Temporary Council Report for the 10/06/2026 Regular Meeting

Prepared by: Kevin Fidler, General Support Technician

Streets

- Completed the regrading and addition of gravel to low spots on Jesse Haines Way
- Continued organization of the Municipal Garage
- Increased focus on workplace safety
    - Access to PPE
        - Work Gloves
        - Disposable Gloves
        - Particulate Masks
        - Hearing Protection
        - High Visibility Vests
        - Safety Helmets and Face Shields
        - Safety Chaps
        - Lock-Out Tag-Out Equipment
        - Eye-Wash Stations
        - Fire Extinguishers
    - Addition of safety features to all Village vehicles
        - Hazard Lights
        - Fire Extinguishers
    - Working on increased safe storage and handling of chemicals and fuels in the Municipal Garage
- Redlight on East Bound Main Street traffic light (the one on the right) became inoperable on 9/17/2026. Capital Electric was called and the light was repaired within 5 hours of the initial call
- Repair of shop garage door sensors by Doors Galore on 10/1/2026
- Waiting on a quote from Doors Galore for the replacement of weather stripping and door seals on the Municipal Garage doors
- Working on identifying an outside contractor to repair the damage to the storm sewer inlet at Ludlow and Fernwood prior to Winter
- Preparing for Leaf Collection
    - Finishing up any final tasks before the leaf box is mounted to the dump truck
    - Dave Rigsby has offered to come assist with reviewing the leaf vac and mounting the box
    - We will most likely need some additional personnel support during leaf collection

Water

- Filled in the waterline excavation by Wellhouse 3
- Making facilities improvements to the wellhouses
    - Fire Extinguishers
    - Eye-Wash Stations
    - Personal Protective Equipment
    - Regular Maintenance and Operational Tools and Equipment
    - Chlorine Pump Spare Parts
    - Storage Shelving
- Data Collection, Reporting, and Analysis
    - Development of specialized forms to track routine operational tasks
    - Development of a system for tracking all water-related field work

    - Development of data tracking tools for
        - Analysis of Plant Operations
        - Analysis of Chlorine Residual Levels
        - Analysis of Chlorine Usage
        - Analysis of Well Flows
        - Analysis of Tasks, Workflows, and Operations
    - Proof of concept for other departments
- Well 3 Operational Status
    - Taken temporarily out of service on 9/26/2026, due to what is believed to be a build-up that has created a clog in the chlorine solution injection line. We attempted to, but were unable to clear the clog
    - Mayor Simpson was notified and he approved emergency funding for the replacement of the plumbing
        - Galvanized plumbing was in very poor shape
        - PVC valves were inoperable, which prevented certain routine maintenance tasks
    - FREBCO was called and they came out to create a parts list for replumbing
    - Currently waiting on ordered parts to come in
    - Plant running on Well 2 and Well 4 with no perceivable issues
        - Plant is running slightly longer each cycle, which is using slightly more chlorine solution, but we are having no issues maintaining tank levels
    - Well 3 will be repaired and placed back into service once parts arrive
    - Using this opportunity to rebuild the platform at Wellhouse 3
- Water Tower Building Faucet Replacement
    - Has been leaking since At least July 2026
    - Will be done by FREBCO when they are here to work on Well 3
- Working on the development of formalized operational documentation and documentation concerning municipal water supply infrastructure
- Working on identifying any other storm sewers inlets that need service or repair prior to Winter

Parks

- Working on the completion of tree trimming
    - Will still need to be some work done by an external tree service
- Eagle Scout Project
    - Extreme success, a great time, and the bleachers look amazing
    - Successful case study demonstrating the potential of collaboration with external groups for the continued beautification of the Village
- Work on Ballfields
    - Continuation of Field Rehabilitation and Maintenance
    - Assistance with Mowing of the Fields
- No issues with mowing or trimming in the park or elsewhere
    - Mower will need assessed and serviced prior to the start of the 2027 season

