

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

DATES COVERED IN REPORT: Aug. 6-20, 2021

1. Accomplished/Completed

- By the time of the board meeting, all three community discussions to follow up on the Plan Commission's "junk" survey will have take place. Aimee Baxter, Jim Peters, Ric Gillman and I then will review feedback and draft recommendations for next steps by the Plan Commission.
- The letter you authorized regarding the Kristle KLR project was sent to the Bayfield County Board on Aug. 11.

2. Coming Up

- **Town Board Workshop.** The workshop on compensation for employees who don't take health coverage, and on revising the Town's Comprehensive Plan, is this Thursday, Aug. 26, at 5 p.m.
- **Madeline Island Museum.** I am hoping to coordinate a meeting Aug. 30 with residents interested in starting a Friends group for the museum. We are hoping to have an outline ready before Sept. 15, when Nicholas Hoffman -- who is administrator of museums and historic sites for the state historical society -- visits the island.

3. Town Board Agenda – Information/Comments

- Public Works
 - **Rec Center.** Ben Schram and Ray Hakola will present ideas for closing the gap in funding between the contractor's bid and what is budgeted for renovating the restrooms. These ideas include targeted solicitation of donations in the community. I raised that possibility with the Chamber of Commerce board earlier this week; they understand the importance of the project and are receptive to participating. Your packet has a draft of a solicitation letter.
- Town Hall Administration.
 - **Budget.** Barb Nelson gave department heads an overview of this year's budget process. Based on those discussions, she and I will draft a revised calendar for the 2022 budget.
 - **Final Payments to Nelson Construction for ESB Work.** This is routine authorization to close out the two contracts the project manager set up for site work.

4. Follow Up on Previous/Ongoing Projects

- Committees.
 - **Affordable Housing Advisory Committee.** Members continue 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.
 - **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.
 - **Winter Transportation Committee.** Members are concerned about whether Lake Assault's repairs on the nose wheels of Sleds 1 and 2 will solve the problem, because they have not yet been tested. Arnie Nelson hopes to install the equipment by the end

of the month and do dryland testing.

5. Grant Report

- I spoke Aug. 17 with Michelle Johnson from Enbridge to get additional information about their Communities First Responder grant program. Each emergency service could apply, but Enbridge likely would give only one award per town per grant cycle. Police and Ambulance say they likely would use grant money for radios; Fire says they likely would use it for turnout gear. Michelle says the recognition requested in the grant application typically is the standard photo with a large check, though there could be different “creative” ways in a newspaper or social media. She says they were disappointed that the Town passed the resolution it did after their donation for the ESB, but that they “want to build relationships.” She says residents in Wisconsin tend to know Enbridge only through its pipelines, but that they also install and support transitional technologies and renewables. She says she would be happy to talk with board members if they want to learn more.

6. Lawsuits/Legal Issues

- There will be an update on the Defoe lawsuit in closed session.

7. Comments/Other Information

- I met Aug. 12 with administrators from the Bad River Band, which is rehabbing cabins on their end of the island. They intend to rent some for general vacation use, and to use other cabins and land for a variety of tribal uses. At this point, there are no mutual aid or other agreements in place for the Town to provide emergency, law enforcement, or road services. After consulting with our department heads, I prepared a long list of topics we should include in formal agreements. You have a copy of that separately in your packets.
- Emergency Services leadership is developing plans for a dispatch desk and other communication plans that will allow ESB to be used as a command center during an emergency. As they navigate space allocation, they may be recommending a storage container for the back of the building.
- At the monthly meeting of department heads, they requested that the Town establish a protocol for employees and volunteers who may be exposed to Covid on or off duty, especially now that the federal CARES program has expired. I will be drafting recommendations.