

Leeann Smith
retires

Feirer requests
vacation
donation

Page 2

*Our mission is to provide reliable,
quality water and services
at a reasonable cost.*

Promoting new water treatment plant upgrades in the *Pioneer Press*



Steve Schneider poses as **John Autey**, photographer for the *Pioneer Press*, snaps images on Feb. 25. The photo shoot was in preparation for a newspaper article on the improvements to the water treatment plant that will be occurring over the next four years. The article ran in the Sunday, Feb. 28 issue of the *Pioneer Press*.

Tom Murphy becomes water meter technician

Tom Murphy earned an internal promotion to water meter technician as of March 1.

Murphy fills the vacancy left by the retirement of Leeann Smith on February 26.

Murphy was as a water utility worker I prior to taking the new job.



Tom Murphy

Shea appointed general manager

Patrick Shea has been appointed general manager with his new duties beginning on March 29.

The Board of Water Commissioners made the appointment at their March 9 board meeting.

Shea has served as the utility's assistant general manager since the fall of 2019. He previously served

seven years as the public services director with the city of St. Cloud. He has experience in managing drinking water, wastewater, storm water, renewable energy, and public works.

After a national job search, the Board of Water Commissioners appointed an examining committee representing SPRWS, local stakeholders, and water industry experts to review and assess qualified candidates. The committee then recommended finalists to be interviewed by the Board.

Shea was among four candidates, one other internal SPRWS candidate and two from out of state, that were interviewed by the Board.

"The qualified candidates from both inside SPRWS and across the country exhibited a good mix of experiences and skills for the Board to review," said Mara Humphrey, president of the Board of Water Commissioners. "After careful consideration, the Board decided that Patrick's combination of skills and experiences are the right combination to lead SPRWS as we embark on major improvements to our treatment facilities. Patrick is uniquely qualified to guide us into the future."

Shea will oversee the utility's operating revenues of about \$63 million and approximately 260 employees that provide drinking water related services to the customers of SPRWS.

"I look forward to ensuring we continue to innovate and improve in order to provide Minnesota's best drinking water to our customers," said Shea.



Patrick Shea

Leeann Smith retires after 20 years of service to water utility

Leeann Smith retired February 26 after working at the utility for 20 years.

Smith was hired in 2000 as a water utility worker I and was promoted to water utility worker II in 2002.

In 2006, she was promoted to water system worker II. In 2014, she took a position as a water meter technician, the position she retired from this year.

Leeann returned to the office on Monday, March 1 to receive her 20 years of service award from Jerry Ludden and enjoy a pizza luncheon with the meter shop staff.

We wish Leeann well in her retirement.



In keeping with social distancing, Jerry Ludden congratulates Leeann Smith with a fist bump after giving her the 20 years of service award she earned in 2020. Leeann retired on Feb. 26.

Leeann Smith receives her 10 years of service award from Steve Schneider in 2010.



Kelsey Feirer requests vacation donation

Vacation donation has been approved by the Office of Human Resources for Kelsey Feirer, a water utility worker I.

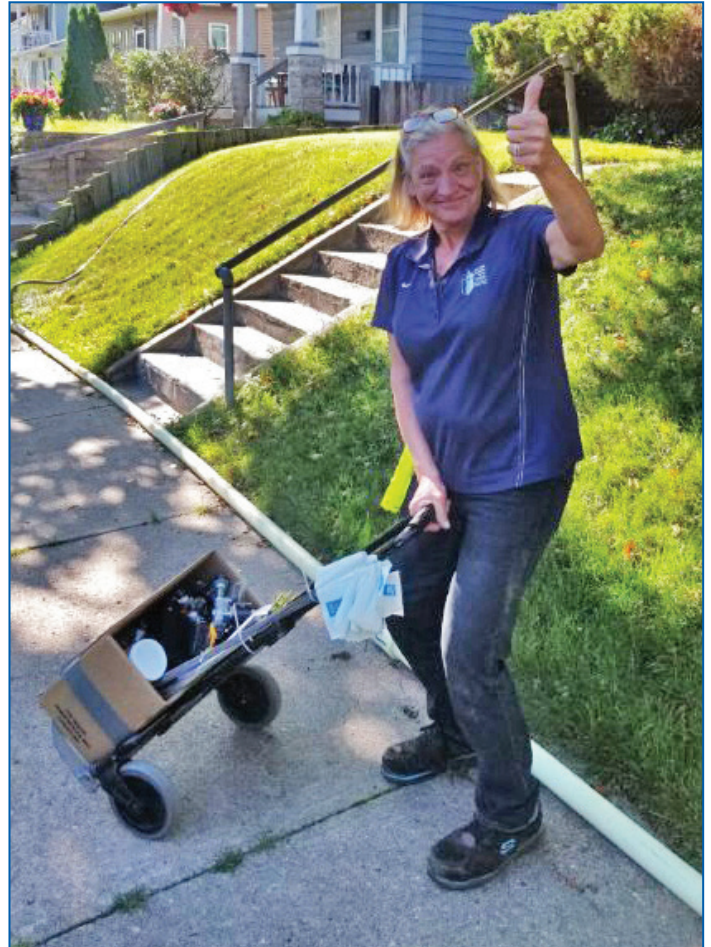
Kelsey has exhausted all her sick leave and vacation due to a medical condition and has requested vacation donation.



Kelsey Feirer

If you would like to donate vacation to Kelsey, please e-mail your payroll person or provide her with a signed release indicating how much vacation you wish to transfer. She will be responsible for all the record keeping.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this request.



Leeann Smith, water meter tech., working in the fall of 2019.