Office

- Cleaning and Organization
- Making Information and Resources Usable
- Development of Processes and Forms
- Increasing operational efficiency, including emergency response capability

Severe Weather Event

- On September 4, 2026 at approximately 3:00 PM, the Village of Phillipsburg experienced a severe weather event
- The Public Works Department completed a comprehensive survey of the Village once it was safe to do so (approximately 4:00 PM and lasted approximately 1 hour)
- No major damage to Village property, facilities, or public infrastructure
    - Intermediate tree debris in the park
    - Small tree blown over at the Phillipsburg Christian Cemetery
    - Minor debris in the roadways
    - All debris cleared in less than one week after the event
- 3-Phase power loss (Approximately 3:00 PM – 9:00 PM)
    - Impacted the traffic light, Fire Station, Municipal Garage, and active wells
    - Mobile stop signs were deployed at Main Street within an hour after surveying the Village
    - Clay Township Police increased patrolling at the intersection of Main and State Streets
    - Water plant was monitored from 4:00 PM – 1:00 AM to ensure there were no issues
        - Normal operating pressures were maintained throughout power outage
        - Once power was restored, operations were monitored until the water tower was filled to ensure no issues
        - No need to activate emergency power generation
        - No issues after power was restored
    - This was a good learning experience that has provided direction on key aspects of emergency operations and planning
        - Emergency Operations Procedures
        - Additional Mobile Stop Signs and Other Temporary Signage/Barricades/Lights
        - Traffic Light Battery Back-Up
        - Facilities Upgrades

Cemeteries

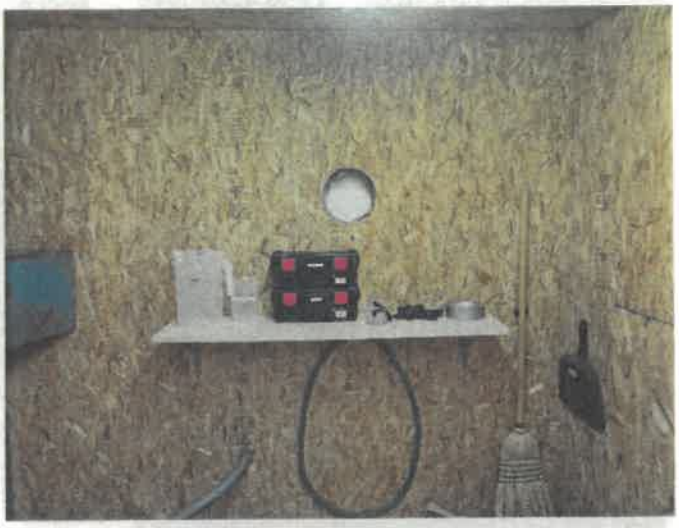
- Phillipsburg currently maintains two cemeteries
    - Old South Fork Friends Cemetery (access located between 49 and 51 East Main Street)
        - 1 upright marker
        - At least 25 markers on the ground, not all in their original location
        - 1 base that has been relocated from its original location
    - Phillipsburg Christian Cemetery (Located Behind the Liberty Baptist Church)
        - At least 160 full or partial markers relocated into a cross formation
        - At least 49 markers on the ground (both whole or in pieces), not all in original locations
        - 65 upright markers with 4 about to fall
        - At least 15 bases where the marker was removed and relocated
- There are multiple concerns at both cemeteries
    - Vegetation that Needs Clearing
    - Piles of Debris
    - Damage to Markers (From Mowing and Other Causes)
    - Relocation of Markers
    - No Comprehensive Boundary Marking
    - No Signage
    - Evidence of vehicle(s) routinely driving through part of the Phillipsburg Christian Cemetery

- We have begun some minor improvements, but there needs to be a strategic plan for moving forward and addressing concerns
- Recommendation that Council review the cemeteries and explore the possibility of allocating specific funds in the next budget for their care and improvement

