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### **Village of L'Anse Electric Utility village manager receives national award**

**Orlando, Florida, June 22, 2021** — Robert LaFave, village manager for the Village of L'Anse Electric Utility in L'Anse, Michigan, received the Larry Hobart Seven Hats Award during the American Public Power Association's National Conference in Orlando, Florida. The award recognizes managers of small utilities serving fewer than 2,500 meters. These managers have a very small staff and must assume multiple roles. The seven hats they must wear are: planning and design, administration, public relations, field supervision, accounting, human resources, and community leadership.

Robert has been the village manager since 2008. He is responsible for government operations within the municipal unit, including functions such as police, fire, street and public works, parks and recreation, zoning, code enforcement, economic development, the Downtown Development Authority, the marina, and cemetery, in addition to managing water, sewer, and electric utilities. Robert has been responsible for more than \$21 million in projects for the village including water and sewer infrastructure projects, road improvements, Wi-Fi service, and a community solar program with access for income-qualified participants. He was instrumental in developing a new industrial park for the village by securing grant funding that extended utilities and an access road to the site. Additionally, Robert oversees all customer service work, including communications, energy education, high school scholarships, and charitable donations.

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*The American Public Power Association is the voice of not-for-profit, community-owned utilities that power 2,000 towns and cities nationwide. We represent public power before the federal government to protect the interests of the more than 49 million people that public power utilities serve, and the 93,000 people they employ. Our association advocates and advises on electricity policy, technology, trends, training, and operations. Our members strengthen their communities by providing superior service, engaging citizens, and instilling pride in community-owned power.*