

Public Hearing on Wellhead Protection Plan Part 2
Regular Calumet City Council Meeting
Calumet City Council Hall
Tuesday March 17, 2026
5:00 P.M.

Mayor Mike Troop led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Mike Troop called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

Present: Mayor Mike Troop, Councilmembers Dan Strand, Barbara Banks, Steve Serich, & Nick Porter. Also present: Clerk Serich, Treasurer Mary Garner, Librarian Melenie Lefebvre, Public Works Superintendent Bill Berger and Engineer Alan Johnson. Guest: Jolene Leither from MN Rural Water. Public Hearing for the Wellhead Protection Plan Part 2 comments. Presentation by Jolene Leither from MN Rural Water. According to MN State Statute the city needs to renew its wellhead protection plan every 10 years. She presented a Drinking Water Supply Management Area (DWSMA) aquifer map. She said that mining could affect drinking water. There is moderate vulnerability and there are also some tanks that should be removed. The goal is to improve water quality and protect the aquifer by increasing awareness of the wellhead protection plan. The city can implement measures with MNDH grants.

Motion by Strand to approve the wellhead protection plan part II and submit it to the State of MN, seconded by Serich, all in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Troop to approve the agenda with the addition-Rodger Brown submitted a letter concerning rentals, seconded by Porter, all in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Banks to approve February reg. meeting minutes, seconded by Strand, all in favor, m/c.

Motion by Strand to approve the February Clerk & Treasurer Reports & bills, Receipts \$418,047.04, Disbursements \$487,746.30, Investments \$1,014,155.19 and total checking balance \$524,683.06, seconded by Troop, all in favor, motion carried. Put \$400,000 investment into checking & paid off bond for approx. \$330,000.

Comments/complaints: Shana Perry discussed the dogs barking at Marc Peluso's rental at 660 6th Ave. and there is furniture and garbage piled outside. Clerk Serich will check on rental ord. violation. She was told to call 911 for any aggressive dogs.

Meeting Attendance and Reports:

Greenway Recreation Board: Strand stated that the front doors had one broken window. They are looking for \$100,000 in funding for the condenser that is 35 years old. Skating show was a success. The ice will be taken out, and boys & girls baseball sign-ups are this week.

MCWW: Banks stated that March & April meetings are cancelled because they are still waiting for the tax IDs.

Greenway Fire Board: Banks stated that we need to check the defibrillator in the library and Serich said to order new pads. The dept. is looking into purchasing another fire truck for \$75,000. The #7 truck value is \$50,000. Chris Ismil IRRR asked about a new fire truck. There is a grant available.

WMMPB: Banks reported that Lisa Weidenamen from MN PCA discussed wild rice.

Cemetery Bd: Porter reported that the last meeting was canceled and next meeting is tomorrow.

Department Reports:

Public Works Report: Bill Berger stated that a KLM representative came to the shop and talked to him about painting the water tower. The city needs to start budgeting for \$300,000 to paint it. Bill stated McGuire Iron can paint it way cheaper. The heater core went out in the Dodge pickup so there was no heat on the driver's side. The heater core was plugged, and it will be about \$2,000 to fix. Bill said he can try to dig into this summer. The Skid Steer tracks need replacing by winter. At H&L it costs \$1,500 a track. It will be okay for the summer. The sweeper has brushes and they just have to get it started. He is waiting for MN Rural Water to come to help fix the fire hydrant.

Library Report: Library Director Melanie Lefebvre stated that the library board and a few others went to the Greenway Township Annual meeting and requested a donation for library services. They approved \$5,000. There were 25 kids and adults at the Leprechaun trap event. Library Board President Mary Garner brought up the new Library Clerk I \$16 per hr. and Clerk II \$17 per hr. job descriptions and positions that were offered to the current employees of the library. The council stated that we are still waiting for the union representative to get information from the MN Bureau of Mediation on whether they will be public employees and in the union. Bring it up at the next council meeting after we hear back on it. Check on the wage scale for library positions also. Permanent part-time employees working 14 hours a week or less are not considered public employees according to MN Statutes.

Resolutions & Ordinances: Motion by Strand to approve and adopt Resolution #26-03-17 a resolution authorizing the City of Calumet to pay off the balance of the General Obligation Note 2019A for \$330,496.95, seconded by Banks, upon vote taken, for: Troop, Strand, Banks, Porter & Serich. Opposed: none. Resolution was duly passed and adopted.

Motion by Troop to approve the transfer of \$69,303.05 (\$400,000 - \$330,496.95) from the General Fund to the General Capital Projects Fund, seconded by Porter, all in favor, motion carried.

Unfinished Business:

Utility Shut Offs: No shut-off notices were posted.

Update on Hazardous Building: Motion by Strand to waive the attorney fees and any other fees to try to keep the plan moving forward to purchase the building and fix it up, seconded by Troop, all in favor, motion carried. Clerk Serich will try to reach out to JBS Holdings to let them know the council waived all the fees for 754 7th Ave. and see if they will continue with the project.

New Business:

Motion by Porter to approve and sign a lease agreement between the City of Calumet and Calumet Reclamation to lease 144 sq. ft of office space at the former bank building for \$500 a month including utilities, seconded by Troop, all in favor, motion carried.

Day of Action Canvassing will be March 24th 12-2:30 and April 6th 5-7 p.m.

Day of Action list of city projects: Old warming shack- put a new tin roof and paint, City Hall flower garden-landscaping, Community Garden- landscaping, Julie's Jungle-repaint picnic tables, Bank building-paint lines for parking lot, landscaping, moving cement tables & equipment. Discussed moving the Depot building off DNR leased land and Strand said to leave it where it is.

A letter was read from Rodger Brown concerning rental houses. The City of Bovey is creating a new rental ordinance and is starting a moratorium on any new rentals, and he suggested the city do the same. We have already done a moratorium on rentals and created a rental ordinance several years ago. The number of rentals has decreased in the past couple of years.

Labor Negotiation meeting is Wed. at 8 a.m.

Engineer Alan Johnson stated that he submitted an application for a Lead & Copper grant for 2027 and we would have 24 months to use it. There are 9 service lines that cost approx. \$270,000. He also discussed the projects to keep on the Project Priority List. Federal funds could be coming up.

Motion by Strand to adjourn the meeting at 7:03 p.m. Tuesday, March 17, 2026, seconded by Troop, all in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Approved,

April Serich, City Clerk

Mike Troop, Mayor