Photographs

Wellhouse Improvements











Wellhouse 3













Phillipsburg Christian Cemetery













Old South Fork Friends Cemetery















Village of Phillipsburg Public Works Department: Water Plant Operation and Chlorine Testing Report
September 2026

Daily Plant Runtime (Hours)

Average	Total
3.77	113.20

Tower PSI

Minimum	Maximum
46.00	50.00

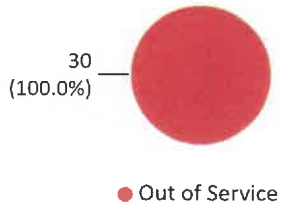
Well Flow (Gallons)

Well 1	Well 2	Well 3	Well 4	Total
0	100200	297400	553000	950600

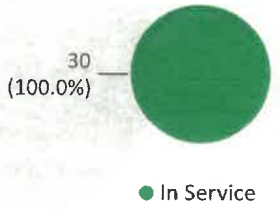
Chlorine Solution Usage (Gallons)

Well 1	Well 2	Well 3	Well 4	Total Solution	Total Chlorine Only
0	18.75	10.00	20.25	49.00	24.50

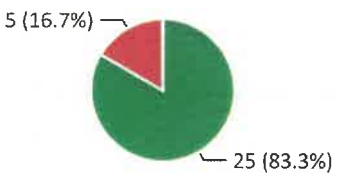
Well 1 Operational Status



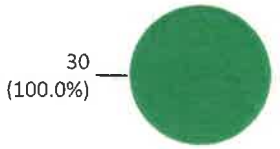
Well 2 Operational Status



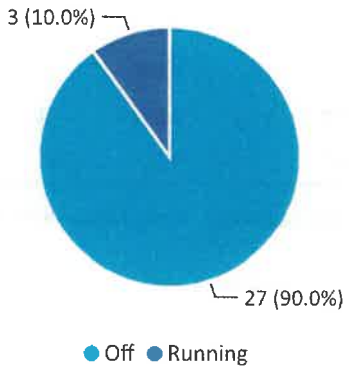
Well 3 Operational Status



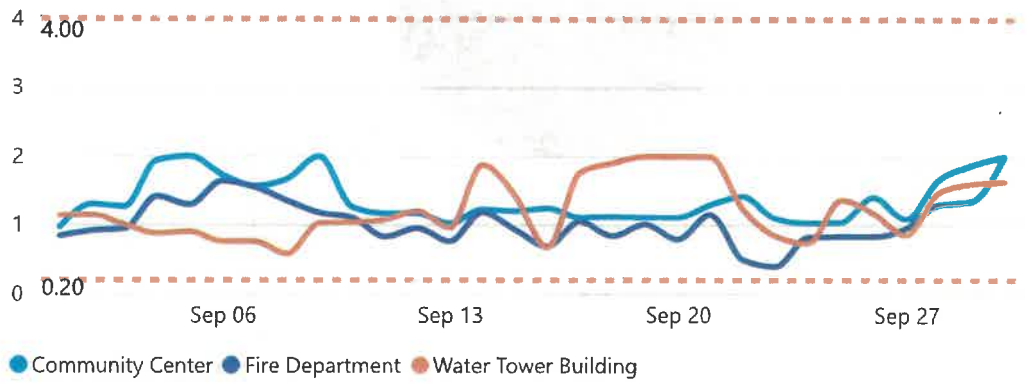
Well 4 Operational Status



Plant Status While Testing



Total Chlorine Residual Levels

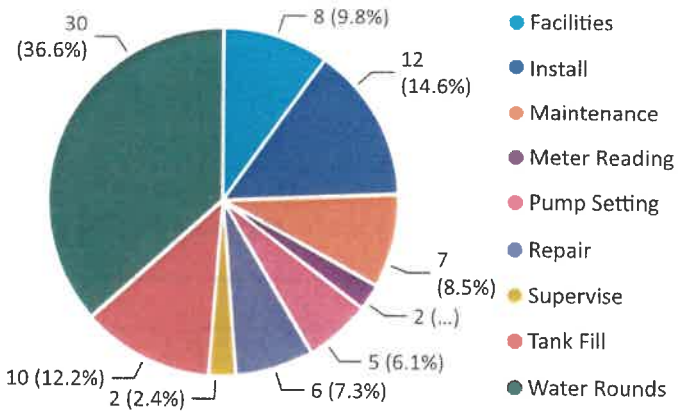


Village of Phillipsburg Public Works Department: Water Department Field Work Report
September 2026

