

**Date:** August 19, 2009

**To:** Mayor and Council Members

**From:** John Archocosky, Manager

**RE:** Monthly Activity Report

During the past month, activities have remained quite routine. The DPW has been cold patching streets, repairing minor water leaks, and cleaning sewers, along with grass cutting. As you may recall, last year the manufacturer of the hydrants that were installed on recent water projects issued a recall. Apparently there was the potential that the valve shaft that runs through the hydrant could shear off during operation. As a result, a company was retained to change out all the defective parts at the manufacturer's expense. Once the parts were replaced our crew was sent around to clean and paint the affected hydrants. Approximately 325 hydrants were affected.

The collection service from Great American Disposal is working well. Most people seem to be able to manage to stay within the limited three bag base rate. Thus far, the City has distributed approximately 300 additional bag tags through the local stores and has sold about 100 here at City Hall. During the first month of operation, about 15 to 20 homes have been billed an extra \$5.00 per bag as a result of placing more than three bags out for pickup without a tag. If this trend continues, the City should be able to continue providing the solid waste service without having to increase the current rate in the foreseeable future.

Representatives from the City and West Iron County Schools have continued to meet regarding the terms of the lease for the school's use of the Nelson Field complex. At the last meeting no decision was reached, but the school indicated it would go back and draft another proposal and forward it for the Council's consideration. This is obviously a difficult process for both the School and the City as both budgets have been cut by reductions in State allocations. The School is concerned that it will likely see additional cuts in October while the City has already received a reduction in the third quarter's Revenue Sharing payments. Although the City has forgiven the rental payment in exchange for some "in-kind services" for the past several years, it no longer can afford to do so without reducing the number of parks it currently maintains. On August 15<sup>th</sup> the extension of the lease agreement terminated. Whatever direction the Council decides to take should include consideration of the termination issue.

Last month the City Council selected AECOM to implement the proposed GIS mapping system. I have been advised that the majority of the other governmental units in the County have also chosen to go forward with the AECOM proposal. Although this issue has been brought to the County's attention, they have not yet taken action to select AECOM as their GIS consultant. The City has been waiting for several months for this work to move forward, with the county taking the lead and sharing in the costs. I believe they will be discussing the issue once again at the next County Board meeting. In the meantime, I have asked AECOM to begin their work for the City of Iron River without a signed contract. They have agreed to do so and will wait for the County to approve the proposal before billing the City.