

City Manager Contract Expiring, May 31, 2004

The Mercer Group, Inc., a National Executive Search consultant has been retained by the Negaunee City Council for an \$18,000 maximum fee and expense to do a search for the next City Manager. The schedule is to have a new City Manager on board by approximately June. The current City Manager has been in Negaunee since June 1, 2000. His City management career started in 1972, as the first City Manager in his UP hometown of Bessemer, Michigan. He has served eleven (11) communities in five (5) states, serving for thirteen (13) Mayors and three (3) County/Borough board chairs, two (2) State Legislators and eighty eight (88) City/Council/Borough Council Members. "It has truly been an interesting, challenging, fulfilling and rewarding experience probably not afforded in any other profession except a public management career." Mr. Manninen is proud of the various accomplishments in the past four (4) years as Negaunee City Manager and cites great progress in the financing of existing city debt load and unique financing of the City's \$12 million WWTP improvements without increasing the debt load or the existing sewer utility rates. According to Mr. Manninen, great progress has been made, but greater challenges lie ahead but the opportunity for fantastic accomplishments is here. Negaunee is "a town of champions". Negaunee has an indefatigable winning spirit. Negaunee's rich mining history is largely untapped for tourism, its Teal Lake is a majestic shining beauty, and the City has proud, hard-working people and deep-rooted traditions.

**City's' 2003 CCI Land Purchase;
Net Price \$435,696.39**

The City of Negaunee purchased several hundred acres of CCI owned lands for a net price of nearly \$436,000 in 2003. This includes the original Jackson Mine Pit area and the surrounding former west Negaunee areas. This allows for Negaunee's future historic development and tourism base expansion along with the DDA. Additionally, from these parcels several former CCI leased properties are being offered for sale by the City of Negaunee to the lessees as a "first right of refusal" for the same price that CCI offered the parcels for sale prior to selling to the City of Negaunee.

City of Negaunee's 2003-04 Fiscal Health:

The City's various 12-31-03 undesignated Fund Balances are fiscally sound at FYE 03. The City of Negaunee has the following audited 12-31-03 unreserved/undesignated Fund Balances exceeding the City's fiscal policy guidelines:

General Fund	\$1,323,734
Sewer Fund	\$1,573,914
Electric Fund	\$2,277,445
Water Fund	\$1,888,523
Cable TV Fund	\$ 156,902

General Fund: For example, the FYE 03 General Fund undesignated/unreserved fund balance exceeds the projected fund balance by nearly \$225,000. Therefore, even with the anticipated worst-case scenario of FY04 State Revenue Sharing reductions, there should be over \$1,000,000 in the FYE 04 General Fund undesignated/unreserved balance – if the rest of the FG expenditures remain within the FY04 budgeted amounts. This is enough to "pay cash" for the March 1, 2004 fire truck 2000 gallon pumper truck (\$60,000) or to finance the vehicle by paying \$15,000 per year on fire pumper truck payments and saving the cost avoidance/savings balance in GF future reserves.

WWTP FUNDING STATUS:

FY04 ACOE grant award:	\$200,000
FY04 EPA "Stag" award:	\$300,000
FY04 Funding Requests	\$2.5 million
FY05 Requests	\$869,000
WWTP Total project cost:	\$12.0 million
WWTP Funding secured to date:	\$6.081 million
Balance to Fund:	\$5.919 million

Cable Television

The replacement of channel #5 WFQX-TV FOX with WMQF-TV FOX out of Marquette was done in the beginning of February due to a must carry by WMQF-TV FOX. An antenna for channel #10 was replaced to improve reception. We have replaced some older cable-TV drops in 2003 and plan on replacing more in 2004.

Some of our accomplishments in 2004 will be the replacement of electronic equipment in the field, which will take approximately 6 months to complete. This will give us high speed Internet capability, along with more channel space for the City Cable-TV

systems future. If anyone has channel ideas we do have a Cable-TV Board. Suggestions and comments are always welcome. Requests to add (or drop) channels should be made in writing and can be dropped off at City Hall or sent to the Negaunee Cable-TV Editorial Board, c/o Negaunee Public Library, P. O. Box 548, Negaunee, MI 49866. Because of the upgrade and replacement of electronics there will be brief interruptions in your cable-TV service. Very sorry for the interruptions but it's only temporary. Replacement of some of the equipment in the Headend will also be done in 2004. The future of the cable-TV system is looking good. It is an asset for the City of Negaunee and it's citizens.

New Council Members Seated

Following the November election, Mr. Tom Stanaway and Mr. John Savolainen were reelected to their positions on the City Council. Mr. Paul Gravedoni was elected to fill the position of Ms. Clelia Terzaghi whose term was up.

City Employee Retirements/New Employee's Hired

Ms. Joan DuShane, Deputy Clerk/Accountant has retired after 28 years of service. Mr. Neal Larson from the DPW retired last year after 34 years of service and Mr. Jerry Anderson also retired last year after 25 years of service. Ms. Maureen Binoniemi has joined City staff as the new Utility Billing Clerk and Mr. Dan Merhalski has also joined City staff as the new Student Intern.

Electric Department Wholesale Electric Power Rates

This year was another good year for the city electrical department. There were very few storms and outages were down from last year. This past year we installed new lights on Croix Street, Xmas decorations, started our pole replacement program, and did major maintenance at our US 41 electric substation.

