

CITY OF GOBLES

QUESTIONS FOR MUNICIPALITIES

1. What businesses are in your community?

Grocery stores, gas stations, convenience stores, arcade, bar (pub), bait shop, pharmacy, insurance business

Why do you think they were attracted to your community?

Most are long established businesses. We have a few new businesses - the bait shop and the arcade. Most seem to do well and the new businesses are Gobles-area residents.

Do you offer any incentives to small businesses?

We do not offer any special incentives to businesses. We do not have a DDA. We do however clear all sidewalks of snow for the businesses. Our downtown business district receives extra decorating for each season which makes it attractive to potential customers and the general public.

2. Do you have other ways to communicate to your residents besides your website?

We communicate via a newsletter to our taxpayers and residents.

3. Police Service: Do you have your own police department?

We currently contract for police services with Van Buren County Sheriff's Office. We have held a contract with the department for approximately 18 years. We contract for one full-time officer and pay all costs associated with that particular officer. We pay mileage for the vehicle. .65 cents per mile.

4. Parks and Recreation: Who provides the flowers for your community?

We have been the beneficiary of donated flowers by Dickerson's Greenhouse for many years. This past year he sold us the flowers at a discounted price. Our DPW Director plants the flowers.

5. How many DPW workers do you have currently?

We currently have one full-time DPW worker. He is also our Director of Public Works and performs all required water related activities. We currently have one part-time worker and have been actively searching for a full-time worker without success.

What city services do your DPW workers provide? (Snow removal, leaf pick-up, weed control, junk pick-up, etc.)

We offer brush and bagged leaf pick-up April through November. Pick-up is once per month. We have bulk leaf pick-up in the fall. We schedule two pick-ups for bulk leaves, but continue as long as weather permits as our DPW collects the leaves. We have city wide curb side pick-up in the spring. All sidewalks in the downtown area are cleared on a regular basis. Even with one employee we never have more than 2 inches of snow. The sidewalks along the main roads in town are cleared. This allows pedestrians to walk to the businesses located on the ends of town and also permits the student walkers to have clear access to

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the schools. This can be a challenge as we are located in the snow belt and generally have triple the snowfall (lake effect) as other communities to our north, south and east.

6. What types of recreation do you offer your community?

We do not have a dog park. We have a downtown park that has a pavilion for shelter. Picnic tables are located under the pavilion. There is a basketball court and two tennis courts at this same location. We also have a recreational park that is home to 4 ball diamonds, 3 soccer fields and 2 micro soccer fields. Our youth ball teams and AYSO soccer teams play at this location. This area is also quite expansive and people are known to practice driving golf balls. There is a business owner and a few individuals that are actively working to raise funds for playground equipment. This is proposed to be located adjacent to our downtown park.

7. What are the biggest challenges that your community faces?

I would say that not having sewer has an impact on our small city and limits the types of businesses that might like to operate in the city.

8. What challenges has your community faced in the past, and how did you remedy those?

[See response to Item 7]

9. What are some of the ways in which you have encouraged your residents to be actively involved in their community?

We are always looking to encourage residents and property owners to be more active. Our Memorial Day Parade and Veteran's Ceremony are probably the highlight for our community. We have a large number of people involved in that event. We have a church (Journey Family Church) that plays host to several activities in the summer and fall. They sponsor Fun in the Park and offer carnival type rides and inflatables for \$1.00 for a two hour period. This runs once a week for two months in the summer. The events conclude with a family night event with free hot dogs and cold soft drinks. They also sponsor a Not So Spooky Halloween under a huge tent that is free and this past year attracted nearly 1,700 people. Our local business owner from the arcade organized a couple of movie nights in the park and a Soda Pop Fest in the fall. There were also a couple of Music in Park events. We have seen a surge in these small local events this past year and offer assistance with the events. We have a Snowman Festival that will be in January this year. We're feeling that all of these events are encouraging our locals to become more involved in the community.

We encourage attendance from our residents and business owners at the meetings and always ask for public comment. Our commissioners are actively listening to the residents and business owners.