

# TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

To: Town Board

From: Michael Kuchta

DATES COVERED IN REPORT: Oct. 6-19, 2023

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## 1. Accomplished/Completed

- **Budget.** First-round spreadsheets completed and delivered.

## 2. Coming Up

- **School District budget hearing.** Monday Oct. 23, 5 p.m., Bayfield school library or Zoom
- **Town Budget.** Round One budget workshops are scheduled at 4:45 p.m. on:
  - Wednesday, Oct. 25 (Committees, Town Hall administration, fees)
  - Thursday, Oct. 26 (Follow-up)
- **Gazette deadline.** Saturday Oct. 28 (street date approximately Nov. 11)
- **Great Lakes Islands Alliance.** Monthly meeting, Wednesday Nov. 1, 9 a.m. Central
- **Town Budget.** Round Two budget workshops are scheduled at 4:45 p.m. on:
  - Tuesday Nov. 7
  - Thursday Nov. 9

## 3. Town Board Agenda – Information/Comments

See separate memo.

## 4. Follow Up on Previous/Ongoing Projects

- **Bad River MOU.** Spoke with Brian Mayotte about reviving discussions between the Town and tribe to reach a written agreement covering fire and EMS service for tribal land on the island.
- **FriendsCircle for Madeline Island Library.** I continue to monitor the progress of this initiative and potential Town involvement.
- **Harbor Commission.** I shared ongoing concerns about the draft management agreement.
- **School District.** Sat in on Building and Grounds committee meeting that discussed potential projects to send to referendum, including remodeling the La Pointe School building.
- **Wind Sleds, Ice Road.** Met Oct. 17 with Arnie Nelson to discuss potential revisions to the contracts covering wind sled service and ice road maintenance.

## 5. Grant Updates

- **DNR Clean Water Fund Program.** I hope to file an “intent to apply” with the DNR’s Clean Water Fund by the Oct. 31 deadline. The application would get us on the list for funding to relocate the RV waste disposal site onto the sanitary district’s collection system. The actual application would be due a year from now. Paul Brummer, Zach Montagne and I joined a video meeting Oct. 19 with DNR staff to coordinate Town and sanitary district efforts to address effluent quality issues.
- **Energy Committee.** Meets Nov. 6 to consider seeking a state Energy Innovation Grant for the proposed microgrid. Also, the US Department of Energy did not select the mUGrid Analytics/Stryten project, in which La Pointe would have been a demonstration site for a flow battery installation.

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## **6. Lawsuits/Legal Issues**

- **Ashland County.**
  - Glenn Carlson and I meet with our legal team Monday Oct. 23 to discuss filing the lawsuit on our constitutional and financial claim against the County (for failure to provide law enforcement services for which we are paying taxes). The filing deadline is Dec. 21.
  - The Tax Appeals Commission notified us that both the County and the Department of Revenue filed briefs seeking to intervene in our appeal of the DOR's refusal to transfer a portion of tax levy from the County levy to the Town levy. No word yet on a schedule.

## **7. Other Information**

- **Resilient Coast Projects Initiative.** Sat in on an introductory meeting about potential planning and capacity building funding for shoreline projects.