On December 30, 2003 the City of Negaunee joined the ATCLLC for \$135,185. It gives the City a right, through the UPPPA to participate in the American Transmission Company's electric transmission dividend-sharing annually. This will tend to keep Negaunee's future electric costs from rising too much. However, the city's future wholesale electric power costs will increase dramatically, unless the City Council agrees to mitigate future increases by renegotiating and cost averaging wholesale purchased power.

Parks and Recreation Department

The Parks & Recreation Department purchased a new Zamboni and an edger for the Ice Arena. The last day of ice is March 14th. Safety netting will be installed soon at the Ice Arena for improved spectator safety. The sprinkler system was updated at the Rivers and Irontown baseball fields. Prince Street is now paved all the way to the Irontown field.

Water and Sewer Department

This winter there has been 6 water service freeze ups to date. A fire hydrant in Rolling Mill is being used to prevent the water main from freezing in that area of town. Fire hydrants are being cleared of snow as soon as we can get to them. We will be flushing, pressure testing, and flow testing the fire hydrants when spring arrives. Please check the Negaunee City Channel for dates as the flushing may cause the water to be discolored. We are currently identifying sewer problem areas for sewer camera taping this spring. Remember, in case water or sewer emergencies; please call 475-6741 after regular work hours. Regular work hours are 7 am to 3:30 pm, Monday through Friday.

Department of Public Works

The department of public works has been busy this past winter plowing and hauling snow. Our department has been working in the best interests of the City residents and have been diligent in our efforts to keep the streets clean and to provide the residents with the services that they are accustomed to. We are currently using the work order system when we handle complaints and are currently working towards incorporating the DPW equipment into the work order system.

This last spring, summer, and fall the department of public works has performed the following tasks:

They have put down 317.05 tons of asphalt of varying grades. The cost of the asphalt was \$11,947.71

3050 feet of sidewalk were replaced at an approximate cost \$54,850

Streets were swept, trees were cut and water lines were replaced.

It is important to remember that city government is just that "**government.**" Infrastructure maintenance and service provision is the primary function of any public works department. The employees of

department of public works strive on a daily basis to provide its citizens with the best possible service.

Police Department

During 2003 the department handled 2,255 incidents. These incidents included investigations of criminal sexual conduct, arson, burglary, larceny, narcotics violations, retail fraud, stolen vehicles, weapons offenses, trespassing, suicides, and both general and medical assists. Officers made a total of 279 arrests, issued 498 parking citations, issued 342 traffic citations and 35 non-traffic citations, and issued 818 verbal warnings. Of the total incidents handled annually by our officers many do not require a citation or the arrest of an individual. Officers often work out mutual agreements between disputing parties, or assist residents with some type of need. The Negaunee Police Department has officers on patrol and available 24 hour a day/7 days a week. If you have questions or if something just does not "seem right" – whatever the reason, please call **911** and an officer will be sent to talk with you. Don't wait until the next day. Our officers are here to serve the public and to protect your life and property. We all need to work together to make our community a safer place to love work and play.

Fire Department

Please do not shovel or plow snow upon the fire hydrants. If there is a fire at your house or a neighbor's time is essential to save lives and property. A fire hydrant buried in the snow will delay the Fire Department's ability to do the most effective job. New guidelines and rules for obtaining and using a burn permit are now available at the Treasurer's office located in City Hall. If you have not tested your smoke alarms lately please do so today. Did you have your furnace serviced and checked for safety last fall? Remember that carbon monoxide is a deadly and silent killer.

Garbage Pickup

Important! Please have your refuse out for pickup by 7:00 am on pickup day. Actual pickup times during the day may vary depending on refuse volumes, weather conditions, equipment breakdowns, holidays and changes in drivers. For information or complaints call 360-8034.

CITY DEPARTMENTS

City Hall phone number: 475-7400

City Manager – Tom Manninen	ext: 11
Intern – Dan Merhalski	ext: 14
Accountant/Clerk-Joan Terzaghi	ext: 15
Treasurer – Linda Nicholls	ext: 16
Assessor – Bruce Waananen	ext: 13
Library – Kathy Thurner	ext: 18
Utility Billing – Maureen Binoniemi	ext: 17
Police Dept. – Paul Waters	475-4154
Public Works – Dave Palmer	475-9991
Wastewater – Jim Lounds	475-9181
Fire Hall – Tom Gardyko	475-9811
Ice Arena	475-7900

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Recreation & Parks – 3rd Wed. 4:30 pm @ City Hall
Planning Commission – 3rd Tues. 4:30 pm @ Ice Arena
Commission on Aging- 4th Thurs. 10:00 am @ Senior Center
Library/Cable Board – 3rd Tues. 4:00-4:15 pm @ City Library
Housing Commission – 2nd Tues. 1:00 pm
City Council Meeting – 2nd Thurs. 7:00 pm @ Senior Center
Downtown Development Authority DDA-4th Thurs. Noon @ City Hall Council Chambers
Police Retirement Board-3rd Wed. 10:00am @ City Hall

PUBLIC DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE

Just a reminder that the City library maintains copies of public documents that may be of interest to area residents. Such documents include but are not limited to the following: annual budget, annual audit, City Charter, City Ordinances, City recreation plan, Council agenda documents, and other related information. This information can be reviewed at no charge and a copy machine is available in the library.