

CITY MANAGER REPORT

TO: Mayor Pat Humphrey & Clare City Commission
FROM: Jeremy Howard, City Manager
DATE: March 2, 2023
RE: City Manager's Report

For the Agenda of March 6, 2023

Recent Snow Events. The recent storm that hit the Clare area dropped a tremendous amount of snow on the City in just a few short hours. City crews were out plowing immediately, but it was hard to tell as the snow was falling in faster than the plows could clear the streets and parking lots. Once the storm subsided DPW and other city employees did an amazing job of getting the streets, parking lots, and sidewalks back open and safe. We appreciate the citizen's patience as streets are plowed as it takes time to get through all the main highways, primary streets, and then secondary streets. Great job and thank you to all the city workers who worked on keeping the city safe and functional during the storm.

Verizon Cell Tower. No new updates at this time and we are still waiting for AT&T to place the fiber. The 5G signal is supposed to be turned on after that installation.

Lake Shamrock Dredging. Mechanical dredging is still paused due to load limits on the roads. We are currently investigating if partial loads could be hauled if the weight of the truck and material is under the required limits. Hopefully, the frost laws can be lifted soon and we can resume for the rest of March. The hydraulic dredging bids were received and will hopefully be proceeding this month as well. The first step will be for the contractor to begin permitting conversations with EGLE.

Assessing RFP. As I mentioned at the last meeting, the city recently received notice that our Assessor (Ed with V&V Assessing) is terminating his contract with the City of Clare due to health issues. An RFP was prepared and sent out for Assessing Service for the City at the end of February and is scheduled for a bid opening on March 15th. We sent the RFP to several known companies and to the Michigan Assessors Association which posted it on its website and emailed it to all of its members.

Farming RFP. As I mentioned at the last meeting, Rawson Farms notified the City that they would no longer be farming the long-contracted city land at the airport and the south end of the city. We are in the process now of finalizing an RFP that will be going out soon to all of the farmers that have already contacted the city with interest in entering into a contract for the land as well as to other area farmers who may be interested in bidding.

Community Foundation – Grant Award – Depot. Recently the City applied for a grant from the Clare County Community Foundation and was successful in securing \$10,000 to complete some projects at the City-owned Clare Union Railroad Depot. The temporary railing system that has been in place will be replaced with a permanent railing as well as the addition of some outdoor greenspace items including trash bins, benches, and a dog station. The items will be installed this year by city crews. You can read additional information in the attached memo from Parks and Recreation Director Joy Simmer who drafted the grant and will oversee the completion of the grant finalization. Thanks to Joy for her work on obtaining the grant and to the city workers who will do the installation.

Attachments:

1. Grant Information Memo.

Memo

From: Joy Simmer

Date: February 27, 2023

Re: Clare County Community Foundation – Phase 2 Depot Project

SUMMARY

Clare Parks and Recreation Department submitted a grant to the Clare County Community Foundation during their 1st cycle of 2023. \$10,000 was requested to be able to purchase the materials for the permanent back decking of the Depot. Included in the request was to be able to purchase a few additional items that will match the current Depot outdoor decor for the greenspace area that will be located alongside the Pere Marquette Rail-Trail pathway. The items included were a couple matching 30-gallon trash bins, a dog station, and two 4-foot benches.

Currently the foundation is sending over the documents to be signed by Clare Parks and Recreation, then they will start the process to disburse the payment immediately afterwards.

The construction work for the decking will be completed in-house by C. Longstreth once we have the supplies and Longstreth is available to complete the work. According to the grant request, we should hopefully have the work completed in April 2023. Simmer will be responsible for sending over the final grant report once everything is completed and in place.



Joy KS Simmer