



City of Box Elder

2017 Administrative Report

A Productive Year.

The City of Box Elder reports 2017 as the most successful and financially stable year in its history which is attributed to the recruitment, hiring, and retention of professionals who have effectively implemented developmental strategies empowered by the City Council.

The year was full of positive changes and giant steps forward; below are just some of the department's successes.

The City of Box Elder continues to be one of the fastest growing communities in South Dakota. With that in mind, the Planning and Zoning Department focused on improving the way we develop property and grow as a city. They assist with ensuring that we have the resources to continue that growth in the future. Planning and Zoning's Code Enforcement processes continue to evolve with a more practical and proactive approach to work with citizens toward compliance in improving the overall appearance of city lots which improve and aid in maintaining property values. "Upgrades to development standards, ordinance revisions and streamlining the permitting process have led to a reduction in the time, expense, and difficulty in getting things done." – Planning and Zoning Director Ron Koan.

The Public Works department worked tirelessly to update and modernize the water distribution system to ensure reliable and quality water continues to flow to our citizens. They utilized professional consultants and engineering analysis data to prioritize future improvement areas. "In simplest terms, the goal was to ensure that no citizen goes without water." – Public Works Director Bob Kauffman. They also continue to work toward improving city amenities like parks, lighting, and transportation through cooperative efforts with public and private entities. Staff have also improved funding options by researching and applying for grants and additional funding to achieve those goals.

The Police Department continued to modernize and improve its fleet. They added three new promising personalities to the staff as well as new patrol vehicles to the division. Officers conducted hundreds of hours of traffic enforcement, investigations and housing patrols while still participating community events such as the Freshman Impact Program, the Box Elder Bash, the annual Halloween Patrol, Dakota Thunder, and several other smaller community events. They hosted regional trainings to include: Rescue Task Force, Downed Officer Kit training, and they partnered with the Smoking Gun Range to provide qualifications for the Law Enforcement Officer's Safety Act. The Officers continued their own education in subjects like responses to active killer, D.U.I./Drug impaired driving, response to those in mental health crises, family violence, and sexual assault. The experienced training Officers also lent their expertise to other agencies as well as the Law Enforcement Training Center in Pierre. "Probably the best thing we've ever done was to improve our training and encourage our Officers to take that training to others, so we could improve the quality of service across the state, not just in Box Elder." – Chief of Police Jason Dubbs

The Finance Department set out to make every citizen's dollar receive the accountability it deserves by enhancing accounting software to ensure that each one of those tax dollars means more and goes further. This means that every City department can now provide better services to the citizens with better technology without costing the taxpayer more. "In a City like ours, the challenge is to face today's hurdles with tomorrow's technology and we are definitely up to that challenge." – City Administrator/Finance Director Nicole Schneider.

One of the biggest achievements was improving the City's image to the rest of the world. We are putting our best foot forward to work cooperatively with other government agencies, developers, and prospective business leaders to improve our economy. Our relationship with Box Elder Chamber of Commerce continues to improve as we work to effectively move the community in a positive direction. "By working with these individuals and showing them that we are serious about moving forward, we are becoming a real player in the Black Hills Community which has brought us to a place we have never been before." – Mayor Larry Larson.