

MEMO

To: Town Board

From: Michael Kuchta

Re: Town Administrator's Report

DATES COVERED IN REPORT: Dec. 23, 2022-Jan. 6, 2023

1. Accomplished/Completed

- **Rental Ordinance.** Worked with the zoning administrator and members of the Town Plan Commission to finalize a draft that revises the Town's existing Rental Ordinance. The full TPC is scheduled to discuss the draft on Jan. 9 before sending it to the Town Attorney for review. The draft tries to get a handle on the encroachment of commercial activities into residential districts; this initiative includes requiring a Conditional Use Permit for all new and lapsed short-term rentals, and addressing "events" that are beyond the "ordinary and normal use" of a rental property. The draft also puts more of a focus on the existing requirement that long-term rentals obtain an annual permit, including by implementing a basic fire-safety inspection.

2. Coming Up

- **Town Plan Commission.** The commission holds a special meeting on Monday Jan. 9 at 4:30 p.m. to schedule public hearings this spring on the draft Rental Ordinance and the first draft of a new Comprehensive Plan.
- **Fire numbers.** A meeting with Lange Enterprises to discuss grid capacity is scheduled for Tuesday Jan. 10.

3. Town Board Agenda – Information/Comments

- **Ice Road Maintenance.** You have the proposed rate sheet from Nelson Construction in your packet. We need a motion on whether or not to accept the rates for the 2023 season.
- **Erickson land swap.** The Town Plan Commission was schedule to make their recommendation Jan. 9 on whether to rezone the former Town parcel from G-1 (government and institutional) to R-3 multi-family residential, which is the same zoning as the adjacent land it is joining. Town Board members make the final decision.
- **Community Awards.** The committee met Jan. 6 and is recommending the La Pointe Community Clinic for the annual Community Appreciation Award and adding Ruth Ann Tiesberg to the Hall of Fame. I will send a separate memo outlining reasons for their recommendations. Overall, the committee received 13 nominations – the most since the year awards first were established.
- **Microgrid Grant Application.** The Energy Committee has drafted an application for a state Energy Innovation Grant, which you authorized on Dec. 13. The application is due Jan. 30. Please note the highlighted language on Page 3, which commits the Town to allocating or finding matching funds in 2024 (if the Town receives and accepts the grant). Grant decisions are supposed to be announced by July 2023.

4. Follow Up on Previous/Ongoing Projects

- **Town Hall AV System.** We have received quotes from six vendors; I am working through differences in equipment and our needs for installation.

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- **WHEDA Rural Affordable Workforce Housing Initiative.** The Chequamegon Bay work groups continue to revise their three pilot project concepts, which are scheduled to be presented to WHEDA staff in Madison on Jan. 25.

5. Grant Report

- **BBTP Accessibility Study.** I submitted the quarterly report to the Wisconsin Coastal Management Program. Our consultant, Cooper Engineering, is supposed to provide options by Feb. 28.

6. Lawsuits/Legal Issues

- **Notice of Claim.** The amended draft of the notice to Ashland County will be ready to approve, for delivery to the county clerk on Wednesday morning.

7. Other Information

- **Solid Waste Contract.** Our insurance company says they cannot provide us the type of pollution liability insurance that Republic Services listed under the new contract. We are awaiting word back from Republic on our request to eliminate the requirement.
- **Wind Sled Hours.** Windsleds Transportation Inc. has revised its schedule to accommodate a school district request for a later weekday trip. The previously announced 4:45 p.m. trip to the island is cancelled; it is replaced by a 5:30 p.m. trip.