

TO: Town Board
FROM: Michael Kuchta
RE: Town Administrator's Report

DATES COVERED IN REPORT: July 10-22, 2021

1. Accomplished/Completed

- Contractor completed final repair work on Dock expansion on July 13. Project manager and Public Works signed off on the work; I have authorized release of final payment.

2. Coming Up

- Community discussions are scheduled so residents can pursue major topics raised in the Plan Commission's "junk" survey. Sessions are scheduled at Town Hall for Aug. 12, 17 and 21. Each session has a specific theme (in order): 1) Vehicles, 2) Setbacks and Sightlines, 3) Logistics.

3. Town Board Agenda – Information/Comments

- Airport. You have a separate memo on leases.
- Committees and Boards
 - **Library Board.** Your vote is to approve the motion to hire Vanessa Sowl as a substitute Recreation Program Assistant. Her hiring will make it less likely that the program will need to cancel activities on any given day if one of the regular assistants is absent.
 - **Energy Committee.** Your vote is to authorize the committee to apply for a Critical Infrastructure Microgrid Grant from the state Office of Energy Innovation. The application would seek up to \$100,000 for a feasibility study of creating a self-sustaining microgrid (or grids) connecting solar arrays and battery storage to key island infrastructure, such as the Airport, Clinic, Dock, Emergency Services Building, Materials Recovery Facility, Public Works complex, School, Town Hall, and Winter Transportation facility. If the application is successful, you would have the opportunity at a later date to approve the actual grant.
- Town Hall Administration.
 - **Town Board Workshop.** On July 13, you committed to scheduling a workshop on two topics: updating the Comprehensive Plan, and offering compensation options for Town employees in lieu of health insurance. If you prefer to schedule this workshop in late afternoon/early evening, the best options seem to be Thursday Aug. 26 or the week of Aug. 30-Sept. 2.
 - **LaPointe Gas contract.** The bid was opened on July 13. Your next steps are to first accept the bid, then approve the contract, pending the vendor supplying documentation of required licensing and insurance.
 - **Text Alerts.** You had discussion July 13 about when to send text alerts to community members who subscribe. This proposal provides guidelines for urgent and no-so-urgent events and situations. The Town utilizes Mozeo; there currently are 404 subscribers; each alert costs 5 cents per text, or about \$20 total each time it is used. We currently have enough in our account for about a dozen alerts before we need to purchase more. We sent 119 alerts in 2019, 20 in 2020, and 21 so far in 2021.
 - **Great Lakes Island Summit.** I request authorization to attend this annual summit. The 2021 summit is Oct. 3-5 at South Bass Island, Ohio, in Lake Erie. Registration is \$100; lodging at

the summit hotels (three nights) would be up to \$310; mileage would be \$845 (1,510 miles round trip); per diem would \$220 (4 travel days) additional lodging en route would be \$192 (2 nights). Total estimated cost: \$1,667, plus ferry fees.

- Emergency Services. You have a separate memo on the Emergency Services Building.
- New Agenda Items.
 - **Dust Abatement.** Public Works would like to contract with an outside vendor to apply 18,000 gallons of calcium chloride solution to heavily traveled stretches of North Shore, Benjamin, Schoolhouse, and Snowplace. (This is the same treatment used on gravel roads in 2019.) However, because of the cost of the contract – over \$20,000 – state statute requires at least 7 days’ notice about the proposed purchase. The Town Clerk was able to legally post public notice on July 23. That means the Town Board can approve the purchase as soon as this Friday, July 30. We ask you to schedule a special Town Board meeting on that day; if you approve the purchase, the vendor says it could apply the treatment next week.

4. Follow Up on Previous/Ongoing Projects

- Committees.
 - **Affordable Housing Advisory Committee** met July 19, for first time since February. Members reviewed the Chequamegon Bay Regional Housing Survey Report from UW Extension. Consensus is that the report provides only limited insight to housing challenges on Madeline Island. In response, committee members hope to explore specific areas and gather concrete data that can be used to pursue funding and appropriate initiatives. They will begin with workforce housing by having one-on-one conversations with island businesses before the end of summer.
 - **Public Arts Committee** continues to work out logistics of the Gateway sculpture and installation. Current preference is to have La Pointe Center handle all fundraising and logistics to acquire and install the sculpture, then donate it to the Town. It is possible it will be easier for the sculpture to be installed before official transfer of the Russell land to the Town. The committee is also considering recommending a joint dedication event.
- Land donation from Russells.
 - Deed language is in final drafting stage. As mentioned above, logistics of the Gateway sculpture may influence timing of the transfer.

5. Grant Report

- No updates at this time.

6. Lawsuits/Legal Issues

- Town Board members will receive updates in closed session.

7. Comments/Other Information

- The Ashland/Bayfield County meeting of the Wisconsin Towns Association meets Monday evening, July 26. I intend to attend, though I will have to stay overnight on the mainland.
- The Wisconsin Commercial Ports Association meets in Washburn Aug. 5-6. I hope to be able to attend at least one of the half-day sessions.