

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

DATES COVERED IN REPORT: July 23-Aug. 6, 2021

1. Accomplished/Completed

- As you authorized on July 27 (and with content assistance from Energy Committee members and potential consultants), I completed and submitted a grant application on Aug. 5 to the state's Office of Energy Innovation for a microgrid feasibility study for critical public infrastructure in La Pointe. Award announcements are expected in late September.

2. Coming Up

- Community discussions begin this week so residents can pursue major topics raised in the Plan Commission's "junk" survey earlier this year. 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. Public notices include the possibility that there may be a legal "quorum" of Town Board members present, but that no action will be taken.

3. Town Board Agenda – Information/Comments

- Committees and Boards
 - **Planning and Zoning.** No recommendations from their Aug. 3 meeting; however, members expect to begin drafting language this winter to plug gaps in the existing Zoning Ordinance.
- Town Hall Administration.
 - **Letter to Bayfield County Board re: Kristle KLR water-bottling operation.** As you authorized at your July 30 meeting, I have drafted a letter urging the county to deny a conditional-use permit. The current draft reflects suggested revisions by individual board members.
 - **Contract with Island Septic LLC.** This contract amendment reflects the company's new owners. The contract has the same terms you approved on June 22, 2021.
 - **Madeline Island Ferry Line.** We expect to receive a memo from the Town's attorney before your Aug. 10 meeting.
- Emergency Services.

Please decide whether or not to authorize applying for one or more of these grants on behalf of our Emergency Services departments.

 - **Enbridge Safe Community First Responder Program.** We have been invited to submit an application for this grant program. Awards of up to \$7,500 are available to police departments; fire departments; and EMT, ambulance, and rescue services. Grants support training, education, or certain types of equipment. The application deadline is Sept. 30.
 - **Compeer Financial Emergency Response Equipment Grant Program.** Awards of up to \$3,000 per department are available for volunteer fire, rescue, and ambulance departments in rural communities. We are eligible to apply this year; application deadline is Aug. 31.

4. Follow Up on Previous/Ongoing Projects

- Committees.
 - **Affordable Housing Advisory Committee.** Members expect to survey more than 30 island employers in person before the end of the month to get their sense of the impact that housing availability and affordability has on their staffing and businesses. I can provide a copy of the survey upon request.
 - **Public Arts Committee.** Members continue to work through details, funding, and legalities for the fabrication, installation and rights agreements for the proposed Gateway sculpture and base. Their preference remains for everything to be handled by the La Pointe Center for the Arts, then donated to the Town, perhaps in conjunction with the transfer of the Russell property.

5. Grant Report

- No additional updates at this time.

6. Lawsuits/Legal Issues

- No additional updates at this time.

7. Comments/Other Information

- I attended the second day of the Wisconsin Commercial Ports Association annual meeting in Washburn on Aug. 6. I will give a more detailed report in the future.
- With cooperation from the Ferry Line and Chamber of Commerce, I created an informational flier July 29 about the spike in Covid cases in Ashland and Bayfield Counties. I will revise as necessary when county health departments provide updated information.
- I have been consulting with the Wisconsin Towns Association on possible uses of federal ARPA funds. The initial response is that the guidelines are much different from how CARES money could be used.