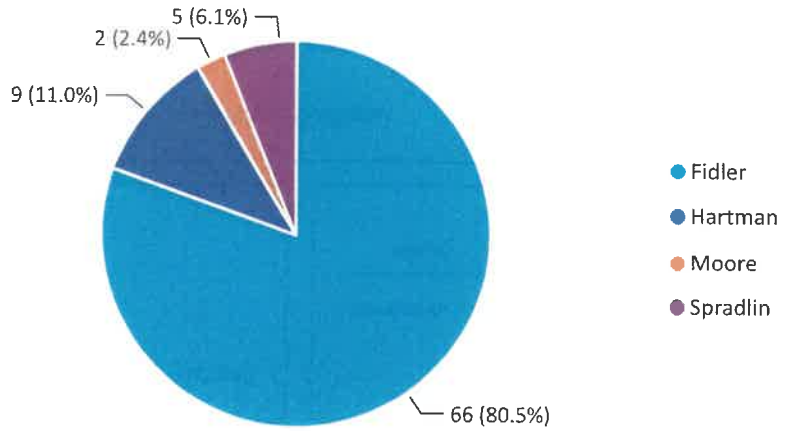
Task Count and Time

Category	Count	Percentage	Time (Minutes)	Time (Hours)
Facilities	8	9.76%	225	3.75
Install	12	14.63%	490	8.17
Maintenance	7	8.54%	67	1.12
Meter Reading	2	2.44%	32	0.53
Pump Setting	5	6.10%	10	0.17
Repair	6	7.32%	207	3.45
Supervise	2	2.44%	50	0.83
Tank Fill	10	12.20%	130	2.17
Water Rounds	30	36.59%	2352	39.20
Total	**82**	**100.00%**	**3563**	**59.38**

