

## CF water project nears completion

Written by Marian Volek

Tuesday, July 17, 2012 1:26 PM -

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CRYSTAL FALLS—A pay request from Coleman Engineering was made to the Crystal Falls City Council, signaling the completion of its 2010 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act water system improvement project.

A summary of payments, in the amount of \$98,496.02, was presented at the council's July 9 meeting. The water distribution part of the project is completed, said Scott McNelis of Coleman.

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"I would say the project is 99.9 percent done," he said.

There is a small punch list remaining, and the city will retain some funds until it is addressed.

Recent activity on the project included the abandonment of three wells and the demolition of a filtration plant. McNelis noted nearly the entire amount of the grant was spent. There will be one more pay request in August.

residents on the north side of the city complained to the council of excessive noise and speed from ORV use. Larry Field, Rhea Hendershott and Paul Foucault all told the council the ORVs are loud and operate at a high rate of speed.

"It deteriorates the quality of life," Foucault said. Field said it sounded and looked "like a motorcross speedway."

Additionally, Hendershott told the council there was a problem with a property next to hers involving animal waste and other blight issues.

Former resident Rudy Dalpra addressed the council with a question about the new owner of the former hospital building.

He asked if there had ever been a public hearing concerning the business located there. He also asked that a public hearing be held concerning the proposal to build, as he heard it, a Dollar General store on property near the Courthouse.

"The property is zoned commercial," said City Manager Dorothea Olson. Council member Scott Thrasher told Dalpra that it was not even certain the business was a Dollar General.

"We don't know that," he said, "just that it is a retail business."

Foucault asked if there were zoning restrictions on the type of structure planned.

"It will be built next to the Courthouse, an architectural jewel," he said.

"Are they going to put up a pole building or will it fit in? Why would you have a tinny building next to our beautiful Courthouse?"

Olson said the property was located in the city's business district, and the city can't dictate restrictions on what type of building is constructed.

Mayor Janet Hendrickson also said the project is very preliminary, and it was her understanding progress hinged on a decision about the old carriage house, used for storage by the Sheriff's Department.

Crystal Falls Township resident Wilma Kallies asked why the business was so secret.

"I'm pro-business in the community," she said, but questioned why a retail store similar to ones already in business was needed.

"We have stores in the city who are good neighbors, who have been here a long time. We should take care of the businesses that are here."

in other business:

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--Mary Ann Harrington updated the council on the proposal to name City Hall to the National Register of Historic Buildings. The final application material has been gathered, along with other supporting documentation.

An onsite review will be made this month, and the final application will be formally submitted in August. She thought there was a good chance of approval. The council approved having her proceed with the draft documents.

--The council approved a bid from Ponchaud Contracting for repairs to the golf course clubhouse, including remodeling the men's bathrooms, replacing 14 windows and work to the deck. The total estimate of \$12,471 will be taken from money that was set aside.

"This is not coming from the general fund," Olson said.

--Olson asked that the council order a plaque commending the Crystal Falls Lions Club for its work on the "wigwam," or pavilion at Runkle Lake Park.

"I'd like to thank them for the work they did, they fixed a lot, and it looks great."

--The council approved Olson's proposal to hold a fundraiser for the golf course.

"We let everybody else use the course for fundraising," she said. "Why not do one for us?"

She said it would offset the \$7,500 deficit the course is in. A committee will be formed.

--The council scheduled a budget hearing prior to the Aug. 13 meeting, at 4 p.m.

--The board acknowledged a grant in the amount of \$3,000 given to the ski hill committee from Plum Creek Timber.