

Date: March 15, 2006

To: Mayor and Council Members

From: John Archocosky

RE: Activity Report

Because the city has been experiencing its typical "March" weather our crews have been busy trying to patch roads one day and plow them the next. The amount of snow we received over the past few storm have begun having an impact on our budget as well as many individual's good sense about snow removal.

Some business owners and/or their private contractors have begun pushing the over abundance of snow out into the public right of ways and as such, are causing public hazards as well as additional work for the crew. We typically have tried to be somewhat lenient about this issue but after this week's storm I will be asking our Police Department to stop issuing warnings and to begin writing tickets to violators. We realize that getting rid of the snow for some business is difficult as they do not have room to store it however, many business do hire private contractors to haul the snow from their parking areas. It would not be fair to expect some business to remove the snow at their cost while others simply push it into the streets. As stricter enforcement takes place you may begin receiving calls. Please refer any callers to the Snow Removal Ordinance #14 which can be viewed at City Hall or directly on the city's web site.

The crew has also been busy installing water meters in the business district and the main part of town. We will continue this process until all of the older meters have been replaced with new ones and updated readers. There still remain some businesses in town with larger meters that have not yet been changed out. In order to be in compliance with the Water Ordinance we will be contacting these customers to notify them of the requirements with a goal of completing all business changeovers by the end of this summer.

As you know, the Mineral Hills Water Project will be moving forward this fall based on the loan we received from the USDA Rural Development. Although the loan has been approved for \$500,000 it may not be sufficient to cover all the work necessary to correct the major problems in that water district. RD has indicated that we could receive additional loan dollars if necessary, so I have asked the consultants to set the required Public Notice at \$600,000 to be certain we are covered. We will continue to explore other potential funding sources for this project until we are ready to award a contract. It is possible that we may be able to find a better interest rate which would allow us to get more work done for the same investment on behalf of our customers.

I recently spent a week away from the City of Iron River and as usual, not only came back feeling refreshed but also returned with a few new ideas for our town from other places I visited. It's always interesting to see what other communities are doing to improve their economic conditions. From what I observed while away, we are definitely headed in the right direction.