

Date: October 17, 2007

To: Mayor and Council Members

From: John Archocosky

RE: Monthly Activity Report

Projects are moving along very quickly now that the end of the construction season is approaching. The city is currently in the midst of four major infrastructure projects all of which nearing completion. In addition, the Cloverland project, the resurfacing of CR 651 that falls within our city limits, as well as Phase II of the Interceptor project is about to begin. The Mineral Hills location has been the primary focus of most of the work this year and as such seems to have been in a state of disruption for the entire summer. With the completion of the water project at hand, things will soon be returning to normal for the residents there.

The City's Planning/Zoning Board is currently involved in an educational opportunity which was made available through Michigan State University. The program is called "Citizen Planner" and is directed at teaching those individuals participating the legal requirements of dealing with planning and zoning issues. The City of Iron River has several members attending this month long class. It is important to recognize the extra effort of these board members for the investment of their time. The classes are being held in the Iron County Courthouse every Wednesday evening for 5 weeks as well as a full day of class time during one Saturday this month. Hopefully the training will help us all in terms of the critical issues that face the city and will also provide the background needed for some long range planning for the City's growth over the next 20 years.

This past week we received the analysis from our auditor as to the financial status of the City for fiscal year 2006 through 2007. As the Council learned, the City experienced a very good year in terms of asset growth and its overall management of our citizens' taxes and user fees. Although our utilities continue to run very close to a break even situation, we have made improvements in equity in the majority of funds. As was reported by our auditor, the City of Iron River now has a five month operating balance which is necessary to cover unexpected losses of revenue. The Council and staff are to be commended for this growth as well and the choices they have made which resulted in added stability to the City.

The DPW remains very busy with all the special projects that are ongoing. In addition they are managing to keep current with the normal fall maintenance issues such as the brush and leaf pickup, hydrant flushing, and all the other activities in preparation of the winter ahead.

Our Code Enforcement Officer is continuing with his efforts to address blighted property and code violations. Several citations have been issued in the past few months and our officer is continuing to follow up on the violations.