

MEMO

To: Town Board

From: Michael Kuchta

Re: Town Administrator's Report

DATES COVERED IN REPORT: March 24-April 7, 2023

1. Accomplished/Completed

- **Ambulance billing contract.** Signed the contract with Cvikota Medical Billing; sent the required 60 days' notice of termination to Andres Medical Billing. With the assistance of Barb Nelson and Dorgene Goetsch, submitted the paperwork necessary to begin the transfer of responsibility, effective June 1.
- **WTA District Meeting.** See separate memo. (Correction: further review shows that the state's County and Municipal Aids payment to La Pointe translates into \$15.51 per person; total shared revenue is \$76.60 per person, as stated in the memo.)

2. Coming Up

- **Annual Town Meeting.** Next Tuesday, April 18, 5 p.m.

3. Town Board Agenda – Information/Comments

- **Parks: Campground Host #1, Campground Assistant, Parks #1.** Hiring motions are in your packet.
- **MRF: Transportation Specialist.** The hiring motion is in your packet.
- **Airport.** We need to redo/reschedule the public hearing that took place March 14 and the resolutions that you approved on March 28. The newspaper notice was published only 7 days before the hearing; however, the Bureau of Aeronautics process requires 10 days' notice.
- **Ehlers CSM.** TPC recommends approval; the CSM would modify the property line for two adjacent parcels, as indicated on the survey map.
- **TPC vacancies.** The terms currently held by Jim Peters and Paul Wilharm expire on April 30; TPC recommends reappointment of both members.
 - Member Mike Starck, whose term expires April 30, 2024, has submitted his resignation.
 - Member Samantha Dobson, whose term expires April 30, 2025, has submitted her resignation as a result of her election to the Town Board. TPC recommends posting both vacancies, then appointing new members before the commission meets May 3.
- **2022 Annual Finance Report.** The Town Board should approve this report before it is presented at the Annual Town Meeting on April 18.
- **Personal Property Tax.** Attorneys from the Wisconsin Towns Association say there is no legal basis to support the recommendation that the Town discontinue collecting personal property taxes on short-term rental properties. WTA cites Department of Revenue guidance, which states that, by law, all tangible real property and personal property is to be taxed unless specifically exempted from taxation. Statute 70.111 lists 27 categories of "personal property exempted from taxation"; however, short-term rentals are *not* in the list of exemptions. The Town Treasurer notes that 64 properties currently are taxed; however, that is only about half the properties that have short-term rental permits from the Town. It is possible that better

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coordination among the zoning administrator, assessor, and treasurer would yield better compliance and financial results for the Town's efforts.

- **2023 Schedule of Fees.** The resolution contains the proposed language to clarify tie-down fees for the airport, and fees for towing and impounding of vehicles.

4. Follow Up on Previous/Ongoing Projects

- **Affordable Housing Advisory Committee.** The committee is scheduled to review an updated draft of the housing needs assessment from Maxfield Research at its April 11 meeting.
- **Hagen Road.** The selection committee ranked Cooper Engineering of Rice Lake first among the 8 proposals. The DOT is scheduled to lead a scoping meeting on Monday April 10.

5. Grant Report

- **Indigenous Music Festival.** As you authorized March 28, I sent letters of support of the La Pointe Center's applications to the Anishinabe Fund of the Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation, and to the Wisconsin Arts Board.
- **ARPA.** This annual filing is due April 30; unfortunately, the Treasury Department's web portal has not been working correctly.

6. Lawsuits/Legal Issues

- **DOR Petition.** The hearing on our request to shift a portion of the law enforcement levy from County control to Town control is April 14 in Madison. I expect to testify in person; Mike Anderson expects to testify remotely. Chief William Defoe has signed an affidavit. County attorneys refused to agree to any facts in advance of the hearing (not even the existence of the law enforcement agreement, or facts the County itself had proposed including in a stipulation).

7. Other Information

- **Airport.** Paul Wilharm talked with the Bureau of Aeronautics about crack-sealing the runway at Gilbert Field; we are tentatively on their schedule for fall.
- **Emergency Services Building.** Ice sheets falling from the roof are tearing off gutters again this year. Public Works and emergency department crews will assess damage once the roof is clear, but it is possible we need a robust system of snow guards and to eliminate the gutters.
- **Wisconsin Towns Association.** Upcoming events:
 - Wisconsin Legislature's Joint Committee on Finance: Public hearing, April 26, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Lakeland Union High School, Minocqua.
 - 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. WTA's online training is "live" only; it will not be recorded. Registration deadline for the online session is next Monday, April 17. Check with the Town Clerk about other potential training options.
 - Town Officials Workshop: Closest in-person sessions – especially for newly elected officers – are May 8 in Cable or May 9 in Minocqua; online webinars are May 22-25.