

Case Study – City of Newark, Ohio

“CCA put a lot of time and effort into their review for us and while we were disappointed that there were no refunds or savings, it was very reassuring to confirm that our costs and inventory are right on the money.”



Dawes House

Background

The City of Newark, OH is approximately forty miles east of Columbus and has a population of almost 50,000. The city is home to the Great Circle Earthworks and the Octagon Earthworks built by the Hopewell Indians, who inhabited the area from approximately 100 BC until 500 AD. The Octagon Earthworks is one of the few based upon the lunar cycle.

Also, located about 7 miles south of Newark on State Route 13 is the Dawes Arboretum, one of

the premier gardens in North America. Founded by Beman and Bertie Dawes in 1929, the Arboretum contains over 1,700 acres of plant collections, gardens and natural areas. On any given day, you can find something new in this wonderful park with its eight miles of hiking trails.

Newark’s Director of Public Service, Tim Weisert, P.E. was very much interested in making sure that the City’s cost for the approximate 3,400 streetlights it was leasing from two different utility providers, AEP and The Energy Cooperative, was correct. Cost Control Associates (CCA) was asked to conduct a physical field survey and to make any recommendations that the company felt were warranted.

Challenge

CCA’s Cost Recovery and Reduction™ program for street lighting included:

- ✓ A complete physical survey
- ✓ Comparison of survey results to utility company records
- ✓ Refund computation and negotiation
- ✓ Provision of detailed inventory record

Fees for CCA’s services were to be paid entirely out of the refunds and savings produced.

The CCA survey team drove every street within the City and noted all relevant streetlight information such as pole number, wattage and type of light. Once the survey was completed, CCA compiled the information gathered and compared their results to the billing information provided by AEP and the Energy Cooperative. While both AEP and the Energy Cooperative bill Newark for street lighting services, a majority of the streetlights are billed by AEP, with The Energy Cooperative billing for only 100 lights.

Results

CCA’s analysis disclosed no significant discrepancies between The Energy Cooperative’s billing records and CCA’s field survey. And while CCA’s analysis of the AEP billing disclosed 17 lights that could not be located, the discrepancies in type and/or wattage of lights more than compensated for the missing lights to the effect that the City was actually being underbilled by approximately \$12.00 per month.

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