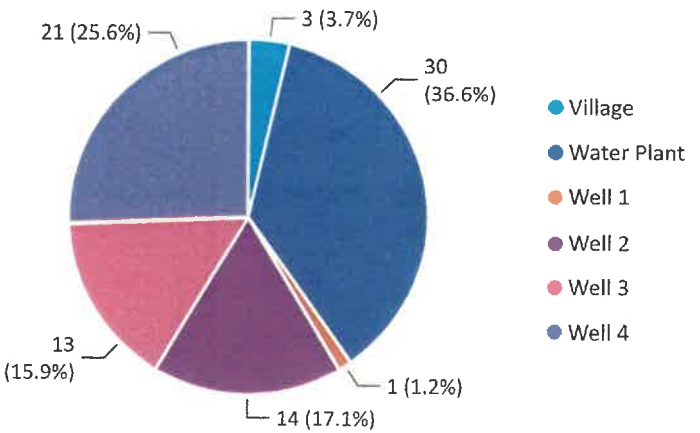
Task Percentage



Individual Completing Task



Location of Task

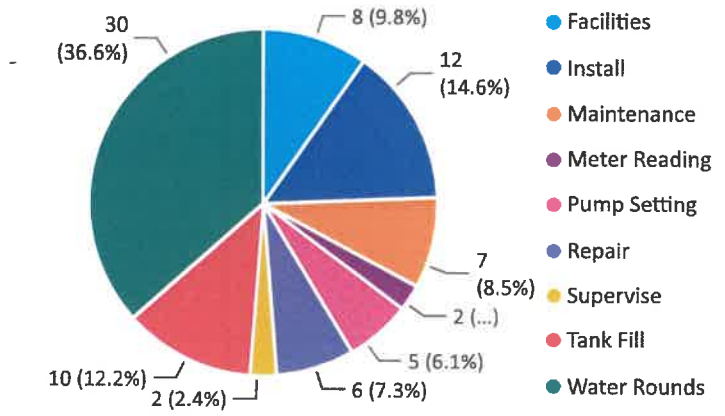


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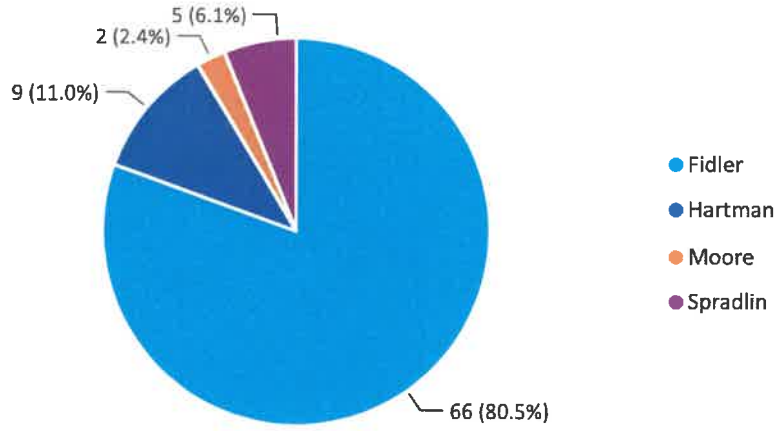
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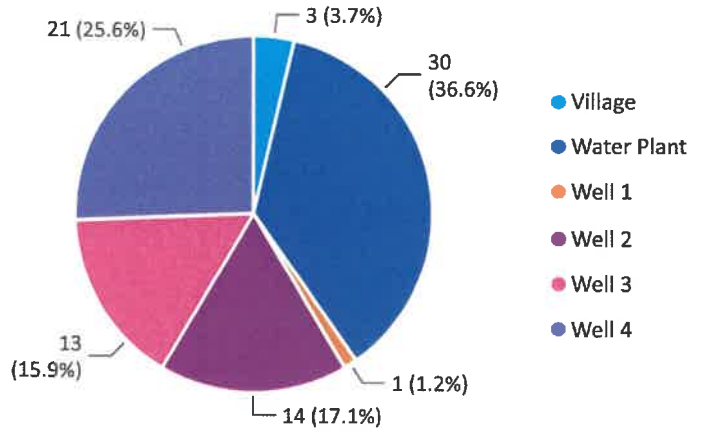
Task Percentage



Individual Completing Task



Location of Task



Village of Phillipsburg Public Works Department: Water Plant Operation and Chlorine Testing Report
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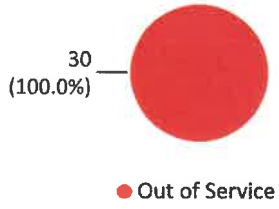
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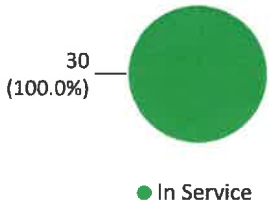
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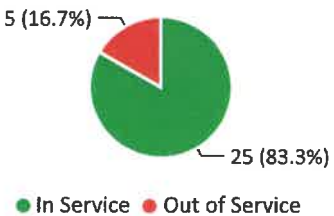
Well 1 Operational Status



