



Avilla Indiana



Insider Newsletter

People and Places

June 2021

The Town of Avilla hires Tena Woenker as New Town Manager

AVILLA — Meeting in special session Tuesday, the Avilla Town Council unanimously voted to hire Tena Woenker as its new town manager. Woenker, who currently is the town manager in Albion, will be replacing Bill Ley who is retiring. Woenker’s first day will be July 6.

Woenker had served as the town manager for Waterloo from March 2014 through December 2019 when she took the Albion job vacated by Stefen Wynn, who left for a similar job in Florida.

The Albion Town Council, which met in regular session Tuesday, accepted Woenker’s resignation and set an executive session for June 14 to begin its search for a new town manager and to discuss what to do in the interim. Woenker’s last day in Albion will be June 30.

“I am sorry to see her go,” Albion Town Council president Vicki Jellison said, then turned to Woenker. “But you have to do what’s best for you.”

“I’ve really enjoyed working with the department heads here,” Woenker said, then addressed the council. “Thank you for the opportunity to work here the last 18 months. “We really appreciate your willingness to do that,” Councilman Don Shultz said.

Woenker said the focus of the town manager position differs between the two communities. In Albion, she is the direct supervisor to all department heads and manages many of the day-to-day operations of the town.

“In Avilla, it’s more of a project manager, a grant writer, a leader,” she said. That big picture approach fits her skill set better, she said.

Avilla Town Council president Paul Shepherd said Woenker’s work history was important in the council’s decision.

“There’s a lot of stuff going on here,” Shepherd said. “Experience was a big factor. We have a lot of projects that are in process.”

Among other projects, the town of Avilla recently received word it needed more than \$2.3 million in improvements to its aging wastewater treatment plant and received an estimate of more than \$1 million to expand its fire station. The town is also revitalizing its downtown and working to finish off its new industrial park east of town.

Woenker said she was eager to tackle big-picture projects in Avilla but was sad she wouldn’t be able to see some Albion projects to fruition. After a year of isolation due to the coronavirus pandemic, Albion was emerging a stronger community.

“Things are starting to come around,” Woenker said. “Behind the scenes, there are a lot of great things happening.”



**New Town Manager :
Town of Avilla
*Tena Woenker***

**By MATT GETTS mgetts@kpcmedia.com
Jun 10, 2021**

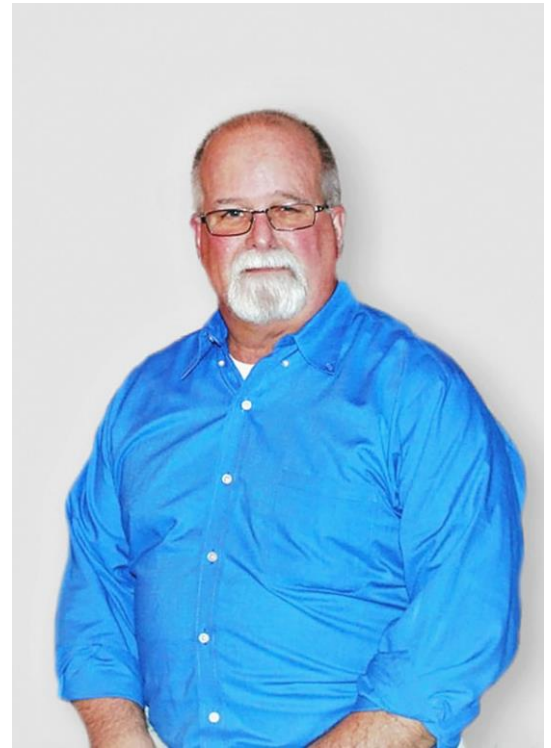
Congratulations to Bill Ley 39 Years of Dedicated Service!

Bill Ley retires from the Town of Avilla, IN. Bill's career with the Town of Avilla began in 1982 where he was hired in the water, wastewater and streets department and also responded / assisted the lineman when needed. In 1987 Bill was appointed to Superintendent of all utilities and streets. In 2002 Bill was voted in as the Town Manager.

In a career spanning 39 years it's impossible to acknowledge all of Bill's accomplishments. A few notable projects were:

- New Sewage treatment plant in 2000.
- Involved with the purchase of a building for our current town hall in 2001 to relieve cramped conditions at what is now the Police Department.
- New 10MW substation (Town of Avilla's first) and rebuilt about 50% of the distribution system in 1997.
- New 10MW substation in 2007.
- Obtained new electric service territory from I&M for industrial park addition in 2000.
- Developed a new industrial park in 1995.
- Currently developing their third industrial park on the east side of town.
- Avilla was awarded 5 Community Crossings Grants for streets since 2016 totaling \$2.8M. One of them to rebuild our downtown streetscape while making sure all downtown buildings are handicap accessible.
- Helped recruit several new industrial and commercial businesses to town.
- Involved as a Plan Commission Member since 1988, Plan Commission President Zoning Administrator for the last 8 years for the approval of 6 new residential subdivisions totaling approximately 400 new homes. That doubled the number of homes in Avilla compared to 1982.

The IMEA Board & Staff would like to thank Bill for his dedicated leadership & involvement serving the IMEA Board of Directors since 2012 as well as his dedication to the Town of Avilla. He will be sorely missed by all.



Bill Ley, Avilla Town Manager

*Happy Retirement Bill!
It's time to kick back and
enjoy your family,
fishing and motorcycle
riding across the States.
You've earned it!
Wishing you luck in all
that you do!*

Welcome to our Newest Associate Member!

D & T Power LLC
Contact: Dustin Streich
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Rockford, MI 49341
(989)600-7347



EVENT CALENDAR

June 29, 2021**IMEA Brown Bag Virtual Series****Seeing the Unseen / Brownstown Electric Supply**

Registration Coming Soon! / Go-To Webinar

June 29 - 30, 2021**IMEA Transformer Theory and Connections Workshop
Lebanon, IN.**Register Today! www.imea.com/workshops**July 8, 2021****IMEA Brown Bag Virtual Series****Introduction to Distribution Automation / G&W Electric**

Registration Coming Soon! / Go-To Webinar

July 13, 2021**IMEA Brown Bag Virtual Series****End to End Lateral Protection / Jeremi Jermakowicz /
S & C Electric**

Registration Coming Soon! / Go-To Webinar

August 24-25, 2021**IMEA Transformer Theory and Connections Workshop
Mishawaka, Indiana**Register Today! www.imea.com/workshops**August 30 – September 3, 2021****IMEA 613 Advanced Construction and Maintenance
Workshop****Class # 100118****Mid-America Science Park (Scottsburg, IN.)**Register Today! www.imea.com/workshops**September 20 - 24, 2021****IMEA 612 Intermediate Construction and Maintenance
Workshop****Class # 093019****Mid-America Science Park (Scottsburg, IN.)**Register Today! www.imea.com/workshops**September 27 – October 8, 2021****IMEA 610 Wood Pole Climbing Workshop****Class # 092721 (Lebanon Utilities)**Register Today! www.imea.com/workshops**October 12 – 15, 2021****IMEA Annual Business Meeting & Vendor Expo****Embassy Suites Hotel & Conference Center****Noblesville, IN.**Register Today! www.imea.com/events

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