

AGENDA REPORT

TO: Mayor & City Commissioners
FROM: Ken Hibl, City Manager
DATE: September 30, 2009
RE: City Manager's Report



For the Agenda of October 5, 2009

Capital Project Updates: The last significant planned summer projects we have yet to complete are the paving of the Stamina Stadium Parking Lot (final grade has been completed – just waiting for the weather to cooperate...maybe within the next two days) and the drilling of our new Well #9. Our major concentration will now turn to restoration of all the concrete projects that have been completed and preparation for winter (hydrant flushing, winterization of irrigation systems, leaf removal, etc.).

Fire Council Meeting & Annual Fire Department Steak Fry. The CFD annual steak fry has been set for Monday, Oct 26th at 7pm at the Clare Public Safety Building; if the Commission has not received your formal invitations, you should expect them shortly. To preclude the need for another fire department event in proximity to the Steak Fry, a Fire Council meeting will also be held on Oct 26th at 6pm, thereby eliminating the need to Fire Council members (who will all also be invited to the Steak Fry) to commit two separate evenings away from home.

Hydrant Flushing. We will commence hydrant flushing on October 18th @ 11pm to exercise and ensure proper operation of all of our fire hydrants. This annual task routinely takes our crews five working days to complete working an 11pm-7am shift; we anticipate completion on October 23rd.

K-9 Proposal. We still have a few details that we need to coordinate with our bargaining unit members before we are prepared to present this proposal to the City Commission. Due to my planned absence from the October 19th City Commission meeting, I now anticipate presenting this proposal to the City Commission at the scheduled meeting of November 2nd.

Railroad Depot Forum. Approximately 25 local residents attended the forum on September 29th. Based on comments and input offered at the forum, we will provide recommendations to the City Planning Commission that we pursue alternative locations for the future home of the depot other than just the site presently determined by the State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO) to be the only site that will facilitate historic designation; invite SHPO representatives to Clare in an effort to persuade them to consider other potential sites that would not adversely affect the historic designation of the depot; and determine whether there are other possible funding sources to restore the depot (to include local fund-raising efforts) in the event that SHPO will not consider alternative sites. Mr. Bob Warrick, the local author of *The Ann Arbor Railroad*, offered a letter (*copy att'd*) supporting the preservation of the depot; the attendees present at the forum essentially echoed the sentiments of Mr. Warrick. The depot remains structurally intact (*see copy of att'd letter of Mr. Steve Letherer*), but we will initiate in-house, local efforts to temporarily close the open soffits and repair one significant leak in the roof. There was considerable discussion regarding future use of the depot; by the close of the evening's

discussion, it appeared that those present reached general consensus that multiple uses (not solely or strictly a museum or trail head, etc.) of the building would best serve the needs of the community and concurrently better preserve and maintain the building as a community asset while showcasing it as a significant part of Clare's history.

Traffic & Safety Committee Meeting. The T&S Committee met on September 22nd; a copy of the meeting minutes is attached for the Commission's information.

4th Street Senior Housing Project Groundbreaking Ceremony. The formal ground-breaking ceremony for this project has been delayed and is now tentatively scheduled for the week of October 26th. Mr. Seybert has informed us that they are scheduled to complete all required property closure procedures on October 7th, after which construction can start in earnest; he also advised us that he has finalized the lease agreement with Clare County for the Clare Senior Center on the bottom floor of the new building.

Cherry Grove Cemetery Board Meeting. The Board is scheduled to meet on Tuesday, October 6th @ 6pm. An item of new business will be to consider a proposed policy to "buy-back" vacant grave sites.

Absence. I will be out of the office and out-of-state for the period Oct 8-22; Bob Bonham will serve as the Acting City Manager during my absence.

Attachments.

1. Letter of Mr. Warrick.
2. Letter of Mr. Letherer.
3. Minutes of T&S Committee Meeting.

CLARE CITY TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
Tuesday, September 22, 2009
6:00 p.m.
MINUTES

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

1. CALL TO ORDER / PRESENT – Miedzianowski, Bonham, McNeill, Hofweber, and Seibt.

2. OLD BUSINESS

A. Schoolcrest / Hemlock – Stop Sign Issue

1. Motion made by Bonham and seconded by Seibt to not put any more stop signs at the intersection of Schoolcrest and Hemlock.

3. NEW BUSINESS

A. Proposed Request to Have Stop Sign added at Hemlock / State. It is already a four way stop. There was discussion thinking maybe the concerned citizen mean for the intersection of State and Pine might need to be a 3 or 4 way stop. It was referred to Ofc Al White and the school for further thoughts. Otherwise it will remain the same.

4. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Discussion occurred about making a crosswalk on the northwest corner of Schoolcrest and Hemlock for pedestrians.

B. MDOT – Jack Hofweber brought up the concept of Safe Routes to School and the basics of the program. McNeill will attend a meeting at FHS on 9/23/09 and bring back the info to possibly present to the Clare School Officials.

5. NEXT MEETING – TBD in January 2010

6. ADJOURNMENT – 8:23 p.m. Motion made by Bonham seconded by Seibt.

Steven C. Letherer
President

Bernard C. Letherer
Secretary



Letherer Truss and Wall Systems Inc.

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September 24, 2009

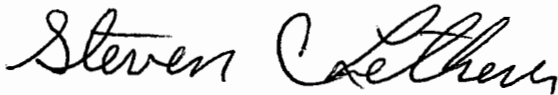
To Whom It May Concern:

Per the request of the City of Clare I recently inspected the roof structure of the depot and found it to be in excellent shape. No signs of rot or decay were found in the main building. The only area that will require some minimal attention is in the area of the overhangs, which is cosmetic, not structural.

I also spoke with Keith Cozat, who was the contractor on the depot project in Coleman several years ago. He confirmed that when working on that project he did not experience any structural issues with the truss on that project either.

Due to a prior commitment I am unable to attend this meeting but would welcome any questions or concerns at a later time.

Sincerely,



Steven C. Letherer
President



**Warrick Railroad
Consulting Inc.**

September 28, 2009

**Mr. Ken Hibl
City Manager
City of Clare
202 West Fifth Street
Clare, MI 48617**

Dear Mr. Hibl:

As was true for most American communities, the railroad depot was once Clare's connection with the state and the nation. There was a time when over twenty passenger trains called at the station. It was just not a freight and passenger terminal; it was where the mail came and the telegraph brought the news of the world.

It was a place of sadness and joy, of hope and dreams, where soldiers went off to war and families were reunited with loved ones. It was where the newest Sears Catalog arrived and grandma's bathtub was delivered. Where the seeds for next year's crop came and where the fruits of those seeds were shipped to market. As much as it was a connection to the world, it was even more so the heart and soul of community life in Clare.

My own connection with the depot began one summer when I was about seven or so and I'd slipped away from my grandmother's watchful eye and made my way the block or so to the depot. I still have memories of going through the door. The cool air that smelled of coal smoke and the excitement of a young boy who loved trains being in a depot... and then the shadow of my grandmother just before I got my tail "fanned" for running off.

To restore and preserve this treasure of local history is why all have gathered here this evening. Others have come before us and have successfully restored forgotten derelicts of the past into places of community pride and economic development.

The Durand Union Depot and the Dennison Railroad Depot Museum in Ohio are two wonderful examples of the impact citizens and political leaders can have when they work together with passion and common purpose to protect and preserve their depots.

Let us all work together as they have, and restore this part of Clare's heritage and the rich history of this region.

Thank you, Mr. Hibl, for holding this forum and thank you to everyone here for attending this evening.

Robert I. Warrick