

Date: December 14, 2009

To: Mayor and Council Members

From: John Archocosky, Manager

RE: Monthly Activity Report

Congratulations go out once again to our Community Concepts group. Their hard work on the Holiday in Lights Parade made it a huge success. Don Soderbloom, Brad Shelgren and other members of the DPW helped put the City's float together. Mayor Zanon, Clerk Anderson, Treasurer Johnson, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Andreski and Foreman Anderson, all took time to participate in the parade. This year, the City's entry won the prize of "Best Community Float." Chief Goriesky and four of our officers, along with two deputies from the County, and one trooper from the State Police helped along the parade route with traffic. Over 2000 people showed up to view the parade this year. Special thanks go out to the DDA for their financial support, as well as all the business community members who worked so hard to make this event happen.

Our first real snow fall of the season occurred this past week, and it hit with a vengeance. Schools and businesses across the entire U.P. closed. It was a real test of our snow removal readiness to deal with the event. Other than a few minor issues with the private snow removal businesses, we managed to handle it without a problem.

Although this snowfall was heavier than usual, it actually was a welcome sight for our Water Department. The lack of snow and recent cold temperatures has caused much concern that water services may once again be affected as they were last winter. In an effort to head off the freeze up problem, the water department personnel have begun notifying customers who have a history of freezing, to let their water run. This year, I am recommending that the "Frozen Water Line Policy" be amended, requiring customers to cover the costs of any thawing of their lines, if they had previously been notified of a "let run" status. Last year, the Water Department paid out over \$14,000 in thawing fees as a result of frozen lines. In many cases, customers were responsible for the frozen services because they failed to maintain a continuous flow after being notified. This also contributed to the problem of the lack of flow through our main lines, which in turn caused other customers lines to freeze. The Water Department has also adjusted the elevation in the Hunter Road tank, which will force it to draw water more frequently from the pump station. This will also help in keeping the water temperature in the main lines tempered. The water project, which is slated to begin next spring, will undoubtedly resolve the main line freezing issues, as pump house # 4 will be placed back in service next summer.

As you may know, one of our senior employees, Wayne Thibodeau has decided to retire and will be leaving the employment of the City in the near future. Wayne was an employee with the former City of Stambaugh, and as such, was quite familiar with Stambaugh's water system, as well as all other DPW activities. At the present time, I have no plan to fill this position, but will instead be reassigning his duties and responsibilities to employees currently on staff within the DPW.