

MANAGER'S NEWSLETTER

February 12, 2016

LAND RELEASE

The City is in conversation with the FAA on releasing land not needed for airport operations to the Water department since the future use of the property currently is the well field and the future likely site for a new water plant. While the release was approved at the State level the Feds in Detroit have asked continuing questions. Additional data will be submitted answering these issues. It was disappointing, however, to have the Detroit contact refuse to even take some time on the phone to provide additional clarity for the detail of the response that he is looking for.

AEROMED

Channel 8 Wood TV ran a story this week on the possible move of AeroMed away from Big Rapids. The feature was an interview with a citizen that was told if he had arrived as much as 30 seconds later, his aneurism, which had burst, would have ended his life. A delay of 19 minutes in helicopter time from Traverse City would have been too late. Roben Hood continues to receive positive press on this issue and we understand that AeroMed also continues to review their decision. In the meantime, Big Rapids has opened talks with other emergency air flight services.

AIRPORT RUNWAY

This upcoming Wednesday MDOT/FAA has scheduled a meeting in Lansing to discuss the 5,000-foot runway request by the City. This will be a pivotal meeting on the future of the airport.

TOWN GOWN MEETING

The City hosted the quarterly meeting with the schools, university, county and officials concerning activities of mutual interest. Ferris is getting closer to approval on the construction needed to expand the welding program. Everyone comments that construction and economic activity is improving to be a benefit of west Michigan.

CLAY CLIFFS

Staff completed a planning discussion on the future of Clay Cliffs with Marlies Manning. Marlies has drawn a plan for walk paths, sledding, open areas and vistas for the enjoyment of park users. Many suggestions were made. It is expected that a citizen input session will be advertised before presentation and acceptance by the City Park and Recreation Board.

BUDGET

Aaron Kuhn, City Treasurer, received budget numbers from department heads today and is looking forward to putting the overall budget document together for the first time.

LEADERSHIP MECOSTA

This year's class experienced Government Day on Thursday, starting with Mecosta County and ending at City Hall. It appeared to be a valuable day for all concerned.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

The Police Division responded to 65 calls for service over the past week. Of note was a strong armed robbery reported on Thursday evening, February 4th, in the 600 block of S. Michigan. The suspect has been identified, with charges being sought through the Mecosta County Prosecutor's Office.

The Fire Division responded to 27 calls for service over the past week. 18 of those were of a medical nature, while 9 were of a fire nature, including a PIA, gas leak, care fire and false alarms.

PARK & RECREATION

- Daddy Daughter Dance was a success. There were 499 people at the event this year. We are looking forward to next year. Due to the high demand, there will be a mother son event planned for the next year.
- Traveled to Bay City to inquire about a donation of blocks for the Win Kellum dugouts.
- Job Corp of Flint, MI will be at City Hall next week to discuss their volunteer efforts to construct the Win Kellum dugouts.
- Park and Recreation board met.
- Next week there will be an open forum on Tuesday, February 16 at 6:30 pm in the commission room to discuss the Clay Cliff's Master Plan.

PUBLIC WORKS ACTIVITIES

DIAL-A-RIDE –

318 Adult Riders - (\$2.00 Fare)

294 Children Riders - (\$1.00 Fare)

948 (\$1.00 Fare) - Seniors (104) and Disabled (844) passengers of which 198 used the wheelchair lift to board

73 Free Riders - Aides that ride with disabled passengers and children 4 and under with an adult

40 No Shows - A person who calls for a ride and when we go to pick up and they are not there for ride

71 Safe Riders – Free rides from local establishments to anyone in the community on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights 12:00 am to 2:30 am.

3,067 Ferris Shuttle Bus – Free rides to anyone on Campus, The new route has nine stops on campus- Lot 28, Allied Health, Campus Community Center, Sports Complex, Lot 4, Rock Cafe', Recreation Center, University Center, Arts and Science, 7:30 am - 7:00 pm

4,811 Total Passengers

550 Out of City Riders - Anyone we pick up or drop off outside the Big Rapids City Limits

STREETS & PARKS –

Safety Topic: “Dirty Secrets About Trash”

- Hauled snow
- Filled potholes
- Checked storm manholes on N-131 for cleaning and repair
- Repaired Safety Station lights
- Sanded and salted roads, alleys and parking lots
- Trimming alleys
- Repairing signs
- Replacing faded stop signs
- Checked and jetted sewers per normal daily and call ins
- Picked up trash downtown and in parks

MOTOR POOL –

- Staff vehicles & Miscellaneous Equipment:
 - 203 pickup truck - replaced radiator and serpentine belt
 - 220 pickup truck - replaced inside driver's door handle
 - 402 police car - performed a service and checked brakes
 - Changed 4 sets of underbody blades on the dump trucks
- Busses:
 - 901 - performed a grease service. replaced front brakes and 1 brake caliper
 - 903 - replaced parking brake cables
 - 905 - replaced front tires

- 909 - replaced 4 rear tires
-

MAIN MAINTENANCE -

- MISS Digs
- Miscellaneous reads

WWTP -

Safety Topic: “Arc Welding Safety”

- Working with Fleis & VandenBrink on details for the Spray Foam Mitigation System. This CIP was approved last year, and will be completed by May or June.
- Also working with Fleis on details for the new Ferric Chloride fill location. This is another CIP from last year, which will be completed by May or June.
- Discussions regarding this year’s newly-approved CIP’s are moving forward, as well.
- Northwest Kent Mechanical diagnosed and removed a faulty drive motor from the grease removal auger drive. A replacement is on order, and will be installed ASAP.
- Fabrication and assembly work continues, with a “Cherry Picker” lift, to be used for Digester motor lifting, removal and replacement.
- A group meeting is scheduled for next week, regarding the latest draft modifications to Sewer Use Ordinance Chapter 52, which have been completed by Eric Williams.
- The Plant back-up generator was operated for several hours, loaded and unloaded, in an effort to duplicate a shut-down fault. No faults and/or shut-down conditions were seen, so it is assumed that the recent repairs were successful.
- Maintenance and repairs have been performed on several Water, Wastewater and Lift Station back-up generators.
- Windemuller has finished their portion of the Automatic Air Valve control wiring. Jay Norris is beginning work on necessary SCADA control wiring and logic.
- Northwest Kent Mechanical and Windemuller re-located 2 of the 4 automatic air valve actuators. The explosion-proof actuator is now in the correct location on Basin # 4.
- Northwest Kent Mechanical attempted to install the correct gear-drive actuators on 6 new valves in the Digester Room. It was discovered that these operating valves will have to be disassembled, so the work has been postponed until Ferris Spring Break.

Stephen Sobers

City Manager