

**Date:** June 13, 2011

**To:** Mayor and Council Members

**From:** John Archocosky, Manager

**RE:** Monthly Activity Report

It appears the summer weather has finally arrived. The almost "instant" change in temperature has made the grass and weeds pop out and have begun to grow faster than the crew can cut them. The summer student workers have been busy with trying to keep up with the cutting and trimming, and have also completed the roadside cleanup project.

We also have spent as much time as possible sweeping and patching our worn out streets. This past winter seems to have caused more damage than usual and with each that passes, the winters seem to cause more significant deterioration than we can manage. We are hoping that both the State and Federal governments will begin to find a way to help generate more dollars for small communities so we can improve our local road system.

During the past two weeks we have had demonstrations from the various suppliers that will be submitting proposals for a sewer vacuum truck, which will be financed as part of the RD Project. This is a piece of equipment that the City of Iron River has needed desperately since consolidation. In addition to the several miles of sewer lines that have already been replaced during the past 5 years, the project this year will continue with more replacement, and with the new equipment, we will now be able to implement a regular maintenance program for the entire sewer system.

The Apple Blossom Apartment Project (formerly the Central School) continues to consume a considerable amount of our time. The committee has kept quite busy assembling several necessary contractual documents and other items required as part of an application to MSHDA. All the data must be submitted before August 15, 2011, to qualify the project for financial consideration during in the fall round of MSHDA projects. The Low Income Housing Tax Credit market has improved somewhat and the Developer feels that the project still has a chance to succeed. The committee members remain cautiously optimistic in light of the current economic climate of the State and the entire country. If all the information and commitments can be secured and the application filed in time, the committee will request bids for the final stage of the DDA's commitment for the lead paint abatement.

The Planning Committee is continuing its review of the City's Zoning Ordinance. Several changes are being considered. Some of the change will reflect the new direction the State has determined communities must follow. It seems that that the State planners feel that communities should become more "mixed use" friendly, which would encourage and allow residents and visitors more access by walking or bicycling.