



Good Afternoon,

This is the City Manager's week in review for the week of May 9, 2022.

EPA Brownfield Cleanup Grant – It is great to announce that the City was successful in its second application of the Brownfield Cleanup Grant request. In November 2021, the City submitted a grant request for \$500,000 for a hazardous substances cleanup grant to conduct remediation activities at 200 Blue Star Highway. The EPA announced on Thursday, May 12, that Douglas will begin working with the EPA on entering into a cooperative agreement to accept the grant. Funds will be available at the start of the federal fiscal year in October. The City will begin working immediately with PM Environmental—our environmental consultant—to discuss next steps and develop a schedule to meet the requirements of the grant. Congratulations to the City Council and the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority for a successful grant application. Thank you to all who participated in the development of the grant application. Please follow the link for the grant announcement. You can access it [here](#). Douglas is in Region 5.

Budget – Staff continued working on the budget in preparation for the upcoming budget workshop. The workshop will start on Monday, May 16th at 3:00 p.m. at City Hall. The City Council meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. Any unfinished budget workshop discussion will be continued at a second workshop date on Thursday, May 19th at 4:00 p.m. The City Council will be presented the final budget on June 6th at the regular City Council meeting.

Road Projects – Paving of Blue Star Highway was completed last week, and City Hall has received a lot of positive feedback on the new curbing and paving. Crews began the crack filling and chip and seal projects on selected streets throughout the City. The crack fill and chip seal projects are intended to prevent water intrusion into the pavement and will prolong the life of the pavement which will reduce maintenance and replacement costs. The completion of this project will wrap up our road construction for the remainder of the fiscal year ending in June. City Hall has been receiving calls about the gravel chips used in the chip and seal project. The contractor will be back next week to apply a second layer of emulsion to finish the project. Once the gravel chips settle in with traffic driving over the surface, the gravel chips will smooth out.

Outdoor Sculpture Initiative – I met this week with a representative from the Saugatuck Douglas Fennville Art Initiative (SDFAI) to discuss some upcoming work on the outdoor public sculptures located around the City from the former Art 'Round Town initiative. A benefactor has set aside funds to clean and wax public sculptures in the community and a future date is being planned to perform the much-needed work. An inspection has already been conducted on the sculptures and a plan created for routine cleaning. In addition, a fundraising campaign is being put together to fund a new sculpture in the Douglas community. Some seed money has already been set aside by SDFAI. Finally, a draft Arts Guide and Map was shared that was produced by the CVB. The map illustrates locations of studios and galleries, public art, and artful experiences located in the region. The brochure is well done.

Campbell Road – The Campbell Road water main replacement portion is nearing completion by the end of next week and attention will turn toward the road resurfacing portion of the project. With good weather, the project is proposed to be substantially complete by the Memorial Day holiday. Clean up and landscape items will be completed in June. A final walk through by the engineer and municipal representatives will occur in June as well.

Summer Seasonal – The summer seasonal employees have started with the City. Please join me in welcoming back Alec and welcoming Susie who is a first-time employee with the City. They will be working alongside the Department of Public Works to keep the City looking its best.

Employee Handbook – The City labor attorney returned revisions to staff for the employee handbook. The handbook last updated in 2015 is due for an overhaul.

Memorial Day – City Hall will be closed in observance of Memorial Day on Monday, May 30th.

That is all I have for now.

Rich LaBombard
City Manager