

Date: April 19, 2006

To: Mayor and Council Members

From: John Archocosky

RE: Activity Report

This past month can most easily be explained in two words, **busy** and **productive**. The City has achieved some very significant objectives which have been on the drawing board for quite some time. Recently, several of them have begun to fall into place.

Since my last report, we were notified that the City of Iron River will receive a \$541,000 MEDC grant to begin the reconstruction of the Mineral Hills sewer system. This latest grant, combined with \$250,000 from the DEQ account and the \$500,000 loan from Rural Development for upgrades to the Hunter Road water system will amount to almost \$1,300,000 in new infrastructure in the Mineral Hills location in the immediate future. Although this will not resolve all the issues resulting from the aging systems, it will address the most critical and tighten up both the water and sewer system to acceptable levels.

During the past month we also completed the first portion of the "Cool Cities" Blueprint Project and received the Hyett/Palma report at a well attended public meeting. The report is very encouraging and indicated that the City of Iron River is headed in the right direction with all of our ongoing development projects. The report outlined several steps the City should begin taking to revitalize the original "Downtown" district. Further, it states that Washington Ave. be connected from the north side of the school to the bottom of Stambaugh Hill. Many of the recommendations will affect work that we have tentatively been planning for this summer such as sidewalk and street lighting replacement on Genesee. In light of the report, the City and DDA will have to reorganize our thoughts to include a much broader scope of improvements. Hyett/Palma has recommended that we bring a planner on board that can also demonstrate prior experience with historic reconstruction. I believe this should be one of the first steps taken to begin implementing the program.

One of the most noteworthy developments has been the word that the City will be receiving a \$250,000 MEDC grant for razing the Cloverland Bar and making some associated infrastructure improvements in that area. About a \$150,000 will be dedicated to the demolition of the building with the remaining \$100,000 of grant funds going toward resolving some drainage issues in and around the building location by creating a "green" parking area. As a result of the commitment to make capital improvements by some of the businesses surrounding the Cloverland, we were able to leverage their investment as part of the local match. Hopefully, we should be receiving official word about this grant within the next few weeks. As a side note, the effort to resolve the Cloverland issue actually began prior to consolidation.

Mayor Soderbloom recently signed the grant documents with Rural Development accepting the \$30,000 for a new police car and improvements to our communication systems. This will require a \$10,000 local match which was already budgeted for this year.