

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

To: Town Board

From: Michael Kuchta

DATES COVERED IN REPORT: Sept. 22-Oct. 5, 2023

1. Accomplished/Completed

- **Comprehensive Plan.** The steering committee held its final meeting on Sept. 28. Members approved their recommended text amendments to the existing Plan and sent them to the Town Plan Commission. Further action is now in the Town Board's hands.

2. Coming Up

- **Great Lakes Island Alliance.** Monthly meeting: Wednesday Oct. 11, 9 a.m. Central
- **Budget.** The initial 2024 budget draft is due to the Town Board on Friday Oct. 13 by 4 p.m. Budget workshops are scheduled at 4:45 p.m. on:
 - Wednesday Oct. 18 (Roads, Parks, MRF, Airport, Dock, Cemetery and Harbor Commission)
 - Thursday Oct. 19 (Police, Ambulance, Fire, Library, Community Clinic)
 - Wednesday, Oct. 25 (Town Hall, committees)
 - Thursday, Oct. 26 (Follow-up)

3. Town Board Agenda – Information/Comments

- See separate memo

4. Follow Up on Previous/Ongoing Projects

- **Checking Account.** As you authorized on Aug. 8, the Designated and Checking accounts at Bremer Bank now are merged. We will designate all the interest earned to the General Fund, unless you prefer a different approach.
- **Harbor Commission.** Joined Harbor Commission members at a meeting Sept. 26 with staff members of the state Department of Administration regarding the commission's start-up grant.
- **Housing.** Glenn and I met Oct. 2 with Jeff Washburne, the consultant working with the Chequamegon Bay workforce housing coalition to develop a community land trust in Ashland and Bayfield counties.
- **Roads.** Attended a countywide meeting Oct. 3 in Highbridge to review Local Road Improvement Program funding available to towns in 2024-2025. Ben Schram and I will discuss whether it makes sense to pursue a Discretionary grant (50% match) or a Supplemental grant (30% town match) for Mondamin and/or South Shore roads. Draft applications would be due Nov. 1. In the next two-year funding cycle, La Pointe will be eligible for a roughly \$40,000 Entitlement grant (50% match).
- **RV Waste Disposal Site.** Joined members of the Sanitary District during a Sept. 22 meeting with David Lindsley and Bob Skalitzky of Big Bay State Park. The primary topic: how the existing MOU between the Town and DNR hinders a solution to the impact of high-strength waste on the Sanitary District's water quality.

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5. Grant Report

- No update.

6. Lawsuits/Legal Issues

- See separate memo

7. Other Information

- **BBTP Accessibility.** Talked with Sydney Scott from Sen. Tammy Baldwin's office on Oct. 5 on the possibility of receiving a congressionally directed spending allocation for installing an ADA-compliant ramp to replace the aging bridge and staircase.
- **Fire Number Signs.** An advisory survey is available to get a sense if there is a community preference for the color of new signs. The survey link: www.surveymonkey.com/r/firenumber
- **Madeline Island Museum.** Met Sept. 29 with members of the Wisconsin Historical Society about their 2024 plans for museum activities, including imagining more community-oriented use of the front lawn, now that the stockade is down. Enjoyed the dedication ceremony of the new historical marker on Sept. 30.