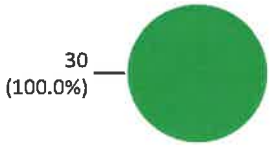
Well 2 Operational Status



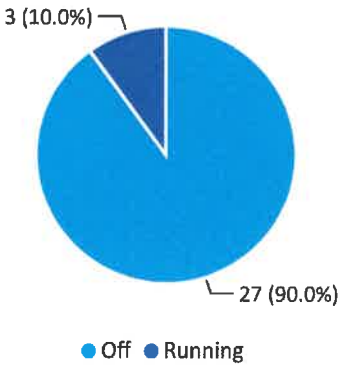
Well 3 Operational Status



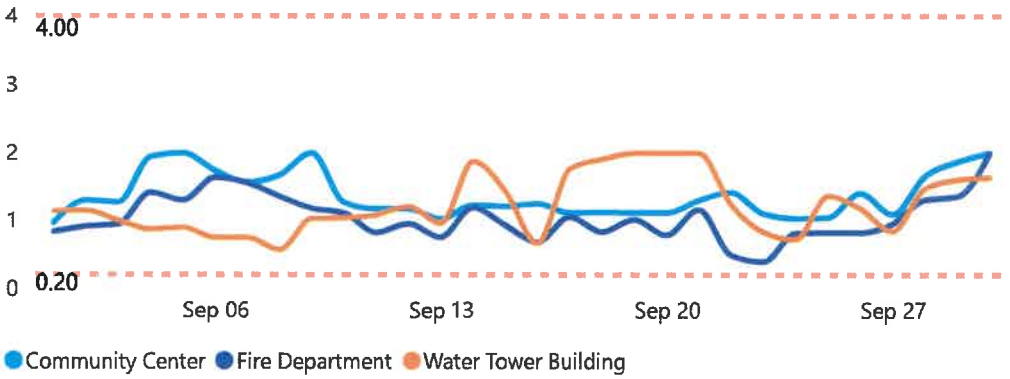
Well 4 Operational Status



Plant Status While Testing



Total Chlorine Residual Levels



Request for Investment: Backpack and Handheld Blower

Prepared by: Kevin Fidler, General Support Technician

Currently, the Village of Phillipsburg Public Works Department uses a battery powered Bauer handheld blower with 2 5ah batteries (20V, 96 MPH, 338 CFM). While this blower is useful for cleaning equipment and removing small amounts of very light debris, it is unable to provide sustainable and efficient removal of general debris in the field. Not only does this provide a bottleneck for efficient operations, but also it limits the department's ability maintain Village property. As we strive for continuous improvement of maintenance and operations, the Village will need to evaluate and, as necessary, invest in the equipment to sustain improved operations. Therefore, the department is requesting the purchase of a gasoline powered handheld and backpack blower. This equipment will be primarily used by the Street Department, with some usage by the Park Department. Both types of blowers are being requested, as they each fulfill specific needs and operations. Currently, there is funding in the Street Construction, Maintenance, and Repair Fund to fulfill the requested investment.

Pros of Investment

Reduction of time needed for routine operations

- Potential for eventual payroll cost savings

Reduction of operator strain and risk of injury

- Less time spent on roadways and using underpowered equipment reduces the risk of operator injury and incurred costs by the Village as a result of injury

Improvement of property and facility maintenance

- Proper equipment allows for better maintenance of public spaces and facilities

Increased range of operational tasks

- Roadway debris cleanup
- Grass and other debris cleanup
- Assistance with leaf pick-up
- Ability to remove light snow

Improvement of employee satisfaction

- Having the correct tools for a job allows for better working conditions and a feeling of satisfaction that jobs are being done correctly and completely
-

Cons of Investment

- Initial investment cost

Quotes from 3 local dealers have been obtained for this investment request. These quotes, an overview of technical specifications, as well as anecdotal research notes are provided on the subsequent pages:

Blower Comparison: Backpack

Model	PB-9010T	PB-9510	BR800 CE	BR800 X
Brand	Echo	Echo	Stihl	Stihl
Engine Displacement (CC)	79.9	79.9	79.9	79.9
Fuel Capacity (FL OZ)	83.8	100	67.6	67.6
Air Volume (CFM)	1110	1200	912	912
Max Air Speed (MPH)	220	230	239	239
Db(A)	80	81.7	78	78
Dry Weight (LBS)	26.7	27.8	25.9	23.1
Newtons (N)	48	56	41	41
$ - C&C Outdoor	$629.99	$674.99	N/A	N/A
$ - Brookville Rental	N/A	N/A	$599.99	$519.99
$ - Wagoner	N/A	N/A	$599.00	$519.00

