

Date: July 15, 2009

To: Mayor and Council Members

From: John Archocosky, Manager

RE: Monthly Activity Report

Once again, the City departments have been quite busy with preparing the town for the various summer events. The Rum Rebellion will start this coming weekend; followed soon after by the Rodeo.

The collection service for solid waste from Waste Management to Great American Disposal occurred at the beginning of this month. In general, the change was relatively smooth despite the fact that both the route and pickup days had changed. Our City Clerk and Treasurer's offices did a good job of getting the word out to the public in advance. For the most part there was minimal confusion, and the majority of calls that came into the office were handled quite easily and without any real problem.

Representatives from the City and West Iron County Schools met to renew the contractual agreement for the schools use of Nelson Field. Although most issues were easily resolved, the School is unwilling to pay their rent for the use of the field. Prior to consolidation the school was paying \$9,500 per year. The first year of consolidation the school was struggling with their athletic program, and asked the City to forgo the rent for a year or two, and the City agreed. More recently, the school asked the City to not charge rent to offset the cost of some repair work the school undertook on the grandstand. Now that the latest 5 year contract has ended, the school feels it no longer should be charged rent whatsoever. Over the past 10 years, the City has forgone about \$95,000 in rent alone, not to mention all the other capital improvement projects it has undertaken; primarily for the School's purpose. Having experienced substantial increase in our own expenses and revenue cuts from the State, the City can no longer continue to forgive the rental income. Although this is likely to be a heated issue for the next few weeks, I'm sure that it will work itself out prior to the onset of the school year.

The City's plan to implement a GIS mapping system once again seems to be on the move. The City has been waiting for several months for this project to move forward, with the County taking the lead. Last week however, one County Board Commissioner indicated that the County will not participate financially in this undertaking unless all of the governmental units accept the single proposal that was offered last year by WUPPDR. Since that proposal was made, other companies have also shown an interest in providing the professional service. Like many of the other governmental units, I do not believe the County has taken adequate steps to assure that the product they are contracting to purchase is in fact the best for the dollars being invested. By doing some additional price comparisons, it appears there are other firms that are willing to offer more deliverables for almost the same cost. I have suggested the County take a closer look at a second proposal submitted by a local firm, but the County seems unwilling to take the necessary time to explore the second option, even though this project will cost in excess of \$32,000 for the first phase of work. I will continue to keep the Council informed on this issue. It may mean that the City of Iron River will have to consider moving forward without the County's participation to get a better end product.