

MEMO

To: Town Board
From: Michael Kuchta
Re: Town Administrator's Report

DATES COVERED IN REPORT: Feb. 10-24, 2023

1. Accomplished/Completed

- See below.

2. Coming Up

- **Gazette deadline.** March 4
- **Airport public hearing.** March 14, 4:30 p.m. (before regular Town Board meeting)
- **Rental ordinance public hearing.** March 15, 5 p.m.
- **Comprehensive Plan public hearing.** March 29, 5 p.m.

3. Town Board Agenda – Information/Comments

- **Temporary Driver.** The motion to hire is in your packet.
- **Campground Host Job Descriptions.** A revised description for the 2023 season is in your packet.
- **Campground Reservations.** See Ben Schram's memo requesting that we offer campers to ability to reserve sites 500 days into the future, instead of the current practice of 365 days.
- **MRF Transportation Specialist Job Description.** A revised description of the position (which previously was the "recycling specialist") is in your packet. The description and a job posting await your approval.
- **Budget Amendment #1.** See separate memo.
- **Workplace Safety.** The topic will be discussed in closed session; a confidential memo will be sent separately.

4. Follow Up on Previous/Ongoing Projects

- **Ambulance Service.** Still working on a new policy to allow Town employees with EMT certification to be on call while on the job, or receive additional compensation; reviewing language and requirements for a potential new billing contract.
- **BBTP Accessibility Study.** Ben Schram and I met Feb. 20 with Arnie Nelson to discuss an alternate idea he has to replace the existing stairway and bridge. We have forwarded information to Cooper Engineering for consideration.
- **Hagen Road BIL Repaving.** In response to requests from potential consultants, Ben and I have asked WisDOT to push back their deadline for the completion of engineering designs.
- **Rental Ordinance.** The town attorney has reviewed the most recent draft of revisions and suggested a few changes to be in compliance with state statute. The Plan Commission will review this revision on March 1, publish the draft the next day, and take the draft to a public hearing on March 15.
- **Town Hall AV.** Equipment has arrived; we need to add electrical and data capacity before vendor can install the system.

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5. Grant Report

- No updates.

6. Lawsuits/Legal Issues

- **DOR Petition.** Attorneys representing the Town and Ashland County are scheduled to meet March 7 and attempt to stipulate facts that could narrow the scope or eliminate the need for a public hearing. The hearing is scheduled for April 14 in Madison.
- **Claim Against Ashland County.** This is the formal claim; it follows up on the Notice of Intent the Town filed with the County on Jan. 11. The claim includes an amended Notice of Intent; it is structured so that individual residents can pursue the claim on behalf of all Town residents as a class. This is a safeguard in case a court decides the Town itself does not have legal standing. The claim seeks the full amount of what La Pointe property owners pay into the Sheriff Department's Law Enforcement line item in 2023; language is structured so that the claim is calculated in the same way in future years. For this year, the claim amount of \$363,655 is La Pointe's share of what the department receives from Town taxpayers for that law enforcement line item; it is based on La Pointe's share of the County levy: 20.1%. The Town is not seeking any of the roughly \$555,000 in additional money that our taxpayers send to support the County's 911 dispatch, emergency management, jail, domestic violence prevention, or other law enforcement activities. The County has six months to make a decision on the claim.

7. Other Information

- **Bayfield School District.** The Building and Grounds Committee reviewed a conceptual drawing to make the La Pointe School more ADA-compliant, and discussed the code challenges of using the basement for student activities. The full board is scheduled to vote on the Winter Transportation agreement on Feb. 27.
- **Wisconsin Towns Association.** Upcoming events: Capitol Day, March 30; District Meeting (I plan to attend the session March 31 in Cable); Board of Review Training (at least one board member must attend training each year: the closest in-person session is April 28 in Eau Claire; a virtual session is May 1 at 6:30 p.m.); Town Officials Workshop (closest sessions – especially for newly elected officers – are May 8 in Cable or May 9 in Minocqua).