Blower Measurement Notes

- **Cubic Centimeters (CC) –** Measurement of engine size: the larger the displacement, the more power and torque
- **Cubic Feet per Minute (CFM) –** Measurement of the volume of air: a higher the CFM allows for a wider stream of air, which can move larger piles of debris with fewer passes
- **Miles Per Hour (MPH) –** Measurement of air speed: a higher MPH allows for a narrower, more forceful stream of air, which can loosen wet or compacted debris
- **Newtons (N) –** Measurement of physical force: combination of CFM and MPH

Anecdotal Research Notes

Echo PB-9010

- Generally considered one of the most powerful blowers available
- Most users note ability to easily move large amounts of debris
- Many users note this model is easier to start than other brands

Echo PB-9510

- Newly released model
- 10% more powerful than PB-910

Stihl BR800 CE

- Features side-pull start feature
- Generally considered good for precision work, due to smaller nozzle
- Did have a safety recall
- Some commercial users have noted difficulty/inability to start at warm temperatures or after extended use

Stihl BR800 X

- Generally considered good for precision work, due to smaller nozzle
- Did have a safety recall
- Some commercial users have noted difficulty/inability to start at warm temperatures or after extended use

Blower Comparison: Handheld

Model	PB-2620	BG50
Brand	Echo	Stihl
Engine Displacement (CC)	25.4	27.2
Fuel Capacity (FL OZ)	20.3	14.5
Air Volume (CFM)	456	412
Max Air Speed (MPH)	172	159
Db(A)	70	70
Dry Weight (LBS)	9.8	8
Newtons (N)	15.8	18
$ - C&C Outdoor	$296.99	N/A
$ - Brookville Rental	N/A	$143.99
$ - Wagoner	N/A	$143.00

Blower Measurement Notes

- **Cubic Centimeters (CC) –** Measurement of engine size: the larger the displacement, the more power and torque
- **Cubic Feet per Minute (CFM) –** Measurement of the volume of air: a higher the CFM allows for a wider stream of air, which can move larger piles of debris with fewer passes
- **Miles Per Hour (MPH) –** Measurement of air speed: a higher MPH allows for a narrower, more forceful stream of air, which can loosen wet or compacted debris
- **Newtons (N) –** Measurement of physical force: combination of CFM and MPH

Anecdotal Research Notes

Echo PB-2620

- Designed for light commercial work
- Has rain gutter cleaning attachment

Stihl BG50

- Designed for homeowner use
- Does not have rain gutter cleaning attachment

Recommendation for investment

It is my recommendation that the Village invests in either a PB-9010T or a PB-9510 backpack blower and a PB-2620 handheld blower.

PB-9010T or PB-9510

- Generally considered more powerful and has an increased capacity for debris cleanup by the commercial landscaping industry
- Larger fuel capacity means less time between fill-ups, which equates to less downtime
- Higher CFM and N measurements equate to the ability to move larger amounts of debris at less effort
- Less noted issues were discovered when conducting anecdotal research

PB-2620

- Higher CFM and MPH measurements equate to the ability to move larger amounts of debris at less effort
- Larger fuel capacity means less time between fill-ups, which equates to less downtime
- Commercial grade blower
- Accessory kit provides increased capabilities

In addition to the technical specifications and other anecdotal information, I have personal experience using both Stihl and Echo equipment and I have found Echo equipment to be less temperamental. I also feel that beginning to build a relationship with C&C Outdoor Power Equipment will be beneficial for the Village of Phillipsburg as we look to make future investments in other landscaping equipment, explore additional options for local repair services, and strive to keep taxpayer dollars as local as possible. In full disclosure, I have purchased equipment from C&C and they have serviced equipment for me, but I have no personal, professional, or financial relationship with the business or any of its employees. I have found them to be extremely helpful, knowledgeable, and competent in their services.