

**Date:** February 17, 2010

**To:** Mayor and Council Members

**From:** John Archocosky, Manager

**RE:** Monthly Activity Report

Another month has flown by, and our unseasonably warm weather continues to allow outside projects to move forward earlier in the winter season than usual. The DPW has already been able to remove and store the City's Christmas decorations. I have also asked that they begin evaluating equipment that is no longer needed or used by the City, so it might be placed up for auction. By selling the unused items, I believe we can consolidate the remaining items into fewer storage areas, and therefore can sell the storage buildings that we will no longer need. This will result in less insurance and maintenance costs for the City. Further, once the buildings are sold, they can then be placed on the tax roll.

The City crew has also begun to downsize through attrition, and therefore we no longer have need or use for some of the older plow trucks, pickups, and other equipment we acquired through the consolidation of the three communities in 2000. I have been meeting with our DPW foreman Dick Anderson, and our head mechanic Ed Rauterkus to develop a plan whereby the City can eliminate some of those unnecessary items, and as with the buildings, will result in an overall savings. By selling several of the older pieces of equipment, we will be able to use the proceeds to make some upgrades and still reduce the overall size of the fleet. I will be reviewing this plan with the Council in the near future, and hope to receive your approval to move forward with a sale process very soon.

During the last month, a variety of old issues have come to the forefront, and all seemed to require attention at the same time.

Representatives of the City, the DDA, and the County Board of Commissioners have met again in an effort to resolve the differences that exist with regard to taxes captured within the City's TIF District. Each representative has been asked to present the latest proposal to their respective units for consideration and vote.

City representatives have recently met with members of the West Iron County Schools and have reached a tentative agreement for the licensed use of Nelson Field. Attorney Mark Tousignant will be presenting this information at the Regular Meeting for the Council's possible approval.

A question has arisen regarding the allocation procedure of the recently approved County Road Millage. It appears there has been some confusion as to the language, which defines the process by which the County Treasurer should distribute these funds. The County Treasurer's Office had previously distributed some of these funds to the Road Commission, believing that it was the RC's responsibility to determine if any portion of those proceeds were to be allocated to the local units of government that qualify. It now appears after some reach of the statute, that the County does in fact have the responsibility for distributing the road millage proceeds directly to each of the eligible units. The formula prescribed in that statute however, does not appear to be consistent with what the governmental units may have understood when the voters went to the polls. Absent any other agreements between the recipients however, the County Treasurer will have to make payments according to the law.

I have continued to work on the specifications for a new plow truck and security cameras for our various parks and City structures. Once this task has been completed, we will advertise and hopefully have the results for the Council's consideration at the Regular City meeting in March.

I have been working with the City's labor relations attorney to begin the process of renegotiation both of the current union contracts which terminate on June 30, 2010. I anticipate that he will begin meeting with our Council's Human Resource Committee members within the next 30-45 days. Considering the present economic conditions throughout the State, as well as the local region, I believe he will be recommending several changes to the current agreements.