

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

To: Town Board

From: Michael Kuchta

DATES COVERED IN REPORT: Jan. 19-Feb. 8, 2024

1. Accomplished/Completed

- See below

2. Coming Up

- **Medallion hunt.** The Public Arts Committee's winter event is scheduled for Saturday Feb. 17-24. Clues will be posted on the Town website and around town.
- **Snow Snake.** Tribal competition is scheduled to begin at 8 a.m. Saturday Feb. 24 at Joni's Beach.

3. Town Board Agenda – Information/Comments

- See separate memo

4. Follow Up on Previous/Ongoing Projects

- **Airport.** The Bureau of Aeronautics hopes to have a "kickoff meeting" March 14 to discuss a Terminal Area Master Plan for renovation of the pilots' lounge and hangar. BOA wants to create a "stakeholder advisory committee"; ideas on how to select or appoint members are welcome.
- **Big Bay Town Park.** Compiled end-of-year reservations reports. See charts below on trends.
- **Hagen Road.** Cooper Engineering submitted final engineering plans to the state on Feb. 1. For cost reasons, the public works director and I approved 2 inches of asphalt (which is the same as County H), with a 12-inch base. The project is still on schedule to go out for bid on May 14, with construction potentially starting as soon as July 15.
- **Metasys.** After multiple rounds of phone calls and emails, Johnson Controls (the subcontractor) and Wendel (the project manager) finally are on the same page about who should pay for the delayed installation of the ESB building control system. It is not the Town.
- **Fire number signs.** Lange delivered posts and hardware for new fire number signs; they are at the Town shops. Ordered 139 street name signs from Decker for all public and private roads on the island; 3 additional "directional" signs will be ordered for selected T-intersections.
- **Rental ordinance.** The revised ordinance is posted on the website. The zoning administrator mailed updated renewal applications to 105 existing permit holders.
- **RV sanitary disposal site.** Sent a draft MOU that would allow the DNR, sanitary district, and Town to move the site to Town-owned land near the ESB/MRF, connect it to the sanitary sewer system, and begin charging users. We are waiting for a reply from the DNR.

5. Grant Report

- **Energy Committee:**
 - Ashland County filed a grant application with the federal EPA, seeking more than \$19 million to install 22 solar-powered microgrids (including 10 "community resilience hubs"), plus electric vehicle charging stations around the county. Their application includes a microgrid and resilience hub at La Pointe's ESB, plus four EV charging stations on the Island. The county expects to know by April if it is advancing in the competition.

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- The committee meets Feb. 16 to decide whether to submit the ESB microgrid proposal independently through the state’s Energy Innovation Grant Program. The Town has set aside \$50,000 for its share of the estimated \$277,000 project.

6. Lawsuits/Legal Issues

- **Ashland County.** Town attorneys filed initial briefs on Jan. 31 to the Wisconsin Tax Appeals Commission, seeking to overturn the Department of Revenue and shift a portion of the county’s law enforcement levy to the Town levy. Reply briefs are due on Feb. 29.

7. Other Information

- **Records requests.** Alex, Jamie and I fulfilled two separate records requests from John Carlson regarding police pay, overtime, and benefits in 2023.

