



Week of May 18, 2020 – Thursday Memo

Good afternoon. This is the City Manager's week in review.

Stay Home, Stay Safe – The Governor announced on Monday the reopening of the upper peninsula and northern Michigan effective this Friday. On Thursday she signed orders allowing small gatherings of 10 or less, reopening of auto dealerships, retail business by appointment, and authorized nonessential medical, dental, and veterinary procedures.

Covid-19 Resources for Local Government – I attended a webinar on Monday and heard presentations from the State Treasury Office about forecasted revenues, from MDOT about revenue shortfalls from decreased gas sales and decreased registrations, and from education professionals about working with municipal budgets.

Budget Workshop – City Council reviewed the FY 20-21 revenues and began to review the special fund accounts. The next budget workshop will continue the review of the expenditures on May 26 at 10:00 a.m.

Union Street Resurfacing – On Tuesday, I spoke with the City Engineer to go over the City Council meeting from Monday. I told him to proceed with bidding the work for the resurfacing of Union Street. Once the bids are received, I will present the bids to City Council for approval and award of the contract. We expect bids to be approximately \$210,000± to resurface Union from Wiley to Blue Star Highway. After speaking with the City Engineer, it is advisable to add a culvert replacement project to increase the size of the culvert from 8" to 12" to meet road commission standards. Also, guardrail replacements need to be completed to bring the guard rails up to standards.

Merchants – I have been in conversation with several merchants in the downtown this week about requests to use parking areas in the right of way to extend their business. I have also had conversation about a grant opportunity called Match on Main Street. Match on Main Street is a \$50,000 grant opportunity that can be directed to merchants in amounts ranging from \$2,000 to \$10,000. There has been discussion about adding more picnic tables in Beery field and adding additional signage to direct visitors to the City's leased parking lots—there are three and the City owned lot.

Grant Writing – I have been in contact with an individual who is willing to write grants on behalf of the City for a reasonable fee. In my opinion, employing a grant writer to seek out grant opportunities that benefit the community is not a use of public funds for private purposes. The grant writer is working with me on the Match on Main Street grant which has a deadline of May 29th.

Building Team – The building team heard a presentation from a building solutions team on Thursday. The team is working on evaluating City owned properties and making recommendations to City Council. Another meeting is scheduled for early next week.

Beach Stairs – The structural engineer was at Douglas Beach on Wednesday and initial report was not good. DPW stabilized the stairs with additional bracing, but the lower stairs are likely beyond repair.

Erosion Concerns – I spoke with the resident north of Douglas Beach about erosion protection measures. They are considering additional measures and it may be a good opportunity for the City to install some revetments to protect the remainder of the dune. I was at the beach today and the exposed dune wall is at least 12 feet tall. The vegetation is holding the dune in place.

Douglas Beach Sandbagging – I spoke again with a contractor this week about shoring up the eroded dune at Douglas beach. The lowest cost proposal to shore up the dune is \$20,000 and ranges up to \$75,000.

Campbell Road - I spoke with the Saugatuck City Manager this week about developing a plan to address the weeping hill. We both agree that KLSWA needs to be involved in the conversation in the event that the water is from a leaking water service or water main.

Senior Parade – Thursday, graduating seniors toured downtown in a car parade along with emergency services. There was a good turnout to show support for the graduates. Congratulations grads!!!!

Downtown – Flowers are being installed in the downtown this week. Volunteers are out in force making the town look great. Thanks volunteers!!!

Upcoming Events – There are no events scheduled for next week. Stay home, stay safe, and enjoy your family time.

That is all I have for now. Have a great Memorial Day weekend everyone.

Rich LaBombard
City Manager