

Date: June 17, 2009

To: Mayor and Council Members

From: John Archocosky, Manager

RE: Monthly Activity Report

City departments are all quite busy with summer activities. This is the time of year when most Annual Leave is used, and as such our work crew size tends to be smaller. We currently have one DPW employee and one Police Officer out for extended periods for health issues, which further impacts our departments. Although we have hired three young college bound students to help with grass cutting, there never seems to be enough help to keep up with Noxious Weeds Ordinance. As a reminder to all, the Ordinance requires property owners to cut and remove the grass/weeds no less than 3 times each year, no later than June 1, July 15, and September 1, or it will be removed by the city crews at the owner's expense.

We are continuing to monitor the traffic patterns and accident history of the 3-lane conversion of US2. I was able to spend some time recently with Mr. Ben Feldhausen from MDOT, reviewing annual statistics and performing a speed study. MDOT records indicate that accidents in the converted area have decreased and that speed has been reduced slightly. (See attached Crash Analysis.) It is interesting to note that the major decrease in accidents occurred in the "side swipe" group. While performing the speed study on the east side of town, we observed that some cars turning into the Plaza appear to wait until they've cleared the solid yellow line before entering the turning lane, which is not necessary. Traffic in that area however seemed to be moving very smoothly. So far, we have received about an equal amount of pro and con comments with regard to the conversion. By far however, the majority of people have indicated they have no real preference for either 3 or 4 lanes.

Following the announcement to close the Middle School by the West Iron County Public Schools, a committee was formed to develop a reuse plan for the building. The fact that this building is a highly visible structure in the center of our city is a major concern to all parties involved. As you know, the City and DDA have spent a considerable amount of time and money trying to deal with the reuse of the last two building the WICPS closed in our town. It's unfortunate that although students from the entire west side of the county attend the WIC School system, the City of Iron River will once again be faced with the potential problems if the building is left unused or unattended, as has happened in the past. West Iron County School's representatives, Iron County EDC Director Julie Melchiori, and all the committee members have been working diligently to try to identify potential tenants for this building. The search has resulted in several individuals and/or businesses that have shown a serious interest in locating in the building. Identifying the "future ownership" of the facility seems to be somewhat problematic. The WICPS would like to turn the ownership over to a private or non-profit entity as soon as possible. Doing so however, would relieve the Schools of any long term commitment and financial responsibility for the future maintenance of the structure. This of course was the same procedure that was followed with the former Lincoln School and Central School facilities.