

Date: May 19, 2010

To: Mayor and Council Members

From: John Archocosky, Manager

RE: Monthly Activity Report

The construction season has arrived early, and our projects are moving forward, as the contractors are taking advantage of the very dry spring weather. Hebert Construction has already made a significant amount of progress working in the area of Franklin Street, near the Iron County fairgrounds.

The DPW has hired two students for the summer grass cutting crew. We were able to rehire the same workers that we had last year, which will save training time. Although it might not seem that much training would be required for grass cutting, these workers are required to know city policies and regulations, much the same as all regular employees. In addition, because the cutting they do is quite repetitive of specific city owned property, they already are aware of the places to be maintained.

Some of the security cameras have already been installed in City owned facilities and around town. Once the installation process has been completed, our Police Department will be able to view many areas around the City at once. Portable cameras will also be used, and can be moved to any number of remote locations where vandalism has occurred in the past, such as our parks, swimming beach and other remote locations.

The City's Human Resource Committee has met recently with the City's Labor Attorney to discuss issues in the upcoming negotiations. The current five-year contract with both unions will terminate on June 30th. Although we haven't had any meetings with either union to this point, I am hopeful that new agreements will be easily reached, and the committee will have a recommendation for the full Council within the next few weeks.

I attended the MML Region 7 meeting, which was held this past week in Ishpeming. Council member Ray Coates and Mayor Zanon were also present for some of the presentations. Several informative issues were covered, including such issues as growing employment opportunities in our community; financing assistance for startup and retention of small businesses; legal considerations for communities that utilize "social media" on their web pages. Other important topics also covered were open carry of firearms and an update on Medical Marihuana. The sessions were well worth attending.

Recently a letter was received from the County's Attorney regarding the ongoing TIF issue. Although both the Iron River DDA and the City Council have approved the agreement drafted by the County's Attorney, it now appears the County is hesitating to move forward because the DDA has asked for clarification of two issues. The County is now suggesting that the opportunity to reach an amicable agreement appears to be fleeting. If it is in fact their choice to not to enter into the "Agreement," it certainly will not be for lack of effort by the DDA and the City.