

St. Ignace City Sewer Project Wraps Up as Another Is Set To Begin

Sewer: From page 3

included replacement of pond liners, a new screening system to remove plastics and other materials from the water, and an updated ultraviolet light treatment system.

The city facility had about a 20-year life span when it was new, Mr. Therrian said, and these updates were necessary and expected.

In the future, he said removal of sludge from ponds and the addition of an extra pond for overflows at the wastewater plant needs to be considered. Currently, there is no such overflow area, which could cause a problem in preventing a backup of the system. The accumulation of sludge in the current ponds also limits the amount of water they can hold and makes the need for such an addition more pressing.

"We need to have a pond for overflows," Mr. Therrian said. "In the next couple years, we will have to do something."

The city has been pre-approved for a loan program with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) that could pay for those improvements. The city won't likely be eligible for grant funds because its sewer use rates are below the required minimums, Mr. Therrian said, but the USDA loan program would be an option to fund such an upgrade, although it

would likely result in the city raising its sewer rates.

"You can't afford not to take advantage of that money," he said. "It's going to have to be done sooner or later."

Sewer System Project Wraps Up, Another Set To Begin

Another project to fulfill the requirements from the DEQ, a new force main and replacement of the Heritage lift station on North State Street, is mostly completed, Mr. Therrian said.

The former plastic pipes saw 36 breaks in six years, he said, and have been replaced with iron pipes, which have a much longer life span.

"That's 100-year pipe," Mr. Therrian said. The deadline to complete this project is also November, 2009, and the city expects to finish it before that date.

The city will open bids Wednesday, July 22, for the Portage Street sewer line project. This replacement focuses on the gravity sewer line under Portage Street between Fourth Street and State Street, as well as lines along Central Hill and Truckey Street.

The main line along Portage Street has seen extensive wear and damage in the past, Mr. Therrian said, and changes to the current system are necessary to take stress off the lines. To relieve this pressure, sewage lines running from



Workers from DeVere Construction Company put finishing touches last week on the new building at the sewer plant, which will house the new screening and ultraviolet disinfectant systems to clean wastewater in St. Ignace.

US-2 will be tied into the Portage line, which runs to State Street. Improvements to lines on Central Hill and Truckey Street could begin this fall, he said, although the Portage Street repairs would likely wait until next summer to avoid conflicts with students and parents traveling to and from the St. Ignace school campus.

A \$100,000 grant has been secured through the Michigan DEQ's State Revolving Fund,

which will help fund the design and planning for the project.

The work will be paid for using



An aerator system circulates air through one of the lagoons at the St. Ignace sewer plant, adjacent to the Mackinac County Airport. Some of the plant's ponds, like this one, were cleaned out of sludge build-up and the liners were replaced during a recent round of improvements.

city funds and a 40% principal payback program through the state fund.

"There seems to be a lot of interest in these bids," Mr.

Therrian said. "So, hopefully we get good prices."

The results of Wednesday's bid opening were not available in time for print.

Marina Report Shows Impact of Weather, Elmer Says

Council: From page 1

and boat traffic, and chilly weather most likely is the cause, he said. Fewer people will want to be on the water when the weather is cold.

"We had an awful start with weather this year," he said.

Fuel sales could easily turn around with a few large sales, Mr. Elmer added. One boat on July 15 purchased 2,500 gallons of fuel, so a few additional sales of that magnitude could compensate for the losses.

Gas sales are on the rise, unlike diesel fuel, owing to an increase in small boat usage.

"We haven't seen a lot of big boats down there," Mr. Elmer said.

Fuel is about \$2 cheaper for smaller boats, Mr. Elmer said, which is why they are sailing more often than larger ones.

Nearly \$5,000 has been saved in wages during June, Mr. Elmer reported. The initial goal was to save \$5,000 by the end of the year. The elimination of overtime and one position has led to the savings, he told *The St. Ignace News*.

The marina is receiving partial payments on moorages, which was not on the report.

"We've never had that before," he told the council. We've always had people pay in full. It's the first

time we're having people pay piecemeal because they want to be in but they're hurting."

Councilman Tom Della-Moretta that partial moorage payments be noted in future reports.

SRF Ordinance Passed

An ordinance authorizing the sale of junior lien revenue bonds to pay for the city's next sewer extension and improvement project was approved by the council.

The project will be paid through several sources including stimulus money and will cost about \$1.4 million Mr. Dodson said, although the ordinance authorizes the sale of up to \$2 million in bonds.

Bids for the project will be opened Wednesday, July 22. Mr. Dodson expects the project to begin in the Fall.

Bus Station Update

Paving around the bus station is nearly complete, City Manager Eric Dodson said. The inside of the station is about 98 percent complete, he added, with furniture arriving within a few weeks.

Construction is still within budget, Mr. Dodson said. A tour and ribbon cutting ceremony date will be set in August.

Water Contract For Tribe Reservation Worked On

Mr. Dodson and the St. Ignace

city attorney are working on a contract to provide water to the housing subdivision of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

Negotiations for an agreement with St. Ignace are ongoing, Mr. Dodson said, and Council will be updated when more information is available.

Clerks Honored

Mayor Paul Grondin presented a commemorative plaque listing the names of all the clerks who served St. Ignace to the three most recent clerks. Virginia Olmstead, who became the 16th clerk in 1974, Larry Morris, who was the 18th clerk in 1978, and Renee Vonderwerth, who has been St. Ignace's 19th clerk since 1995 were present at the meeting.

The plaque will be displayed in the clerk's office and updated with each new clerk.

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ST IGNACE - Former wholesale distributor warehouse. Building is in A-1 condition on Main Street. Includes office space & storage. Bank Foreclosure - sold AS IS. (09-607) \$124,900

HESEL - Well maintained ranch in the woods with pride of ownership. Stone fireplace, Beautiful garden area, 3.6 wooded acres, workshops & privacy. (09-611) \$109,900

HESEL - Beautiful, well-maintained 3 BR on the Pine River. 2+/- acres with a portion having access to Public Land, 2 car attached garage & 252' river frontage. (09-604) \$215,000

CEDARVILLE - Beautiful wooded, sloping lot with great views of East Entrance & Coryell Island. Substantial dock & unique comfort station. Enjoy now - build later. (09-576) \$329,000

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2899 E. MUSCOE ROAD, CEDARVILLE - Great family home!! Beautiful condition. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, family room, storage and garage in lower level. Nice view. Private landscaped backyard. Just 13 years old. Quality throughout! \$145,000 (08-426)

2163 S. CROOKED TREE LANE, CEDARVILLE - Located in Les Cheneaux's Woodland Park. Log style custom home/cottage, cedar inside and out, many large windows overlooking tall cedars and Lake Huron. Boat dock is included. Great boating through islands. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 2 fireplaces, a unique Up North style home in a fantastic location. \$659,000 (09-264)

NEW PRICE!

1569 E. M-134 HWY, HESEL - 2 bedroom, 1.5 bath waterfront home with 320 ft. on Pine River, Beautiful grounds, wood deck, garage and guesthouse. Great home or cottage with fantastic view. You can boat right out to Lake Huron or Mackinac Island. \$195,000 (08-675)

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1400 S. LAKESIDE ROAD, CEDARVILLE - Very clean, cute waterfront cottage, 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Nice tall trees, private location, rolling lawn & dock extending to Lake Huron. A comfortable cottage. 98 ft. waterfront, 290 ft. frontage on black-top road. Building site for 2nd home has been approved. \$164,900 (06-758)

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