

Town Administrator's Report

February 24, 2015

The issues and areas with which we have dealt and are dealing, since the last Regular Town Board Meeting are as follows:

Legislation – The matter of the legislative resolution to the problems and challenges created by the Hegwood decision has generated any number of questions, concerns and potential alternatives. It should be noted that the Town advanced draft legislation to, then, sitting legislative representatives (with copies to the Wisconsin Towns Association), not only because the Town's agreement with the County established a timeframe within which such a legislative resolution needed to be accomplished due to the sunset provision of the 'Special Development District', but also because the Wisconsin Towns Association was undecided as to whether a resolution to the Hegwood matter was of sufficient consequence to be included in its legislative agenda. The Administrator had discussed the draft legislation with Richard Stadelman, then Executive Director of the WTA, who offered no specific alternatives or substantive concern about the context or content of the original draft.

The questions and concerns that have been raised regarding the potential result of legislative success – that is, that the Town would be solely responsible for shoreland zoning and would no longer be jointly responsible with the County – have prompted correspondence and communication with the Legislative Research Bureau's Legislative Drafting Attorney, by the Administrator, and correspondence and communication with the Wisconsin Towns Association counsel, by the Zoning Administrator – apparently at the behest and instruction of the Town Chairman. Copies of all communication and correspondence have been provided to the Board for full discussion at the Regular Town Board meeting of February 24.

The County Board, at its February 19th meeting, unanimously passed the Resolution supporting the Town's corrective legislative efforts. The Resolution did not stipulate a specific bill so it has no bearing on the Board's deliberations, but it is now a part of the arsenal that the Town can bring to bear when it advocates for passage of a bill.

It is of substantial consequence that, whatever questions, concerns and ideas may exist, the Board review and decide which direction it believes is in the best interests of the community. The Administrator will be prepared to respond to any questions that may arise on the part of members of the Board.

Ice Rescue Revenue Generation/Cost Mitigation - The Administrator has attempted to keep the Board apprised and up-to-date on discussions and options related to agreements with regional entities and governmental units to mitigate the expense to the Town for providing ice rescue services throughout the area. As previously observed, the nature and restrictions of the various entities and governmental units involved indicates that one (1) overarching agreement is not possible. Resolution to this issue will result in a series – a mosaic – of agreements and arrangements with each entity and/or government. It is, however, positive that none of the entities or government units are opposed or barred from providing financial support or mitigation of cost for the ice rescue services provided.

The Administrator has begun outlining the nature and content of agreements or Memoranda of Understanding to address the variations. As those documents or drafts are completed they will be submitted to the Board for consideration, amendment and approval. In addition, the Administrator awaits notification of when the issue will be on the Bayfield County Board agenda in order to prepare to advocate – along with the Bayfield County Sheriff’s Department – for an appropriation to support the Town’s ice rescue team.

Comprehensive Contracting Packet and Checklist – History has shown that, in many instances, some departments and independent entities, requests for services and/or contracts reveal gaps and omissions in documentary, procedural and notification process. To respond to that issue, we have begun assembling a comprehensive contracting packet that includes required steps, responsible parties, relevant templates and over-arching oversight. The completed packet should be ready in the next week or so and will be submitted to the Board for review, comment and/or amendment prior to distribution and implementation. It is generally viewed as a positive initiative that will standardize and codify how the Town, departments or independent entities (such as the Library) undertake projects, contracts and services.

General – In addition to the specific issues above, we have been working on a variety of insurance, personnel, contracting, department and committee matters that fall under the category of day-to-day administration. By and large, we have made progress on all fronts and will ensure the Board is apprised of those areas and issues that warrant its specific attention or action.