

LOCALNEWS

City Beach renovations are near completion

BY SPENSER BICKETT
Staff Writer

Those who have had trouble finding City Beach because of a lack of signs may soon find it easier to locate. The International Falls City Council Tuesday, agreed to request any leftover funds from an Otto Bremer Foundation grant be used to purchase signs to be placed at two entrances to the beach.

Shawn Mason, Falls economic and community development director said the remodeling project at the beach is nearly complete. The only remaining item is the installation of skylights. The renovations have been funded through a \$34,710 grant from the Otto Bremer Foundation, and the project is slated to come in under budget at \$28,000, Mason said.

The remaining funds can be used to place signs at the east and west gates of the beach, but the city must first make a request to the foundation that the remaining funds be used for these signs, Mason said. The issue of signage had come up before, she said, but the money just wasn't there at the time.

"We had talked about that previously, but it just wasn't in the public works budget, it just wasn't going to happen," she said. "Playground equipment took priority."

The original agreement with the foundation last spring indicated any leftover funds would be used for signs, Councilor Pete Kalar said.

In other business, the firefighter engineer and volunteer firefighter list will be updated, as the requirements for driving and maintenance of the trucks has changed, Fire Chief Jerry Jensen reported Tuesday.

The firefighter engineer testing is scheduled for Oct. 5, Jensen said. The volunteer firefighter test will wait, however, as the department determines how many openings it has, and "if we can get by through the winter, and then just do it in the spring," he said.

There is a state grant for firefighter I and firefighter II certification the department would like to take advantage of, Jensen said. However, the grant requires a certain number of firefighters on a roster, which is why they need to update the list.

The council also approved a master service agreement with Arro of the North, LLC, to lock in service rates for three years. The agreement covers services like land surveying, construction staking, construction layout and environmental consulting, according to the agreement.

Councilor Cynthia Jakska wanted to make it clear the agreement does not require the city to perform any of these services, just that if it does choose to contract these services out, these would be the rates Arro would use.

"From time to time, the public works director needs to have some surveying done," Mayor Bob Anderson said. "We've got the upcoming work on the timber survey, they need to run a line out there, so these are the rates that would apply for that."

In a note of public recognition, the council adopted a resolution to name Sept. 14, 2013 Albert Long Day in International Falls. Long, a member of the Moose Lodge 1259, was elevated to the Pilgrim Degree of Merit, which is the highest honor in the order of the Moose. The Moose Lodge will hold a celebration in his honor on Sept. 15.

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