

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

To: Town Board

From: Michael Kuchta

DATES COVERED IN REPORT: Aug. 4-17, 2023

1. Accomplished/Completed

- **Affordable Housing Information Session.** 15 members of the public, plus 13 Town Board members, committee members or staff attended the session on Aug. 15.
- **Performance reviews.** Written evaluations have been shared with department heads and Town Hall staff. Meetings are being scheduled based on availability.
- **Rental Ordinance Q&A.** 31 members of the public, plus 11 Town Board members, Town Plan Committee members or staff attended the session on Aug. 16.

2. Coming Up

- **TPC public hearing (Comprehensive Plan).** Thursday Aug. 24, 5 p.m.
- **EMS Polka Ball.** Saturday Aug. 26, 5-9 p.m.
- **TPC public hearing (Rental Ordinance).** Wednesday Aug. 30, 5 p.m.
- **Gravel road survey.** The survey remains open to the public until Labor Day, Sept. 4.
- **Labor Day.** Monday Sept. 4 (Town Hall closed)

3. Town Board Agenda – Information/Comments

- **Housing RFQ.** The Affordable Housing Advisory Committee has a scoresheet ready to evaluate any responses the Town receives from developers.
- **Committees.** See separate memo.
- **Town Hall administration.** See separate memo.
- **Draft ordinance on operators licenses.** This is a first reading of proposal you requested that would allow the Town Clerk to directly issue operators licenses for serving alcoholic beverages. Currently, the Town Board must authorize each license.

4. Follow Up on Previous/Ongoing Projects

- **Affordable housing.** WHEDA approved a \$50,000 grant Aug. 16 to help establish a community land trust in Ashland and Bayfield Counties. Charlie Bertel, from the Town's Affordable Housing Advisory Committee, will represent La Pointe on the land trust work group.
- **Airport.** The first round of runway repairs is complete; sealcoating is scheduled for Sept. 8-9. The BOA received four "letters of interest" from firms interested in rehabilitating the terminal and hangar building. Paul Wilharm and I are scheduled to meet with BOA staff on Aug. 24 to rank the responses.
- **Auction.** The auction of Town property remains open at the Wisconsin Surplus website until the morning of Aug. 28.
- **Dog park.** The volunteer group proposing an off-leash dog park on rec center grounds submitted its bylaws. I drafted an MOU incorporating the requirements of the conditional use permit; I am awaiting review by the Town attorney.
- **EMS training.** The Island Association reimbursed the Town \$4,052.32 for the costs of Marty Curry's EMT training.

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- **Hagan Road.** Cooper Engineering completed initial engineering on the repaving planned for 2024. Initial plans are to rebuild the road in the existing footprint, with a 10-foot vehicle lane, a 5-foot bicycle lane, and a 1-foot gravel shoulder in each direction.
- **MRF composting.** With the support of a donation from seasonal residents, the MRF is adding 4 composting barrels to continue its pilot program through the rest of the season.
- **Public Arts Committee.** The committee will release a “call for artists” for its 2024 porta-potty beautification project in the next Gazette. The Town Board will have final say on projects.
- **Town Hall.** The heat pump and mini-split were installed in the Board room Aug. 8. We are still waiting for the certified electrician to complete the connection.

5. Grant Report

- No updates.

6. Lawsuits/Legal Issues

- **Ashland County:** Glenn and I were scheduled to meet with Ashland County officials on Aug. 18 about potential resolutions to the law enforcement issue.
- **Petition with Department of Revenue.** The Town must file any request for a review through the Wisconsin Tax Appeals Commission by Sept. 15. The next Town Board meeting is Sept. 12.

7. Other Information

- **Ashland County Climate Core Team.** The group held its first meeting Aug. 7. It plans a tour of southern county sites on Sept. 5.
- **Personnel policy.** I attended a webinar led by our personnel law firm (von Briesen & Roper) about subject matter to include in employee handbooks.
- **Population estimate.** Micaela circulated the state demographic center’s estimate that La Pointe’s population has not grown since the 2020 census. The center does not expect to have detailed demographic information about La Pointe, or future population projections, until sometime in 2024.