

Date: November 14, 2007

To: Mayor and Council Members

From: John Archocosky

RE: Monthly Activity Report

Finally, after almost four years of persistence by the City and the DDA, the blighted Cloverland Hotel building is actually being razed. Several times during the past six months the steering committee felt everything was ready to move forward only to learn that that additional issues had risen or clearance from yet another agency was required. It seemed at times that the building was like a cat with 9 lives and was never going give up but finally, all the loose ends were pulled together and in the interest of public safety the structure is slowly coming down. It is unfortunate that there was no way to save the building but after investigating the soundness of the structure, the state's architect agreed with our consultants the building must be razed. The State assisted with the project by covering the actual demolition costs through a MEDC grant. Hopefully in the near future, a new use for this property will be found. The demolition contractor expects to have the second floor walls down by this Thursday and will be off site during the week of Thanksgiving. During the last week of the month he will likely move equipment in and demo the remainder of the structure. I believe by our December regular meeting, the site should be graded and the project finished.

As indicated in the Monthly Activity Report, all of the utility projects the city has undertaken for this summer seem to be moving along as planned. The mild fall season has allowed most of the cleanup work to be completed even though we have added work to the original contracted amounts.

The paving of East Mineral Avenue which falls under the City's jurisdiction has been completed and is a great improvement to that route. The Iron County Road Commission rebuilt and paved their portion earlier this summer so the entire route has now been resurfaced. This roadwork has greatly improved the route to the Mineral Hill location and I'm sure will be appreciated by all that live and routinely drive to that neighborhood.

This past week Mr. Ron Basso and I traveled to Lansing to meet with various agencies to lobby for several of our planned projects. Representative Lahti and his staff scheduled the meeting and attended on the City's behalf. Our group was able to meet with key members of MSHDA and MDEQ to discuss how we might be able to move the Central School project along more quickly. Developer Tim Hunnicutt with the Hovey Company also attended the meeting and was able to provide information about how their firm would be contributing to the project. The DEQ was pleased to learn that Hunnicutt's plan now appears to be saving the existing structure and converting the building to 18 housing units. The Hovey Company has made application to MHSDA to be considered for the housing program. In other meetings we discussed the possibility of the Façade program going forward and asked that MSHDA visit Iron River and see first hand why their requirements are preventing the City from moving forward. They have agreed to do so and expect to visit us in December. Overall, the trip to Lansing was very beneficial.