AGENDA ITEM # 6.2

REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL

Report Prepared by: Dawn Bittner

Date: October 6, 2020

Subject: Sign Violation – Council Direction

Report: Please see attached Council Report.

Council Action Requested: Council direction whether or not to pursue enforcement of this sign violation.

City of Pequot Lakes

COUNCIL REPORT

Subject: Lonesome Cottage Sign Violation

Background Information: Brandon Andersen, owner of Lonesome Cottage Furniture in the Industrial Park on Morehouse Drive, placed a large banner on the side of a semi-trailer advertising his showroom along Patriot Avenue.

On May 20, 2020 Staff sent Mr. Andersen a letter explaining the banner does not meet the requirements of the City Code; it exceeds the maximum size of a freestanding sign and is advertising an offsite location. The letter requested the banner be removed from the semi-trailer by June 20, 2020.

Mr. Andersen spoke with Nancy Malecha, City Administrator, during the week of May 25 while Staff was out of the office. He stated the banner is not an offsite sign, it is a moving sign and it is his freedom of speech.

Staff contacted the City Attorney who advised the banner advertises an offsite business and that the banner would not be considered a moving sign as the City Code does not address mobile signs.

On June 18, 2020 Staff sent Mr. Andersen a letter explaining the banner would be considered an offsite sign because it is not located on the contiguously owned property with the use which is being advertised and moving signs are not addressed in the City Code. Staff requested the banner be removed by June 30, 2020.