

AGENDA REPORT

TO: Mayor & City Commissioners
FROM: Ken Hibl, City Manager
DATE: October 28, 2009
RE: City Manager's Report



For the Agenda of November 2, 2009

October 26th Fire Council Meeting. The Fire Council met on October 26th; all governmental entities (Grant Township, Sheridan Township, Vernon Township, Wise Township, and the City of Clare) of the Council were represented. The primary point of discussion was the possible purchase of a new water tender; the Council approved the solicitation of bids for the new, proposed apparatus. Dependent on the bid prices, the Council will make a purchase recommendation (or not) to the City Commission – likely in December. Other items of discussion included the grant application submitted to DNR for the purchase of wild-land turnout gear (lightweight gear used predominantly to fight grass or forest fires); the joint purchase of ice rescue gear with the Surrey Township Fire Department (each department purchased two sets of gear) to ensure we have the local capability to accomplish water rescue operations in the winter; the recent completion of an evaluation of the department by representatives of ISO.

Veteran's Day Office Closure. City offices will be closed on Wednesday, November 11, 2009; however, this is not a vacation day for our employees. Traditionally, we have used this day to complete administrative tasks and functions that we don't routinely have time to accomplish during the year, e.g., annual purging of files; general housekeeping chores, etc.

Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) Meeting. The Clare ZBA is scheduled to convene on Friday, October 28th at 10:30am to consider a sign setback variance request of the Clark Podiatry Clinic. The City Staff supports this variance request as we believe the current sign setback requirements to be too restrictive/unreasonable. We intend to propose an ordinance change to the Planning Commission and the City Commission to reduce the current required sign setback.

Well #9. The well has been drilled. The pump is scheduled to be removed from Well #5 (the old well) within the week for rehabilitation; once the rehab is completed, the pump will be placed in the new well and the well brought on line. We anticipate it will be at least another month (likely longer) before the new well is brought on line.

Tractor Purchase. As the Commission is well aware, we have been discussing this topic since April 2009. I apparently have not done a good job in communicating the City's needs on this subject and have evidently done a poor job in justifying that need. And I have also failed to ensure we have explored all options regarding the purchase of the needed equipment – in particular, the financing of this equipment. Prior to my departure on my recent vacation, I asked Steve Kingsbury to explore our options in this regard. We have looked at all the "normal" funding options (self-funding, commercial loans, etc.), but we also now discovered that this equipment purchase could be eligible for 50/50 USDA grant funding. This source of funding is generally reserved for public safety equipment (particularly fire trucks), but in Steve's conversation with USDA, he discovered that USDA may look favorably on a grant for this

particular equipment due to its sidewalk snow removal function coupled with the fact that we have a significant senior population and the equipment would be used to clear sidewalks in winter for children walking to school. So before bringing this matter back to the City Commission for further consideration and discussion, we are going to pursue the possible grant option further.

November 3rd Election. As a reminder the City’s polling site for the Nov 3rd election is the Public Safety Building, and the polls are scheduled to be open between the hours of 7am to 8pm. We encourage all Clare registered voters to cast their ballots. Aside from the two City Commission seats that are on the ballot, the millage for City street improvements is also slated for renewal.

Attachments. None.