

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

To: Town Board

From: Michael Kuchta

DATES COVERED IN REPORT: Sept. 8-22, 2023

1. Accomplished/Completed

- **RAISE Grant.** I joined Harbor Commission members in a debriefing session Sept. 19 with the US Department of Transportation on how they scored the RAISE grant application. Of the 8 categories, we were rated high in 2, medium in 2, and low in 4; that was not enough to achieve recommended status. About 15% of applications received awards. The DOT acknowledged the unique and challenging nature of the proposal to purchase the ferry line because it does not fit neatly into their scoring parameters. In general, our lowest scores were the result of two factors: a shortage of data and the evaluators' presumption that public ownership of the ferry line would not be materially different from private ownership.
- **Wisconsin Towns Association.** Lauren Burtaux and I attended workshops on Sept. 20 in Cable. Lauren attended sessions on the state-required uniform chart of accounts, budget and levy adoption, the levy limit worksheet, building a municipal tax bill, and tax collections. I attended sessions on the legislature, EMS, bidding, ordinance drafting and enforcement, and speed limits.

2. Coming Up

- **Wisconsin Towns Association.** District meeting, Sept. 25, 7 p.m.
- **Ashland County.** Meeting tentatively scheduled for Sept. 27 with county officials; I expect to receive updates on discussions among county Executive and Finance committee members regarding any realistic potential for a new law enforcement agreement.
- **Treaty Day.** Saturday Sept. 30. Events are scheduled at the cemetery, museum, and rec center.
- **Great Lakes Island Alliance.** Wednesday Oct. 4, 9 a.m.

3. Town Board Agenda

- See Town Board Meeting Memo.

4. Follow Up on Previous/Ongoing Projects

- **Airport.** We received preliminary maps Sept. 19 of where trees will need to be cleared or topped off to maintain flight path safety. Also, Bay Area Environmental Consulting completed this year's treatment for invasive phragmites on Sept. 22.
- **Department of Natural Resources.** Ben Schram met Sept. 20 with Jim Lemke of the DNR's real estate division to discuss relocation of the RV waste disposal site; they were joined by Zach Montagne and Paul Brummer of the sanitary district. Ben and Jim also discussed easements and a potential land swap at BBTP. Zach, Paul and I met Sept. 22 with David Lindsley and Bob Skalitzky of DNR parks, also to discuss relocation of the RV waste disposal site and the obstacles presented by the Town's 1990 MOU with the DNR.
- **Legal Fund.** I sent letters Sept. 14 to donors, updating them on the Town's appeal of the Department of Revenue ruling.

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- **State Reimbursement.** We received reimbursement from the Wisconsin Coast Management Program for the Town Park accessibility study, and from the Department of Transportation for road damage caused by flooding in April.

5. Grant Report

- The Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation authorized us to increase our request to \$4,000 for our Legal Fund application. I filed an updated application.

6. Lawsuits/Legal Issues

- See Town Board Meeting Memo

7. Other Information

- **Ambulance.** We received word that the Oujiri Family Memorial Scholarship fund at Memorial Medical Center will reimburse the Town approximately \$3,000 for recertification training for 11 members of the Ambulance Service.
- **Health Insurance.** Employees should receive enrollment information for 2024 coverage in the mail the week of Sept. 25.
- **Library.** I met with Jane Vogt and Helen Rowland on Sept. 14 about the possibility of using a Town designated fund account to house contributions to a “friends” group they intend to create for the library.
- **Roads.** Ben Schram and I attended a Wisconsin Department of Transportation webinar on state LRIP funding on Sept. 19. The application process begins in October.