

of the unintentional calls came from the same building. He stated they are receiving cooperation from the company to resolve the issues. Sivak noted the department had numerous firefighters that were able to attend schools during the month of December.

2. Police Department Monthly Report:

Captain Stenberg highlighted the December activity report. He stated there were 106 accidents during the month with 72 of them involving damage in excess of \$1,000. He stated the snow and icy conditions have contributed to the higher numbers than have occurred in the past year. He referred to year end statistics from South Sakakawea Narcotics Task Force and stated there were 86 cases investigated with seizure of more than one narcotic from each case.

6. PUBLIC WORKS – ENGINEERING

A. REPORTS:

1. Economic Recovery Package:

City Engineer Shawn Soehren referenced a letter from NDDOT regarding the Economic Recovery Package. He stated while the dollar amount of the economic recovery package is unknown, DOT is preparing for a recovery package ranging from \$60 million up to \$200 million for North Dakota. Soehren stated DOT suggests each city prepare for the package by designing the projects with the anticipation the money will be granted. DOT anticipates the economic recovery dollars will likely come with stipulations which may include the requirement that the dollars be obligated within 180 days or it could be lost therefore they may need to have the projects for construction by April 10, 2009. Soehren stated he submitted a list of ten projects that would exceed the maximum amount DOT is anticipating for Dickinson. Projects included seal coats and mill and overlay projects. Soehren requested Commission direction as to direction to proceed. He stated he feels the City will need to seek outside help to design the projects in order to reach the tight time frame. Soehren noted that while he recommends outside assistance, there is a possibility the City could incur design engineering costs and the recovery package not be funded. He stated because of the tight timeframes, waiting to begin the design engineering work until the package is approved could result in the City not obtaining the money as the work may not be completed according to guidelines. Soehren estimated design engineering costs to be approximately 9% of the project costs for an estimate of \$180,000. President Johnson questioned what costs the City would be responsible for on each of those projects if they were not funded through the economic recovery package. Soehren stated based upon current guidelines, all projects completed through the economic recovery package would receive 100% funding except for the design engineering costs. If the City was to do those projects without the package, the City could be responsible for approximately \$580,000. Commissioner Jackson stated should the economic recovery package not be approved, the City would likely proceed with the proposed projects within the next several years anyway, therefore he recommended the City proceed in contracting the design work. Commissioner Frenzel stated the risks of proceeding are manageable and recommended the City move forward. President Johnson stated the worst case would be the City would incur costs for design engineering now and the projects not be completed for two to three years and best case would be we proceed and the City gets the projects paid 100% versus the 80% or 90% as standard procedure. Soehren stated the sooner the City start the design engineering work the better the City has in receiving the money is the stimulus package is approved.

MOTION BY: Joe Frenzel

SECONDED BY: Carson Steiner

To direct City Engineer Shawn Soehren proceed with contracting the preliminary design engineering work for the Economic Recovery Package projects as proposed by City Engineer Soehren.

DISPOSITION: Roll call vote...Aye 5, Nay 0, Absent 0.

Motion declared duly passed.

2. Planning and Zoning Commission Meeting minutes dated January 7, 2009:
Minutes of the January 7, 2009 Planning and Zoning Commission meeting were provided for informational purposes.

3. 2009 Code Enforcement Report:

City Engineer Shawn Soehren stated in 2008 there were 27 commercial structure permits issued compared to 34 in 2007 and 82 single family structure permits issued versus 73 in 2007. He stated overall there were 127 total permits issued in 2008 and 125 in 2007. He stated he continues to anticipate another strong year in 2009.

7. PUBLIC WORKS – MAINTENANCE AND UTILITIES

A. REPORT:

1. Water Breaks:

Public Works Manager, Skip Rapp, stated the City has experienced an abnormal amount of water breaks this winter due to extremely cold temperatures and dry conditions. He stated there has been eight water breaks over the past three weeks. Rapp thanked City crews for a job well done in repairing those breaks in a timely manner. He estimated the city lost approximately 2,000,000 gallons of water with the eight breaks. He stated costs associated with the water breaks are approximately \$70,000. Rapp stated one of the water breaks caused water damage to a home and he submitted the claim with the City's insurance company. President Johnson questioned whether the claim was approved. Rapp stated the City's insurance company denied the claim as the City was not found to be negligent. Commissioners discussed whether consideration should be made to revise the wastewater backup policy to allow water damage claims to be paid through the same fund. Johnson directed staff to review the water backup policy and bring a recommendation back to the City Commission as to whether the wastewater backup policy should be amended.

2. Request for Qualifications Environmental Engineering Services:

Public Works Manager Skip Rapp stated proposals for Environmental Engineering services to provide an assessment on the City's Wastewater Treatment facilities were opened on January 6th. He stated the four proposals are now being reviewed and questioned whether a City Commissioner desires to be on the review committee. After Commission discussion, Commissioner Frenzel volunteered to participate in reviewing the proposals.

8. ADMINISTRATION:

A. City Administrator Report:

1. Dakota Cab/Public Transportation Agreements:

City Administrator Shawn Kessel stated the City has two transportation providers who they have invested over \$100,000 into over the past year. He stated the City is in the process of finalizing a contract for each of those companies which will identify intents and obligations. He stated once the agreements have been reviewed by each entity, final agreements will be forwarded to City Commission for approval consideration.

2. NRG Contract:

City Administrator Shawn Kessel stated the City currently employs NRG which is a subsidiary of ND Association of Counties, for information technology services. He stated the City receives ¾ time services through NRG and are researching options that would allow a full time IT technician at a cost reduction. President Johnson encouraged management to research options.

