



January 9, 2015

Mayor Donald D. Lyons  
City Council Members

Dear Mayor Lyons and City Council Members:

Upcoming Meetings: None

The following report has been prepared to provide you with an update on current issues or projects in progress:

**Snow Removal**

Snow removal has been the focus of Department of Public Services crews this week. The front end loader broke down, but it is still under warranty and a loaner unit was delivered mid-week. Crews expect to be hauling snow from the downtown area next week.

I also want to remind everyone that it is important not park on the streets during snow removal times and that overnight parking on the streets is prohibited during the winter.

**LaGrange Fire District**

Last night Director of Public Safety Steve Grinnwald and I attended a special meeting of the LaGrange Township Board as they met with property owners currently served by the City of Dowagiac Fire Department. The City has contracted with the Township for decades and the board and residents expressed their appreciation for the quality service and response times that have been consistently provided.

Over the past 18 months the LaGrange Township Board has been looking at all options available to them prior to the end of the current agreement. The city rate for this service is equivalent to 4.2 mills. This rate is higher than the rate charged by a fully volunteer department that serves the remainder of the township. The difference in cost is because the city has at least one full time person on duty at all times so that a truck can roll at a moment's notice. The city's response time for all the areas, including township areas, served by the city averaged 5.08 minutes last year.

Historically, the township board has chosen to charge the same fire protection rate for all properties in the township even though the costs are different. They are now considering several options including:

1. Continue the contract with the city and charge a different rate for area being served by the city's fire department. This is how many communities allocate costs for fire protection when more than one fire department serves a community. Pokagon Township is a local example of this method.
2. Non-renew the contract with the city and have fully volunteer department serve all of LaGrange Township.

LaGrange Township's next meeting to discuss options will be held at 6:00 pm on Thursday, January 22 at the Township Hall.

**Museum announcement**

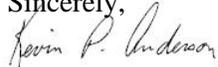
Congratulations to the Dowagiac Area History Museum for reaching another mile-marker.

In only its second year of operation, \$50,000 has been raised to help with renovations to the museum's second floor. The space will be used for the installation of two new exhibits. The museum's year-end fundraising event saw a great response from donors, due in part to the clear-cut project plan.

The museum plans to open several new exhibits in the expanded space. Many of those will include:

- Expanded history of the City of Dowagiac
- The rehabilitation of the City's downtown
- Birth of the Dogwood Fine Arts Festival
- Orphan train
- Regional military history
- City connections with the Titanic disaster
- And temporary or visiting exhibits

Sincerely,



Kevin P. Anderson

City Manager