



July 3, 2014

Mayor Donald D. Lyons  
City Council Members

City Meetings: Council Meeting, Monday 7:00 pm

Calendar: Planning Commission Meeting, Monday July 7, 7:00 pm

Dear Mayor Lyons and City Council Members:

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

**Fire at Wounded Minnow**

The Wounded Minnow suffered a gas leak and fire on Wednesday, July 2. The gas company responded quickly and, with the assistance of Public Works and Fire, shut down the gas and evacuated a section of downtown. No injuries were reported. The building suffered slight fire damage and interior and basement has suffered water damage. The Minnow remains closed as clean up and insurance assessment continues. Thank you to everyone for their prompt and thorough response, thusly containing a dangerous situation.

**Storm Power Outage**

The second round of severe weather to hit our area in a week has kept DPS running around the clock. Approximately 9:30 PM on June 30<sup>th</sup> multiple sections of the city, approximately 150 and 200 customers, were affected by the outage. Mutual Aid was requested the morning of July 1st from South Haven, Michigan. They provided us with an additional crew and line truck. All restorations were completed by 4:30 PM on July 2nd.

A huge thanks to all crews involved for their dedication, long hours and diligence in completing the restoration work in a safe and timely manner.

**Sister and Indian Lakes Lift Stations**

The City of Dowagiac has a long-term agreement with Sister Lakes and Indian Lakes Sewer Utility Associations to provide maintenance for their sewer system. Periodically we are required to provide emergency services to make sure generators are operating when the power goes out. Monday's storm required city crews to be called in at approximately 10:30 PM, June 30<sup>th</sup> to begin pumping lift stations at Sisters Lakes, Indian Lakes and at Vineyard, due to loss of A.E.P. power at these locations. Crews were rotated so that all lift stations were maintained around the clock. All power was restored to all lift stations on July 2nd. Street crews also assisted the Electrical Department in restoration, clearing roads

and have started removing brush. The city will be reimbursed for all costs associated with this power outage.

### **Nubour Street Water Update**

The water line extension to Nubour Street in Wayne Township continues to move forward and is still on schedule for construction this calendar year. Design work is complete and has been sent to the State and grant agencies for review. The attorneys for the City and Township are finalizing the necessary agreements for maintaining the water system and fire service mutual aid. These agreements are based on the terms specified in a previously agreed Memo of Understanding (MOU) with Wayne Township. It is anticipated that the agreement will be ready for action in July. Because of the cooperation between the city and township, 45% of this water extension is eligible for grants and the balance is eligible for low interest federal financing. We look forward to continuing to work with Wayne Township to make this project a success.

### **Middle Crossing Storage Facility Update**

A closing date has been set for July 16 on the Middle Crossing property. This joint purchase with Silver Creek Township, is being made from Chemical Bank. This purchase is being made to reduce the need to build storage buildings for soccer and baseball field maintenance in the future, secure additional ROW for the bike path and provide a revenue stream for maintenance of the park. An agreement for managing the facilities with a private firm is in negotiations. Revenues from rents will first be used to reimburse the cost of the building, then be used for maintenance of the building and then be used for Russom Park maintenance.

### **WNIT's Our Town – Dowagiac**

Taping of interviews for the “Our Town” Project will be conducted on July 9 and 10.

**Beckwith Park Concerts** – Continue on Thursdays at 7:30 pm

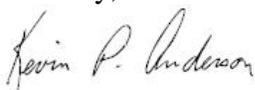
### **Dowagiac Area History Museum**

The Summer Video Series highlighting the Great Depression begins Wednesday, July 9 at 4 pm in the museum's lower level. This series will show Ken Burns' *The Dust Bowl, American Experience: The 1930s and American Masters: Woody Guthrie*. One-hour installments will be shown each Wednesday through August 27.

### **Fireworks**

Thank you and congratulations to the Young Professionals of Greater Dowagiac for spearheading the return of a fireworks celebration to Dowagiac. Thank you to the many businesses and citizens who have donated their time and money to this community effort. Their collective enthusiasm has been infectious.

Sincerely,



Kevin P. Anderson  
City Manager