WATER SYSTEM

The original plans for the municipal works project for Rembrandt were revised last week to meet the necessary requirements. The total expense was raised from $10,500 to $13,500 about a third to be covered.
by the Government Public Works appropriation, with $9,500 to be submitted to the voters. A second petition circulated on Thursday of last week was signed by over 60 percent of the voters and at the meeting of the town council held Thursday evening, Wednesday, Sept. 13 was set as the election date when the final decision will be rendered. Rembrandt is one of the most progressive small towns in the state and this move is to be commended.

Sioux Rapids Press (September 14, 1933)

**Tax Payers Meeting Held at Rembrandt**

The Rembrandt councilmen met at the town hall Thursday evening and discussed the proposed municipal waterworks system. It was voted to hold a meeting Monday evening at the community theatre for the benefit of the taxpayers of the town.

Quite a number attended and the system and requirements were fully explained by mayor Gaes and other members of the council.

Sioux Rapids Press (October 19, 1933)

**TOWN WATER PROJECT APPROVED**

The town council at Rembrandt received word Tuesday from the state board of the public works program, that the application for a loan on the $13,500 waterworks project for the town has been approved. The next step will be to secure the approval of the national board of Washington, D.C. which in all probability will be granted. It is hoped that work can commence before winter.

Sioux Rapids Press (October 26, 1933)

**Rembrandt asking for Waterworks Bids**

The town of Rembrandt is asking for sealed bids for the construction of their new waterworks system.

Storm Lake Pilot-Tribune (November 9, 1933)

**Bids for Rembrandt Waterworks Project**

Sealed bids for the construction of the proposed Rembrandt waterworks project are scheduled to be opened at a meeting of the town council Tuesday, November 14.

Storm Lake Pilot-Tribune (November 16, 1933)

**Water Plant Bids Opened**

Rembrandt Town Dads Award Contracts Subject to Approval of “Higher Ups”

(Special to the Pilot-Tribune)

Excitement prevailed here Monday on the downtown streets as representatives of a number of waterworks construction firms gathered to submit their bids for the proposed Rembrandt waterworks system, which will come under the National Public Works program. The bids submitted are subject to the approval of the State Public Works Engineer and to the granting of sufficient funds for the completion of the project.

Bids were opened at Monday night’s meeting of the town council. The successful bidders are: tank and tower, Pittsburgh-Des Moines Steel Co. of Des Moines, $4,625; mains and pump house, C. W. Roland Co. of Des Moines, $8,535 plus 6 cents per foot for hand labor; well, Gus Pesh Foundry Mfg. Co. of LeMars, in accordance with bids submitted; pumping equipment, Interstate Machinery and Supply Co. of Omaha, Nebr., $817.
The total expense win amount to approximately $14,000 and work will commence as soon as the necessary red-tape proceedings are completed.

Other bidders included were Fairbanks Morse Co. of Chicago, United States Pipe and Foundry Co. of Minneapolis, Jacobs Bros, and Hector Construction Co. of Minneapolis, McDonald Mfg. Co. of Dubuque, Rasmussen Well Co, Sioux City, Omaha Steel Works. Omaha, and Chicago Bridge and Iron Works.

The Storm Lake Register (February 6, 1934)

Optimism High at Rembrandt
Bank Reopens, Water Project Approved
(By Mrs. C. O. Waldron)

Rembrandt and community have cause to take on new courage in the succession of events which have transpired during the past week.
Friday the First National bank of Rembrandt opened without restriction after a year of suspense and anxiety on the part of both officers and patrons.
Thursday afternoon a telegram was received from our Representative Guy M. Gillette announcing that the Public Works Administration had approved the Rembrandt Waterworks project for a loan and grant of $13,000. Of the Rembrandt project allotment, 30 percent is grant and the remainder is loan.
The Town Council will meet some evening this week, when plans will be completed for the beginning of the work on the project. This ought to supply work for all of the idle men in this community.

Sioux Rapids Press (August 8, 1934)

Much Activity in Rembrandt
(Rembrandt Special)

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Storm Lake Pilot-Tribune (August 30, 1934)

Rembrandt is on P. W. A. Projects

In listing more than $1,000,000 that has been spent on P. W. A. projects in Iowa, the federal office at Washington includes the loan and grant of $13,800 to Rembrandt. The purpose was for a “well with pumping Equipment, 130,000 gallon steel tank and complete distribution.”
Odebolt is also included with a grant of $3,700 on a waterworks improvement project to cost $13,200. Eight Iowa waterworks projects are included in all.

