

MANAGER'S NEWSLETTER

March 11, 2016

BUDGET MEETINGS

Department heads met with the Manager and Treasurer to explain their anticipated needs for FY 2016-17. At this writing the entire budget is 'over' just under 1 million and the general fund .5 million. Aaron will be looking at the revenue projections and the budgeted amounts to narrow the gap for presentation the City Commission within the next two months. This year and next may be the most difficult until the retirement curve actually begins its downward turn for former DB employees. Finding a way to reach that point will be the challenge.

USER CHARGE MEETING

The City and townships are meeting on the 4th Monday of every month to try to complete the contract during 2016. The next meeting is March 28.

FIRE CONTRACTS

Steve Schroeder presented contract renewals to Norwich and Green townships. The new 5-year agreement envisions an increase over the present contracts on a CPI rather than a mandatory 3%. It also provided for a 1 year opening since Green Township had indicated that they were interested in a more careful review of the overall costs – but the renewal time of 3 weeks did not allow this consideration. Both townships have indicated that they expect to approve this approach. Green indicated that they will be examining the impact of the contract this year for a more measured decision in 2017.

BRIDGE TOUR

The Mayor and Commissioners Anderson and Hogenson toured the Baldwin street bridge construction, along with staff. The 'wings' of the bridge are progressing nicely and the center span box beams are expected next week. The tour included a stroll across the Hanchett property in advance of the first meeting with the Bonner Advisory group scheduled in two weeks.

AIRPORT LAND RELEASE

The land release has been resubmitted to the Federal decision makers for the airport. The First submittal requested additional information which will be sent next week.

HYETT PALMA

Next week is the beginning of the intensive review by the Hyett Palma group studying downtown. Please remember and plan to attend these meetings which will help guide further development downtown. Interviews have taken place for the new DBA, Downtown Business Association, director. An announcement is expected shortly.

DISC GOLF

The City is being asked to allow an upgrade/addition to the present disc golf course in North End Riverside Park. The funding will be donations. The expectation is that the City will become the fiduciary for this improvement. Only the number of holes will be built that match the funding received. Approach to the City Commission will come after review by the Park Board.

CHARTER COMMISSION

A call for the Charter Commission has been issued for the first week in April to review the purchasing policies of the City.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

The Police Division responded to 60 calls for service over the past week. Detective Miller attended Amber Alert Training at the MSP Academy this past week that was put on by the United States Department of Justice.

Director Nerbonne attended the annual MML Conference in regards to updates on policy and procedure. Sergeant West continues to participate in the MSU Staff and Command School at the MSP Academy.

The Fire Division responded to 17 calls for service over the past week.

PARK & RECREATION

- Girls on the Run program shirts were ordered and the shoe fitting for discounted shoes provided by Yoplait will begin this Sunday. No registrations will be accepted after Friday, March 18.
- Volleyball games resume this weekend.
- Budget meeting was held for the next fiscal year.
- Met with Spectrum Health on potential sponsorships with City activities.

- Park and Recreation Board meeting was held.

PUBLIC WORKS ACTIVITIES

DIAL-A-RIDE –

241 Adult Riders - (\$2.00 Fare)

3542 Children Riders - (\$1.00 Fare)

941 (\$1.00 Fare) - Seniors (90) and Disabled (851) passengers of which 209 used the wheelchair lift to board

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

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

7 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.

3,133 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, 7:30am - 7:00pm Mon – Thur and 7:30 am – 2:00 pm on Friday.

4,817 Total Passengers

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

STREETS & PARKS –

Safety Topic: “Managing Chronic Pain”

- Repaired watermain break on Bailey Drive
- Repaired banner pole downtown; corner of Maple and S. Michigan
- Checked water patches
- Banners
- Cleaned drains
- Cleaned equipment
- Patched potholes
- Assisted Clerk’s office with transporting voting equipment to and from voting locations
- Crackseal DeKrafft Avenue
- Checked and jetted sewers per normal daily and call ins
- Picked up trash downtown and in parks

MOTOR POOL –

- Staff vehicles & Miscellaneous Equipment:
 - 218 pickup truck, serviced

- Busses:
 - 905, removed the front half of the motor to repair coolant leak, also replaced water pump, air conditioning compressor and 2 fan belts.
 - Evacuated and recharged A/C system, changed oil.
 - 909, repaired steering wheel tilt lever, adjusted parking brake interlock solenoid
 - Installed 2 updated advertisements stickers

MAIN MAINTENANCE -

- MISS Digs
- Miscellaneous reads

Stephen Sobers
City Manager