CASPIAN—The city of Caspian's Rural Development sewer project is expected to wrap up in the next few weeks, as reported by GEI Consultants' Mark Stoor at the Oct. 10 meeting of the Caspian City Commission.

Stoor told commissioners that the project is close to complete with pipe in the ground and paving crews in town ready to go. __PUBLIC__

The commission approved a change order in the amount of $19,047 for additional work on Baltic Avenue, using up the remainder of contingency funds and balancing quantities of what was left of the paving and concrete materials and post construction videotape.

Also approved was the 13th pay application, which covered work completed through the end of September and GEI's invoice, totaling just over $203,000.

City Attorney Steve Polich reported to the commission that he does not expect any issues with the main contractor failing to pay subcontractors, as the city has had in the past.

According to Polich, the city has taken measures to verify that all subcontractors have been paid before payment is released to the main contractor on the project.

The Oct. 31 completion date was extended to Nov. 28, due to additional work and restoration.

Final restoration may include dormant seeding or may be held off until next spring.

A one-year warranty on the restoration will be in effect from the date of substantial completion of the project.

A management agreement between the city and the Iron Amateur Hockey Association was approved with no changes made.

There was some discussion as to whether or not the city's insurance could cover those participating in open skate at the ice arena.

The question was brought up by Commissioner Tony Dallavalle and pertained only to those individuals using the rink during open skate time, as those associated with hockey are covered under a USA Hockey policy.

Polich considered the idea a risk the city should not get involved with, and that several reasons had been given by the city's insurance carrier in the past.

Iron Amateur Hockey Association representatives Don Gurchinoff and Dale Polzin asked the City Commission to authorize an upgrade to the lighting system at the arena.

According to Gurchinoff, I.A.H.A. is having a difficult time finding mercury vapor bulbs for the current system.

The association has obtained a grant that could be lost if it is not used by the end of the year.

With the help of the grant, the association has enough to cover the cost of the $24,000 project.

The request was approved by the City Commission.

An appeal for funds from the Upper Peninsula Substance Enforcement Team (UPSET) was denied by the commission, with Commissioner Gary Sabol stating, "It is good for the U.P. but doesn't do much for the city itself."

Officer Jeremy Allen of the Caspian-Gaastra Public Safety Department agreed that money would be better allocated elsewhere.

A motion to approve a resolution in support of Iron County's 911 surcharge renewal died.

Ongoing issues with the system were given as the reason for the lack of support.

The Caspian-Gaastra Public Safety Department reported 30 complaints in the month of September. A total of 16 traffic stops resulted in four tickets and 14 warnings. There were eight misdemeanor arrests and four felony arrests during the month.

The November meeting of the Caspian City Commission was rescheduled from Wednesday, Nov. 14, to Wednesday, Nov. 7 at 5:15 p.m.