

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

To: Town Board

From: Michael Kuchta

DATES COVERED IN REPORT: March 9-21, 2024

1. Accomplished/Completed

- **Congressionally Directed Spending.** Submitted request for \$1.8 million in funding for Big Bay Town Park Accessibility Project.
- **Ambulance, Fire Department volunteer insurance.** Completed two-page brochure outlining benefits in the new accident and sickness policy the Town is providing this year. Jamie is distributing brochures to volunteer members of both departments. (Sample is in your packet.)

2. Coming Up

- **Spring elections.** Tuesday April 2, 7 a.m.-8 p.m.

3. Town Board Agenda – Information/Comments

- See separate Meeting Memo.

4. Follow Up on Previous/Ongoing Projects

- **Affordable Housing Advisory Committee.** Members met with the Sanitary District Board March 20 to get a better understanding of the possibilities of connecting the Casper Trail and 687 Middle Road sites to the sanitary sewer system.
- **Airport Terminal Area Master Plan.** The local stakeholder group will meet with BOA representatives and their engineering firm on April 11.
- **Rieman parcel.** Letter mailed to Rieman family seeking their direction on returning the parcel.
- **RV disposal site.** Town staff and the sanitary district are making headway with the DNR on a new memorandum of understanding. Financing is the main point still to be decided. So far:
 - Staff have agreed to pursue relocating the RV disposal site and connecting it to the sanitary system near the ESB. That should reduce the impact of the site's high-strength waste on the sanitary district's treatment ponds and effluent. The preferred location is Town-owned land on the north side of Big Bay Road between the ESB and MRF. This site provides ready access to the sanitary system; a driveway could be constructed into the woods, with one-way traffic utilizing the existing MRF exit.
 - The draft MOU also allows the Town, for the first time, to levy a user fee on the disposal site. As a first step, we are asking the Harbor Commission to add a surcharge to the ferry's tariff schedule; this \$5 fee would be charged on RVs and campers coming to the Island from Bayfield. The surcharge would help offset the Town's cost of maintaining the site, which is more than \$6,000/year that is currently being covered by property taxpayers. The surcharge also would provide data on demand for the sanitary disposal site. There are other potential funding streams as well, such as a user fee collected electronically on site, or a surcharge placed on RV site reservations at both the Town and State parks.

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- We anticipate the next steps would be engineering for the site – done either in-house by the DNR, or through an RFP for an outside consultant – and following up with a Town application for a state Clean Water Fund loan and/or USDA rural development grant.

5. Grant Report

- Updates are covered above and in separate Meeting Memo.

6. Lawsuits/Legal Issues

- No update.

7. Other Information

- **Bayfield school district.** The district intends to mail a survey in late April to gauge opinions on projects that could be funded by a building and/or operating referendum in November. Renovation and/or new construction at the La Pointe School are among potential projects.
- **Highway 13 reconstruction in Washburn.** When the Town crew hauls from the MRF, weight limits will force them to follow the truck detour: Highway 13 to Port Wing, then Highway A to Iron River, before being able to get back on Highway 2 to Ashland. This will add an hour-and-a-half to a typical trip. The road work will not detour the Ambulance Service on runs to Ashland.
- **Police training range.** The Police Department and Public Works are investigating moving the site from sanitary district land near the airport to the Town gravel pit on the north end.