

**Date:** August 17, 2011

**To:** Mayor and Council Members

**From:** John Archocosky, Manager

**RE:** Monthly Activity Report

The past month has been extremely busy with last minute issues coming up on several of the projects. Several questions came up just before the Rural Development (RD) closing. Although this is not unusual, it does require the office staff, the City Attorney, and our engineering consultants to stop everything else they are doing to respond quickly to RD. This closing is somewhat more difficult than the others we have gone through in the past, as it not only involves new construction work, but also the refinancing of two former RD funded water projects. As the new RD project refinancing is completed, the city water systems will officially be consolidated which will simplify the accounting for the project as it moves forward.

Now that the majority of "summer fun" activities are over, we can expect to see construction projects getting under way. The most significant and obvious will be the reconstruction of Washington/Lay Avenue from the West Iron County High School to U2, at the bottom of Stambaugh hill. Several other projects are nearing the final stages before construction can begin, but will be starting up later this fall or early spring next year.

I recently placed an ad on the Michigan Municipal League's website <http://www.mml.org> seeking an individual to fill the DPW Superintendent's position. This position has been officially vacant for over seven months and it has become increasingly difficult to manage the City without the help of this job classification. The job is also posted on our City website <http://www.ironriver.org> and we have already begun to receive some response to the ads. I am certain the city will be able to secure the services of an individual with experience working on municipal utilities as well as functioning in a supervisory capacity.

The DPW has been busy rehabilitating our winter equipment fleet. The new tailgate spreaders which we purchased last spring are being installed as time permits, and the routine maintenance of servicing the truck, plows and other snow removal equipment is already underway. Bids have been received for grader blades and will be presented at this month's meeting. Bids for ice control sand will also be forthcoming in the near future. The majority of our summer student helpers have already left for this year, so the remaining grass cutting that will continue will be completed by our regular city employees.