

Michael Fontanez

Project Engineer



EDUCATION

B.S., Public Administration,
Southern New Hampshire
University, In Progress

Joined Firm in 2024

Years of Experience: 16

REGISTRATIONS

Class "C" Water License

Class "B" Commercial Driver's
License

ASSOCIATIONS

Illinois Section American Water
Works Association

ISAWWA – Outreach
Committee Chair

ISAWWA – Education
Committee Member

ISAWWA – Task Force

North Suburban Water Works
Association

Kane County Water
Association

Michael has 16 years of experience in Water Operations with the Villages of Northbrook and Buffalo Grove. His expertise includes leading large teams, managing construction projects, working with residents, and addressing the needs of large communities. Michael served in various capacities within the Public Works Department, including Water Supervisor and Crew Leader. He managed a crew of 14 employees and was responsible for formulating and conducting training sessions, designing and executing core maintenance activities, and promoting positive interactions with the public.

RECENT REPRESENTATIVE PROJECTS

Northbrook, IL

*Water Supervisor**

- Supervise and lead a team of 14 personnel in water and sewer division
- Provide guidance, training and support to ensure team effectiveness
- Oversee the maintenance and repairs of water mains, hydrants, valves, meters, sanitary/storm system, and lift stations
- Schedule and coordinate routine inspections and preventative maintenance of utilities programs such as hydrant flushing, valve exercising, sanitary and storm cleaning, and televising
- Ensure compliance with local, state, and federal regulations as it pertains to EPA, IEPA, and IDNR (LMO-3, LMO-2)
- Keep abreast of changes in regulations and implement necessary adjustments to meet standards (lead service line replacement)
- Develop and manage \$9 million budget including capital improvement, water distribution, meter services, lift stations, and sanitary/storm
- Set up and facilitate asset management technology to provide in depth explanation for budget justification
- Sit on committee for vehicle purchasing for Public Works Capital Projects
- Developed AMI meter replacement program from inception to board approval and sit on committee that continues progress of install
- Developed meter testing and cost evaluation of meter replacement project that was presented to Board for approval
- Gathered information on distribution system, meter system, and water plant operations for water rate study developed in July of 2023
- Review engineering designs for all water main, sewer, and storm projects
- Oversees water main projects of engineering staff in house and contracted from design and review to implementation on street
- Review of water main project completion and inspections of completed work
- Sat on committee that evaluates and chooses project managers of water main projects
- Installed current asset management system for tracking performance and efficiency related to public works
- CDL training instructor for the Village of Northbrook
- Development of safety committee for Public Works

- Train staff on AWWA best practice (hydrant maintenance, main capacity testing, valve repair and replacement, water main repairs and installation, Bact-T sampling, DBP sampling)
- Coordinates meter reads and process flows for water meter services and water billing department
- Teaching water billing staff on the water meter process from install to reads to final billing
- Transitioning water billing staff to AMI system as we undertook a meter replacement program
- Train staff on water treatment plant operations and safe practices
- Collaborate with other departments such as engineering, village hall, fire, and police
- Bridge gap between public responsibility of water and wastewater systems and private issues with Department of Development and Planning Services
- Management of community events such as bike races, parades, and holiday events
- Communicate effectively with staff members, management, and other stakeholders
- Face to face meetings with residents and high-level staff at Village Hall to explain lead service line replacement program and ways to help residents understand health benefits and ways to pay for projects
- Head up supervisor staff meetings, meeting replacement (AMI) meetings, utilities staff meets for project planning, and day to day workload

Buffalo Grove, IL*

Crew Leader

- Crew Leader, providing oversight of field operations, weekly scheduling, reviews of projects and staff, management meetings, safety committee meetings, and snow and ice operations.
- Maintenance Worker assisting with water distribution, pump station maintenance, meter services, sanitary/storm maintenance, and snow/ice operations.