

January 19th City Council –

The Filer Township Sewer agreement (40 year term) was approved by City Council at this session. It has been a long time coming and several players deserve recognition for it: Interim Manager Ben Bifoss took the “bull by the horns” and led the effort, Ed Bradford crunched the numbers, and Jeff Mikula worked the Public Works end of things. It is a “win – win” for both communities and shows we can work together to provide services to the benefit of both communities. This issue was declared “dead” by Filer Township DDA mid-2014 after certified letters were sent to all City Council members pleading for intervention for failed negotiations and no response made by any sitting City Council Member. If you remember, Filer Township published that negotiations with the City of Manistee had ceased and they were now looking at connecting for service to the LR Tribal system as a cost effective alternative. I began attending Filer Township DDA meetings with Roger Zielinski to show we were interested in their community and the Utility Committee ask Mr. Bifoss to approach Filer Township with a fresh start and consideration. Some of us take communications very serious – and we may soon have an agreement with Filer Township that benefits our respective communities, as Filer Township DDA and their full board now have a City of Manistee agreement to consider and potentially approve.

A Manistee County Wide Parks and Recreation resolution of support was passed also. This permits a potential higher level of grant applications for all municipalities in the County and preserves our own Parks Committee authority and independence. I’ve posted the comprehensive plan on this site.

A Blacker Airport report was given By Barry Lind and I’ll get a copy of his presentation to post also. It highlighted successes and addressed some concerns in the future – quite informative and balanced.

Chief Bachman gave a brief report on the status of the Deer Management program. The details are still being developed, but the USDA rejected several sites previously identified as “unsafe”. This group is effective and has a near flawless safety record – the only issue being a dog caught in a trap where deer were being relocated (which we are not doing). Expect this to proceed in the near future.

Public Safety Director Jeff Mikula passed out Water Quality results for the City of Manistee and a newly developed document reflecting the quality of City Streets that will be updated yearly. These documents are available at City Hall and on the City of Manistee Website – I’ll post PDF copies on this website also.

As always, thank you for your comments and support! Jim