

Town Administrator's Report

April 23, 2013

In the time since the last Town Board meeting and the Town Administrator's Report, the following areas and issues have been addressed and/or undertaken:

- 1) Army Corps permitting of BBTP and Industrial Zone Projects
- 2) Personnel Policy revisions
- 3) Invasive Specie/Chemical Use
- 4) LaPointe School Ownership
- 5) Community Center
- 6) Griggs Approach Project
- 7) Community outreach and continuing communications

Army Corps: Increased frequency and intensity of communications with Army Corps related to issuance of permits for BBTP. On April 16, Jeff Olson, Regional Director of ACE stated that the Corps had met with the Bands and that it informed them that a determination of "No Adverse Effects" would be issued and permits would be issued to the Town. TA has followed up that conversation with a request for confirmation that the permits have been issued OR a date certain for issuance --- Olson to respond by end of week (4/26).

Personnel Policy Revisions: Barb Nelson, Glenn Carlson and Tom Banner have been diligent and assiduous in revising immediately critical sections of the Personnel Policy to set out lines of authority and supervision – integrating the position of Town Administrator into the equation. This critical action will preclude ambiguity, uncertainty and/or real or alleged ignorance of supervision and oversight authority; it clarifies precisely the order of authority and accountability. The next phase of the process is to rework jobs and job descriptions to align with the Policy issues addressed by the present revisions.

Invasive Specie/Chemical Use: Questions and concerns have been raised regarding the use of chemical herbicides in the control and eradication of Barberry and Buckthorn. The Town Foreman and a representative of the Madeline Island Wilderness Preserve have worked closely with specialists at the WI DNR to gather information, data and the potential for alternative methods or processes.

LaPointe School Ownership: A thoroughgoing investigation to establish actual ownership of the LaPointe School has revealed the following: The filed deed (dated 1968) indicates that the school is owned by 'School District #4 of the Town of LaPointe' which, according to every authority in the Town, County and Ashland School District, is unknown. The date of the filed deed (1968) occurred while LaPointe was a part of the Ashland School District. TA communicated with Ashland Business Manager to determine ownership and suggest that the Dist could/should file a Quit Claim deed returning the school to the Town.

Correspondence of 4/23, from Ashland School District now reveals that the School – building, land and contents – was transferred by Ashland to Bayfield as settlement of an appeal to an adverse ruling to the Town of LaPointe request to move from Ashland to Bayfield – the transfer was concluded in 1987.

Community Center: Second in the series of community meetings related to the form, substance and future of a community center was held April 18. Attendance was impeded by the snow storm, but the discussion progressed to the point of suggestions of a survey of citizens interests, activities, locations and, potential funding – if needed.

Griggs Approach: The last hurdle to the commencement of the Griggs Approach Project was cleared when the Highway Expenditure Budget was raised to comprehend the Town share of the Project – not to exceed \$120,000.00 – meetings with Nelson Construction resulted in a formal motioned contract award and authorization to proceed with order and purchase of concrete planks for the Project – effectively commencing mobilization for project commencement this Spring.

Community Outreach and Communication: In keeping with the process and commitment to discussing present, considered or pending issues with members of the community – citizens, businesses and officials – time is set aside on a daily basis to speak with community members about their concerns, interests and views on current and anticipated initiatives. That input and reaction is factored into the efforts and recommendations of the Administrator to the Board and the community writ large.