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Silvis staff not keeping up with work

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By Seth Kabala, correspondent@qconline.com

Silvis needs more staff, city clerk Jim Nelson told aldermen Tuesday night.

"We are behind sending out 30 liens," he said. "We are behind on account followup work. There were actually no shut-offs sent out for the month of September."

Residents who failed to meet payment arrangements will not have water shut off until the city catches up on the necessary paperwork, Mr. Nelson said. Purchase order data entry work also is behind, he said.

"It's due to not having enough people in the office," Mr. Nelson said.

The insurance and personnel committee will discuss the staffing challenges at 9 a.m. Monday.

In other business:

-- Mayor Bill Fox presented a \$570 check to Boy Scout Troop 113's Scout Master Steve Bergland to help with their trip to Boundary Waters. "You do enough work, it pays back," Mr. Bergland said, thanking city leaders. "(The scouts) are working really hard at being good, young leaders."

-- Ald. Matt Carter, 2nd Ward, said the cost of new park benches and bike racks near the bus stops has dropped from \$5,500 to \$3,790.

-- Mayor Fox told council said he recently learned the Iowa Department of Transportation plans to reduce Iowa-bound lanes on the Interstate 74 bridge to one-lane traffic for three to four months in 2011 to replace curbs.

-- City engineer Roger Geiken said Silvis will receive \$31,567 from the Illinois Jobs program. The money will be placed in the city's motor fuel tax fund for road improvements.

