

Date: October 18, 2006

To: Mayor and Council Members

From: John Archocosky

RE: Activity Report

After the past few days of poor weather conditions it seems like we skipped over the "fall" season and went directly into winter. Fortunately we did not receive the same amount of snow and winds that are neighbors to our west received. I attended a City Manager's conference in Wakefield during the storm and realized how good we have it here in the "banana belt" of the U.P. It was a real wakeup call however to see the city plows out and folks going around on their snowmobiles. I always think our DPW is overacting when they begin preparing for winter at the end of September. As usual, Dick and his crew have already made the city ready for the upcoming winter by removing picnic tables and planters from the streets and readying the parks. The crew has already hauled and stockpiled the winter ice control sand. Within the last two weeks our road salt was delivered and stored. Several of the cities in attendance reported that they still have not received notice or confirmation of their orders for salt so needless to say, our DPW is ahead of the game.

The "**BIG NEWS**" I have to share in this report is that the City of Iron River is once again a winner in the most recent round of MEDC grant allocations. As unbelievable as it seems, our Notice of Intent (NOI) was once again selected and we have been asked to complete a final application. The final application is merely the last step in the process and there is no doubt that we will be receiving the grant dollars for which we applied. As usual, we filed more than one (NOI) as our needs always exceed our financial resources but we should feel very pleased to have been selected for yet another MEDC award. This is the 4th grant the City has received from the MEDC for sewer system improvements in the past 18 months or so. With this award our total has now reached \$2,287,600 in grant dollars.

This most recent grant which is in the amount of \$532,000 was requested for sewer system improvements west of Fourth Street along the original Iron River interceptor line. Once this work is completed, we will have addressed the four most critical areas of infiltration and inflow (I/I) contributing to the City's flows to the West Iron County Sewer plant. Minimizing the I/I was one of the major concerns of the DEQ and therefore one of conditions the City agreed to correct as part of the DEQ's Administrative Consent Order. It is my hope that by making these improvements we will be able to greatly reduce our need to undertake the \$7-\$10 million project we have been facing since the DEQ has been monitoring our sewer effluent which could have resulted in huge increases in our user fees in the near future.

The City should be very pleased that it has been selected once again and we need to recognize the tremendous advantage of these grants. Again, a special thanks to Adam Steinbrecher of STS for putting our data together for the NOI. In addition to our good news we also learned that Caspian's and Gaastra's applications were also approved.