

Special Meeting of the Common Council and TIFA Board, City of Iron Mountain, County of Dickinson, Michigan held on Monday, July 14, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Room:

Presiding: Mayor VanLaanen  
Present: Council Members Burke, Peterson, Caudell, Rosen, Tchokreff and Farragh  
Absent: Council Member Peterson  
Also Present: City Attorney Pirkola

## Public Comment

Virginia Feleppa – 1136 Crystal Lake Blvd. – stated she is disappointed with the resignation of the City Manager. She believes it will be difficult to hire a local candidate and feels a candidate from out of the area will better serve the community.

## New Business

## City Manager Discussion

Mayor VanLaanen began a discussion on how to fill the interim and permanent manager positions. Mayor VanLaanen asked if there was any interest in using the MML's Executive Search Service. Member Rosen asked how the MML chooses candidates and asked if we see all the candidates or the ones they select. Member Tchokreff said each Council Member fills out a questionnaire and the MML pares down the candidate pool based on the criteria of the collective Council. He stated that it is a worthwhile service. Member Caudell would agree with looking at the pool of candidates from the MML. Member Burke believes the Council needs a fresh start by seeking a candidate from out of the area. Member Rosen would be in favor of using MML and advertising on our own. He feels a candidate search should include all geographic areas. Mayor VanLaanen discussed the process the MML uses and will obtain a cost estimate for the service to see if it is feasible to use.

The Council discussed the interim manager position. Member VanLaanen suggested Mr. Jim Brinker as a possible candidate. Member Rosen felt that Mr. Brinker would be a good candidate. Mr. Brinker stated he would be interested in the TIF Administrator position but does not want to be the interim City Manager. City Attorney Pirkola stated that Mr. Brinker could have a possible conflict of interest if he was a compensated TIF Administrator while being Chairman of the TIFA Board. City Attorney Pirkola believes that Mr. Brinker will have to relinquish duties as TIFA Chairman. Member Rosen suggested Mr. Jim Urbany as possibility and Member Burke suggested Mr. Steve Mulka as another possibility. Member Tchokreff thinks we should accept closed envelope applicants and sort through them at a future meeting. Mayor VanLaanen asked the Council if their desire for interim manager was someone local. The consensus of the Council Members was for a local person as interim manager with the exception of Member Burke who would prefer someone from out of the area. Mayor VanLaanen would like another Special Meeting on Friday at 1:00 p.m. to further discuss an interim manager.

Mayor VanLaanen started a discussion of a long term replacement. Member Rosen feels a financial background is an important quality for a new City Manager. Member Caudell would like to find someone who has faced challenges the City is currently experiencing. Mayor VanLaanen would look for someone with experience in turning around a downtown. The Council started some initial discussions of a salary package. Member Rosen asked if the permanent City Manager needed to be in place in 120 days as the Charter states. City Attorney Pirkola felt extra time could be granted as long as the Council was working toward obtaining a City Manager.

## No Action Taken

### Executive Session

It was moved by Rosen and supported by Farragh to adjourn regular session and enter Executive Session to discuss personnel negotiations related to the Fire Department. (7:10 p.m.)

**Roll call vote taken:**

Caudell	Yes
Farragh	Yes
VanLaanen	Yes
Burke	Yes
Tchokreff	Yes
Rosen	Yes

**Motion carried. ( 6 Yes, 0 No)**

Mayor VanLaanen reconvened regular session. (8:20 p.m.)

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.



Jordan Stanchina  
Clerk-Treasurer