

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

To: Town Board

From: Michael Kuchta

DATES COVERED IN REPORT: Jan. 5-19, 2024

1. Accomplished/Completed

- **Comprehensive Plan maps.** Completed review and submitted corrections for the 13 maps prepared by Northwest Regional Planning Commission.
- **SAM.gov.** Received approval of Town's "entity validation" for federal funding.

2. Coming Up

- **WTA Unit Meeting.** Monday Jan. 22, 7 p.m., Pilsen Town Hall, Moquah.

3. Town Board Agenda – Information/Comments

- See separate memo

4. Follow Up on Previous/Ongoing Projects

- **Accounting.** Lauren Burtaux and I met separately with CPA Angela Truchon of Ehlers & Pierce, and auditor Vanessa Kane of Baker Tilly. We continue trying to understand and resolve issues with the Workhorse software on how transactions flow and show up in budget reports. We also provided Baker Tilly with the first round of forms for the 2023 audit.
- **Ambulance.** Lauren and I met with Brittany Mattison of Cvikota to continue working through billing glitches.
- **Bayfield School District.** The district continues to discuss potential capital projects to include in a bonding referendum. For La Pointe, the list includes a renovated kitchen, new classroom space, ADA renovations, a new gym, and/or a new building.
- **Fire numbers.** Zoning Administrator Ed Schaffer and I sent more than 930 addresses to Lange Enterprises, which is manufacture new signs to install across the island. Still to come: additional signs for multi-unit buildings, and new road signs for all public and private roads.
- **Madeline Island Museum.** The Wisconsin Historical Society hired former Bad River Tribal Chair Mike Wiggins Jr. as interim director of the museum; he succeeds Keldi Merton.
- **RV Sanitary Disposal site.** Ben Schram and I met Jan. 19 with Zach Montagne of the sanitary district, and David Lindsley and Bob Skalitzky of the DNR. We will move forward on drafting language on a new MOU to relocate the site, determine the best location to tie into the sanitary sewer system, determine upfront financing, and determine how to collect user fees.
- **Xcel Energy.** I met Jan. 11 with Xcel representatives Ken Disher, Zach Hughes and Aaron Orenstein to learn about plans to install a new power cable between Bayfield and La Pointe. The work possibly could take place this fall, though more likely in 2025. The plan is to bore an 8-inch pipe into the lakebed, rather than simply laying a cable on the ground. Xcel would bring the cable up near the current location at the Griggs Approach, then splice it into the island grid.

5. Grant Report

- No updates.

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6. Lawsuits/Legal Issues

- **Appeal of DOR Declaratory Ruling.** Initial briefs are due to the Wisconsin Tax Appeals Commission by Jan. 31. Bill Defoe and I prepared the flier in your packet as a way to update interested parties on Ashland County's level of patrol and response services. Finally, your packet includes a copy of a letter the Town Chair and I sent to various county officials.

7. Other Information

- **Chamber of Commerce MOUs.** Drafted language for agreements on fireworks and porta-potty payments; sent to chamber for review and eventual board action.
- **Managed Forest Law.** The Town received a check for \$87,306.60 in withdrawal tax on land taken out of the state's managed forest program.
- **Small bridge inventory.** Attended WTA webinar on towns' role in upcoming statewide program.

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