CASPIAN—Is it worth it to keep fixing Caspian's old plow truck? That was the question for the City Commission at the Aug. 8 meeting.

"Major repairs are needed," said City Manager John Stokoski. Last year, he said, a wheel fell off the 1993 truck.

"We put $3,400 into it last year, and $2,800 is needed to repair it now.

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"How much do you want to spend on it?"

Although the purchase would need to go out on bids, representatives from Schultz Equipment in Iron Mountain attended the meeting to suggest some options and gave a rough $165,000 price tag.

"We have a perfect truck 'specked' out for you," they said, based on input from the city's DPW foreman, Tony Tomasoski.

Leasing or purchase was another question for the commission, but the issue is still too preliminary to consider, said Stokoski, although interest rates now are very low.

Schultz Equipment's suggestion is a 2013 International, four-wheel-drive automatic transmission with a stainless steel dump box.

"Should we continue to put money into the old one," Stokoski said, "or is it time to make a decision?"

Mayor Mark Stauber said the commissioners should wait until the audit is completed and presented, "then see what our auditor says we can afford."

In the meantime, a bid package will be put together, and the city will keep the matter on the agenda.

MARK STOOR, project engineer for GEI Consultants, reported to the commission that the Rural Development sewer project is "going well.

"There is some pipe work left on First, on Brady at County Road 424 and Caspian Road.

"Then," he said, "the work will be in restoration."

He added that there will probably be money in the budget for additional work.

The commission approved a change request and a pay application for the project.

The commission reviewed and passed a resolution for a millage agreement between the city and the Iron County Road Commission.

The agreement includes all the cities and villages in the county, and is asking the Road Commission to allocate the entire 100 percent of the millage collected from the municipalities back to the cities and the village of Alpha, as their roads are not under the jurisdiction of the Road Commission.

"The municipalities are not receiving their 100 percent," said City Attorney Steve Polich.

He explained that the resolution favors an agreement with the ICRC to get the 100 percent. Following its approval, the municipalities will approach the Road Commission, "and make the pitch."

"The $4,000 Caspian lost out on is a small portion of the total millage," he said. "They (the Road Commission) should do the right thing, for two reasons. One is political; the other concerns the language of the ballot, which is not potentially what it should be."

Stauber told the commission, “If we’re not getting our money back, I’m going to tell my residents to vote no on the renewal.”

“I hope we can reason with them,” added Polich.

a bid for $3,001 was received from Superior Psychological Services for the salt barn property next to the old city hall.

The commission approved it. The salt will be placed by the fire hall and covered for the time being, said Stokoski, until plans for a new shed can be proposed. Eventually, the city would like to build a new DPW building on the land.

A city-wide clean up date was set for Sept. 22 from 8 a.m. to noon and will be hosted by Great American Disposal and John’s Industries.

Only Caspian residents will be allowed to participate. A list of what will be accepted is available at the City Hall.

“This is our opportunity to clean up in Caspian,” Stokoski wrote in his report. “I hope everybody will take this opportunity to get rid of some unused items.”

In his report, Public Safety Officer Jeremy Allen noted a total of 496 miles were put on the patrol vehicle; 18 traffic stops were made with six tickets issued. Fourteen warnings were given, and the department made six misdemeanor arrests.

He added that Caspian-Gaastra Public Safety, along with the DNR, the Michigan State Police and UPSET were involved in a “grow operation bust” in the city this past month.