

**Date:** November 14, 2011

**To:** Mayor and Council Members

**From:** John Archocosky, Manager

**RE:** Monthly Activity Report

We have been quite busy during the past several weeks preparing for the upcoming winter season. The heavy snow storm we experienced last week reportedly dumped about 7-8 inches of the white stuff on the City of Iron River, which is a bit unusual for the "first snowfall" of the season. I was pleased to see that our DPW did an excellent job of keeping up with it throughout the 18 hours or so that it affected us. Usually the first removal happens with much less snow and serves somewhat as a mini-test of the routes, equipment and manpower. Although this snowfall fall was significant, the crew reported only a few minor equipment breakdowns. With the ground temperature remaining well above normal, the truck drivers needed to be particularly careful not to leave the paved surfaces, which would result in damage to grass areas. Thus far, it appears they were able to prevent any major damage to our citizen's yards. The snowfall also brought about the first opportunity to experiment with plowing the newly constructed streetscape on Washington Avenue. Much as expected, the crew dealt with the new structures without any real problems. This hopefully should eliminate any concerns that some individuals had that snow removal was going to be a real issue.

The recent snowfall will most likely result in the suspension of any additional work being done on the various projects in town. The streetscape project on Washington has been completed to a point that was originally programmed for this construction season. The sidewalks, curbs, islands, etc. have all been installed. Early next spring, the plantings and accessories will be installed along with an entirely new road surface all the way down the hill to US2. By the end of June, the project will likely be completed including the installation of the new LED street lighting.

During the next few months a new water meter reading system will be installed throughout the entire city. Similar systems are being used in many communities already and are proving to be a very time saving investment. Once the installation is completed, the entire City will be able to be read within a matter of minutes. Currently, it takes 3-4 employees over a day each month to collect the water usage data. This reduction in what was a very labor intensive job should alleviate the need for increasing the current water rates for some time to come.

This past week, the City held an election for positions on the Council as well as that of Mayor. There will be two changes in the current representation on the Council, and those positions will become effective January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012. Also, there are several positions on committees and boards of the City which will expire at the end of December. City Clerk Anderson will be posting these vacancies and advertising them in the local newspaper as well. Please consider serving on one or more of these boards and taking an active role in your city's government.