

CITY MANAGER REPORT

TO: Mayor Pat Humphrey & Clare City Commission
FROM: Jeremy Howard, City Manager
DATE: February 15, 2024
RE: City Manager's Report

For the Agenda of February 19, 2024

Lake Shamrock Dredging and Dam Project. Mechanical dredging by the City is still paused under frost law restrictions at the time of this writing. For the hydraulic dredging project, Savin is also paused because of the ice on the lake and cold temperatures. As I mentioned at the last meeting, we did recently hear from EGLE that they are requiring us to pause all dredging (mechanical and hydraulic) because the original permit that was applied for and approved 5 years ago expired at the beginning of February. EGLE had issued us “new” permits with 5-year timeframes for both the mechanical and hydraulic work the city and our contractor are doing and we were operating under the assumption that was what was needed moving forward. However, EGLE is now requiring us to apply for a new permit that would encompass the work as written in the original permit, as well as the new work and spoils locations. After receiving this information, I requested an in-person meeting with EGLE at their Bay City office to facilitate this process. Luke and I and Savin Lake Services met with EGLE staff on February 14th and the meeting went well. We will be submitting a new permit within the week and requesting an expedited time frame for review and the requisite public comment period. EGLE is hopeful that this process can be completed and that they will be able to issue a new permit by the early part of March so that we can begin dredging as soon as the frost laws come off and the weather allows. I am thankful the timing seems to be working out so that we will not lose much dredging time and the project can stay on track. The Dam feasibility study work is continuing and we have not heard any more information on our grant submissions at this time.

Frost – Let Water Run Order. We continue to monitor the levels and will take appropriate action if necessary.

Ice Rink. The ice rink at the large pavilion at Shamrock Park opened for use on Friday, January 19th for a short period but the warm weather had melted the ice. It is unlikely that we will have a long enough stretch of cold weather again to freeze and maintain ice for the rink this season, so we will likely take the boards down and try again next year.

Rail Trail. As you know the rail trail project to close the “Clare Gap” is slated to begin this spring and finish this fall. MDOT and the contractors have already begun to mobilize and bring equipment into the area ahead of the frost laws going into place. This is an exciting project and long-awaited by the community and surrounding area.

March Board of Review. The March Board of Review will meet at Clare City Hall, 202 W. Fifth Street, Clare MI 48617, at the following times:

March 5, 2024 (2:00 pm) – Organizational Meeting – No Appeals
March 11, 2024 (9:00 am – 3:00 pm) – Appeal Hearing
March 12, 2024 (2:00 pm – 5:00 pm and 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm) – Appeal Hearing

If you have questions about your Tax Assessment Change Notice or wish to schedule an appointment, contact the City Assessor’s Office at 989-424-4066 or 517-940-2823, or email Assessor@cityofclare.gov.

Planning Commission / City Commission Annual Joint Meeting: The City Commission and Planning Commission held their joint meeting to discuss the Planning Commission Annual Report for the previous year along with any other topics of interest on Wednesday, February 14th at 5:30 p.m. The meeting was very productive and the Planning Commission has several discussion topics/ordinances to begin working on in 2024.

Attachments: None.