Sioux Rapids Press (November 01, 1934)

To Vote on Sale of City Property
(Rembrandt Special)
Notices are being posted this week by Town Clerk E. H. Edwall announcing a special election to be held at the Town Hall Monday, December 3, to decide whether, or not the Rembrandt public electric light distributing system is to be sold.

The Northwester Light and Power Company is anxious to purchase this interest and Manager L. P. LaFontaine of the Spirit Lake office was in Rembrandt Tuesday investigating the proposed change of ownership.

The proceeds of such a sale would enable the town of Rembrandt to install the much discussed waterworks system without incurring a large debt and the sale should have the approval of all the voters.

It is also declared that the proposed change will include lower light rates and a waterworks system would also mean lower insurance rates.

Hearty cooperation will put both deals over.

Storm Lake Pilot-Tribune (November 22, 1934)

6 Reasons Why Rembrandt Should Sell the Light Plant

1. To install water-works without going into debt.
2. To reduce our Fire Insurance rate by installing a water system.
3. To get the Government Grant of $4,300.00 as a gift.
4. To get the following lower residence light rate:
   - 1-30 KWH per month, 8c.
   - 2-30 KWH per month, 6.4c.
   - 3-40 KWH per month, 3.7c.
   - Balance, per month, 2.8c.
5. To get a good taxpayer into town.
6. This will give us a water service without levying any taxes for it.

By the Town Council Of Rembrandt, Iowa

Storm Lake Pilot-Tribune (December 6, 1934)

Rembrandt Votes to Sell Plant to Utilities Company
(Special to The Pilot-Tribune)

The results of the special town election held Monday, December 3, at the town hall showed almost unanimously a vote for the affirmative in the sale of the Rembrandt light plant and the granting of a 25-year franchise to the Northwester Light & Power company.

A total of 132 votes was cast with only eight against the proposal. It will now be possible to install waterworks without going into debt.
REMBRANDT SELLS TO N. W. LIGHT & POWER CO.

The results of the Rembrandt town election on Monday of this week showed an almost unanimous vote in the affirmative for the sale of the Rembrandt lighting equipment to the Northwestern Light & Power Co. and the granting of a twenty-five year franchise. A total of 132 votes were cast, with only eight against the proposition. The sale of the plant now makes it possible for Rembrandt to install water works without going into debt.

Rembrandt people will find the N. W. Light & Power Co. on the square in all their dealings and we understand it will make cheaper rates for the use of electricity at that place.

Light Sale to Pay for Water
Rembrandt will not need to Borrow Government Funds for Deep Well
(Special to The Pilot-Tribune)

Proceeds from the sale of the municipal light system to the Northwestern Power and Light company will be used to install and equip the proposed new municipal water system.

Rembrandt's PWA grant and loan $13,800 will therefore be reduced to an outright grant of $4,300 only. The other $9,500 needed will be provided by the sale.

Sale of the light plant was voted at a recent municipal election by a vote of 124 to 8. An ample supplier of water from deep wells has been located here, sufficient to supply the town. The water project was originally undertaken under the PWA offer providing that 30 percent of the cost would be an outright grant and the other 70 percent would be loaned by the government and repaid out of the proceeds of the water system.

Since the light plant is to be sold, however, only the 30 per cent grant, amounting to $4,300, will be taken from government funds.

Rembrandt Well Digging Begins

Employees of the Pech Mf. Foundry Co. of LeMars commenced the digging of the town well on Tuesday as a preliminary move in the installation of the prospective waterworks system.

Digging of New Well Completed

The digging and equipment of the new municipal well which is the first step in the development of the Rembrandt waterworks system, was completed Friday of last week when a quantity test was taken. Eight hours of steady pumping with 54 gallon a minute failed to lower the supply a single inch.

The well was drilled to a depth of 439 feet. The well contains over 300 feet of water and indications are that a generous supply will be available.

Town Engineer Hagerstrom of Ida Grove was in town Monday and pronounced the water to be soft and clear and of good quality. The Pech Foundry and Manufacturing Co. of LeMars were awarded the contract for digging the well with Walter Harwig of LeMars as operator, assisted by Oscar Hanson.

The construction of the water tower is the next step and will be commenced as soon as a satisfactory report is received from Iowa City in Tegard to the water test.

The contract for the construction of the water tower has been awarded to the Pittsburgh Des Moines Steel Co. of Des Moines and the contract for mains and fittings to the C. W. Roland Co. of Des Moines.
Rembrandt Waterworks System to be completed during Late Fall

Prospects indicate that the Municipal waterworks system will be completed sometime during the late fall months. The town pump was completed several weeks ago and the final quality water test received from Iowa City was satisfactory.

