



Week of May 25, 2020 – Friday Memo

Good afternoon. This is the City Manager's week in review. This was a short week with the Memorial Day holiday on Monday.

Shoreline Coalition - South Haven leaders have been working to secure State and Federal funds to combat highwater issues. As part of this process, they have been connecting with other lakefront community leaders to build a team with a strong voice for the needs of lakefront communities. I've asked that the City of Douglas be included in this group.

Public Bathrooms – The public bathrooms at Beery Field and Douglas Beach are open! The City is installing signage provided by the Allegan County Health Department to give best practice advice such as limiting occupants to members of a single household, wearing a mask prior to entering, and washing / sanitize hands.

Boat Ramps – As boating is considered one of the activities that are permissible under the current executive order, we've experienced an increase in usage at our boat launch facilities. We've also heard there are increasing maintenance concerns with the extra usage. DPW does a good job maintaining the launches and I've been to Schultz Park Launch recently just to see the launch for myself. The higher water levels and road flooding at Schultz and Union are creating some maintenance issues but overall the ramps remain open and usable. Once the waters recede significantly, we will have the ramp at Union inspected.

Budget Workshop – City Council reviewed the entire FY 20-21 revenues and expenditure budget during two workshops over the last two weeks. Council provided comments and the budgets are being revised.

Building Team – The building team met again this week to hear a presentation and this time we included members of the DDA and Planning Commission in the discussion.

Pride Memorial Garden – Wednesday, I spoke with the developer of the memorial garden next to the old library building on Center Street. We are working together to come up with a drainage solution across the library property.

Match on Main Grant – The grant called Match on Main has been submitted this week. Thanks to Mary Campbell for her hard work in coordinating with the DDA merchants to get the necessary information collected quickly. Merchants worked over the holiday weekend to provide information to meet the deadline. Thank you to everyone who helped.

Campbell Road – The MDOT Category B grant was submitted this week as well. We didn't get funded last year, but we were allowed to submit again. We should find out if we are funded late in summer or early fall.

Pre-development Meeting – Wednesday I attended a predevelopment meeting for a property on West Center Street. The developer is proposing a mix of retail and residential on the site and will create a community that

focuses on affordable housing, walkability, and year-round living. The next step for the developer is to present his plan to the Planning Commission.

Downtown – Flowerbed plantings are nearly complete in the downtown. Thanks to Councilman Seabert and all the volunteers working to make downtown visually vibrant. Conversation continues about the lack of water in some of the gardens. We will look at a temporary solution to manually water the flowers but the proper solution is to repair the irrigation properly.

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.

Rich LaBombard
City Manager