

October 8, 2015

Michigan Municipal Law Seminar –

Had the opportunity to attend a Michigan Municipal Law Seminar October 8th and found it interesting. Cities operate under charters, subject to statutes in Michigan law. All ordinances and government actions must be coordinated with those law. Presentations were given on the Amended Freedom of Information Act (FOIA); Protecting the Waterfront (Local Regulations of Riparian Rights and Road Ends); Current Zoning Topics; Latest Developments in Discrimination, Retaliation and Accommodation; and Assessing the Benefits of Using Special Assessments for Improvement Projects: From Petitions to Appeals. It lasted four hours and was also attended by Councilman Roger Zielinski, and City Executive Secretary Cindy Lokovich. A meaningful way to spend a rainy day!

Thad Taylor will be interviewed on October 12th and there is a potential for other interviewed candidates (Ted Andrzejewski, David Bachman, and Donald Hoyt) to be made a conditional offer of employment as City Manager. The interview and session will begin at 5:00 PM in the Council Chambers and is open to the public – please attend if you are available and take an opportunity to view the process.

Thad is currently the City Manager of Cedar Springs (9/10/2012 to present) and was City Manager of Alpena (12/2006 – 4.2012) as well as a former Public Safety Director/Police Officer. If you “Google” his name and locations, you will find information about him in his former employments.

I’m in the process of reviewing minutes from previous sessions of the Harbor Commission as well as the Commission Bylaws in preparation for my first meeting as a member on October 20th at 1:00 PM. Anyone with an interest in serving on a Commission should review the City of Manistee website to see where vacancies exist and if there are residence or other requirements. Also check the meeting dates and times to make sure your schedule accommodates the meetings. It is important to have diverse members on the various Commissions. The Marina has lost revenue since it was rebuilt and faces issues to increase revenue. Part of the loss in operating expense is due to the cost overruns in construction that required two loans (one internal from the Oil & Gas fund and one commercial) with debt service resulting in City of Manistee subsidies for operation.

The City Council Work Session scheduled for October 12th has been cancelled. The next session will be on October 20th (a regular City Council Session).