

Date: January 18, 2012

To: Mayor and Council Members

From: John Archocosky, Manager

RE: Monthly Activity Report

January 2012 arrived uneventfully with our weather remaining relatively mild. With the exception of some blowing snow last week, the snowfall total has continued to be quite light for this late point in a U.P. winter. Colder temperatures could still be a concern for freezing waterlines unless we receive more snow soon to insulate the ground.

The DPW employees have been using the down time to repair and refurbish equipment used in the parks during the summer.

The changes which will convert our water meter reading from manual to an electronic system have begun to be installed. Antennas have been installed on the water tanks and are being used to transmit the signals from the tanks to well houses indicating water demand. As we have stated in an earlier report, this system allowed us to terminate the dedicated phone lines that previously were used to transmit the signals. As a result, the City will realize a savings of approximately \$26,000 a year by implementing this new system. With the forthcoming completion of the improvements in the Water Department, it should be easier for the City to control those costs directly related to the day-to-day operation. Considering the rising costs that cannot be controlled internally, such as fuel and utility charges, these improvements will be instrumental in helping to stabilize the charges which are passed on to our water customers.

We are also continuing to develop the technical specifications for bids to replace two of the pickups that were purchased about ten years ago. At least one of these trucks will be set up with equipment specialized for the water department use.

Both the Clerk's and the Treasurer's office have remained busy with routine activities for which occur at this time of the year. In addition, the Clerk has been preparing for the upcoming Primary Election which will be held on February 28.

Meetings involving various committees have taken place since our last Regular City meeting.

The Committee which has been dealing with the Tax Increment Financing legal action continues to meet hoping to find a solution to this issue. In the event the City/DDA cannot resolve the differences with the County of Iron and establish an equitable position for both, it is likely the matter will once again be placed on the Court's docket.

The committee working on the Central School project has been meeting to advance the assembly of the necessary documents to keep this project moving forward. February 15th is the next critical date for submission to MSHDA. A Brownfield meeting was also held in support of approving expenditures necessary to update an environmental report necessary for this project.