

Date: December 20, 2006

To: Mayor and Council Members

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL!!!!

From: John Archocosky

RE: Monthly Activity Report

We have started this winter season with very mild temperatures which are helping us conserve on heating and equipment fuels. If this trend continues through the winter, it should have a positive impact on several city departments in terms of their annual budgets.

Treasurer Sue Johnson and I met this past week with the City's auditor Diane Rostagno, for a preliminary report on last year's finances. Overall, we have had a very good year even taking into consideration the large amount of "non-routine" work that has been undertaken. Diane will be sharing her comments with you during this month's meeting and providing copies of the audit. Having already heard some of the information she will be sharing, I'm sure you will be pleased to receive her report.

In anticipation of a permanent reduction of one staff position in the office, we have been making modifications to the current work assignments. The next few months will be a trial and error process to determine the most efficient way of redistributing the work load. The water department will also be affected as a great deal of office time is now dedicated to managing water department issues and processing and collecting the utility bills. All collection transactions have been shifted to the Treasurer's Office and with only a minimal amount of confusion, our citizens have adapted very quickly to the change. We have also been analyzing methods of making bill paying more convenient for our citizens. The staff has been working with the banks to determine if electronic payments would be utilized by a sufficient number of our property owners to cover any additional expenses required to provide the service. We will continue to explore new methods and ways to provide our citizens with the same level of service they have been receiving while we evaluate the potential staff reduction.

Our Public Works Department has been using the favorable weather to complete work assignments that would normally have been deferred to the Camp Ottawa work crews. As a result, Dick has not had a need to hire the prison crew this month and has advised me that he will likely not have need for their service during the month of January as well.

During the past month our Police Department has experienced a great deal of unusual and unpredictable activity which has pressed Chief Goriesky and his team of officers to their maximum. This work load would have been difficult under normal conditions, but considering the fact that they are short one officer, I'm sure it was stressful on all. Their added effort and professionalism is truly appreciated.

In closing, I would like to remind everyone of the fact that the City of Iron River has much to be thankful for. The City has fantastic employees in all departments who often times go well beyond their job requirements to serve our citizens. Our town is very fortunate to have an active Downtown Development Authority and newly formed Brownfield Authority with several critical projects being undertaken by both. Our good friends and business community members produced several events this year including a holiday parade at the beginning of this month that was spectacular and appreciated by all who saw it. As a result of many private citizens volunteering their time to serve on a committee, Iron River is truly coming to life. Lastly, I would like to thank the Council for being progressive and open minded to new concepts and ideas. Without everyone's positive attitude and support this town could not move forward.