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Grafton Power and Light village administrator receives national award

Orlando, Florida, June 22, 2021 — Joe Price, village administrator at Grafton Village Power and Light in Grafton, Ohio, 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.

Joe's diverse management background provides direction and fuels Grafton's progress. Early in his tenure, he focused on public communication through the publication of the quarterly newsletter called 'Village Spotlight.' The newsletter remains a key component of community communication and a critical part of his planned rebranding of Grafton. In 2017, Joe successfully executed the purchase of more than 700 acres of land within the village for future economic development. He was able to navigate all obstacles and negotiated a fair market purchase price supported by a financial plan that made the purchase possible. The many "hats" Joe wears on any given day include: business manager, purchase agent, budget manager, human resources, labor negotiator, community planner, project developer, and public lands and buildings manager.

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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.