Work will soon begin on the building of the foundation for the water tower the contract of which has been awarded to the Des Moines and Pittsburgh Steel Co. Surveyors are at work on preliminaries for digging for the mains which will be under the supervision of the Roland Construction Co. of Des Moines.

It is estimated that the total cost of the water works system will amount to around $14,000.

Waterworks to be Completed Soon

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It is estimated that the total cost of the waterworks system will amount to about $14,000.

Work Begins at Rembrandt
Foundation for New Water Plant Laid This Week

Sid Carlson of the Pittsburgh and Des Moines Steel Co. was to town Friday and submitted blue prints for the building of the water tower and made preparations for the laying of the foundation.

Work Plentiful at Rembrandt
All Available Men Labor on New Water Works Plant
(By Mrs. C. O. Waldron)

The work of digging for the water mains of the new waterworks system is progressing rapidly and the entire main street from west to east is nearly completed. All available men are given employment on the project.

Work Progresses

Work is progressing rapidly on the new municipal water works system under the supervision of the Roland Construction Co. of Des Moines and the Pittsburgh – Des Moines Steel Co.

The mains are being laid along main street, the water tower is up about 50 feet in the air and work has begun on the construction of the water tank. It is estimated that the job will be completed in about six weeks or two months.

The streets are literally torn upside down. Local Engineer Hagerstrom is on the job continually. C. W. Roland of the Roland Construction Co. Des Moines was in town Tuesday.
Sioux Rapids Press (July 25, 1935)

**Waterworks System Progressing**

The work of digging ditches for the water mains of the new waterworks system is progressing rapidly and the entire main street from west to east is nearly completed. All available local men are given employment on the project.

Sioux Rapids Press (September 5, 1935)

**Waterworks Completed**

The Rembrandt waterworks system, the program of which has been reported in these columns from time to time, is at last completed at a total cost of nearly $16,000, nearly 30 per cent of which was covered by a PWA loan and only a small bonded indebtedness of about $2,000 remains. The first to take advantage of the new water supply is the Rembrandt school, connection being completed last week.

The construction of the new pump house has begun. The contract was awarded to Geo. Brandvold, the low bidder, at $693.00.

Sioux Rapids Press (September 26, 1935)

**NOTICE FOR BIDS – Waterworks Bond Issue**

Notice is hereby given that sealed bids for the purchase of a $3,500 Waterworks Bond Issue of the Town of Rembrandt, Buena Vista County, Iowa, will be received by the undersigned up to October 7, 1935; that said bonds will be sold at the Town Hall in Rembrandt, Iowa, on October 7, 1935, at 8 o'clock p.m.; that said bonds bear interest at 4 per cent payable annually, in serial form, principal payable $500 per annum, beginning November 1, 1936. Callable after November 1, 1940, at par and accrued interest.

The Council reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

E. H. EDWALL, Clerk of Town of Rembrandt, Iowa.

The Storm Lake Register (October 8, 1935)

**Light Topping Rembrandt Water Tower**

The electric light topping the Rembrandt water tower blazed forth for the first time Friday night and can be seen many miles away thru the darkness of night.

Sioux Rapids Press (October 10, 1935)

**First National Bank Purchases Bonds**

The regular monthly meeting of the town council was held Monday evening at the town hall with Mayor I. M. Christianson presiding. During the business session the council approved the sale of $3,500 in bonds issued for the purpose of covering the remaining expense incurred in the recent installation of the municipal waterworks system.

The bonds were purchased by L. F. Pingel in behalf of the First National Bank of Rembrandt. The total cost of the waterworks amounted to over $17,000 of which $10,000 was covered by the sale of the municipal electric light plant and; $4,750 by a PWA grant.
The purchase of new fire equipment was also discussed at the meeting and the fifteen members of the new volunteer fire department were sworn in.

Storm Lake Pilot-Tribune (January 30, 1936)

New Water Tank at Rembrandt is Victim of Cold
Necessary to Call Experts from Des Moines to Thaw Ice
(By Mrs. C. O. Waldron)

As a result of the steady severe cold of the past 10 days the municipal water tank froze up and a force of men supervised by a representative of the Des Moines, Pittsburgh Steel Company of Des Moines worked the greatest share of Monday night and all day Tuesday breaking up the ice in the tank and thawing out leader pipes.

A scaffold was built around the tower from which the workers forced pipe lengths thru the heavy layer of ice admitting air to the water below. The water supply was not cut off only on second floors and the greatest task was at the school building.

It is rumored that the Royal water tank was frozen solid.