

# Town Administrator's Report

December 11, 2012

Since the last Report the following issues and areas have been addressed:

- Army Corp permitting and related Native American cultural concerns.
- Big Bay Town Park walkway design
  - a) DNR and Corp mtg.
- Legislative initiatives – mtg with State Rep Janet Bewley
  - a) Draft language for county property tax exemptions
- Rice Street Extension revenues

**Army Corp.:** We have had continuing discussions with the Army Corp relating to permitting issues and the apparent/stated delays due to Section 106 issues and apparent/stated determination of the Corp to make application for the entire to be listed as a Traditional Cultural Property. Some of those discussions were pointed and contentious as we asserted our interest is complete disclosure and a full understanding of the ramifications of such a listing --- it was asserted that unless and until all questions were answered and concerns allayed, the Island would oppose and work against such listing.

The Division Chief – Tamara Cameron and Chief Archeologist – Brad Johnson, along with another representative of the Corp met with a focused and relevant group of Town officials, affected contractors, county elected representative and a representative of the tribal relations committee on Friday, the 7<sup>th</sup>. It was a productive meeting – the Corp indicated it did not seek listing. Indicated that the BBTP permits would most probably be issued in March and that private permits would be issued well before that.

It was a beneficial mtg with a relationship of candor established. The situation will continue to be monitored with specific action taken when necessary.

**Big Bay Town Park Walkway Design:** General concern about the efficacy of the current design led to consideration of a design change that included using crib/bunks/slabs as periodic supports rather than driving posts through the bog. There was a good deal of positive interest – as well as an economic incentive – to modify the design.

Met with Alyssa Core of the DNR regarding the potential change – she further discussed the change with Bill Sande – it was determined that the use of cribs/slabs/bunks would qualify as ‘fill’ and, as such, require a permit. It is clear we do not want to engage in a Section 106 assessment on the Lake side.

**Legislative Initiatives:** Met with State Rep Janet Bewley to discuss cultural issues and to discuss the potential of introducing state legislation to allow LaPointe to petition for county property tax exemption for those services entirely financed by the Town --- it is an extension of the logic represented in the exemption for the library.

TA wrote the language, discussed it with Rep Bewley who supported the measure – will add language to make it unique to LaPointe and carry it in the Assembly and arrange that State Sen Jauch carries the companion in the Senate.

**Rice Street Extension Revenues:** WI DOT reworked the language of the original agreement and earmark to reflect the \$95,000 assignment to cover engineering, delineation and subsequent engineering/expenses. The understanding is that the Town will incrementally undertake the project in a self-financed format. The document does suggest the project must be completed by 2016 in order to avoid repayment of the \$95,000.

TA will discuss and advocate with DOT that the project will be considered complete upon reaching the O'Brien/4<sup>th</sup> Street intersection --- currently the second intersection from Big Bay Road.

**Chamber Spin-Off of 501(c)3 and MicroLoan Program:** Met with Lois Carlson to fully discuss spinning off a non-profit and establishing a microloan program that would lead to qualification to access the SBA microloan program – productive meeting – LC to meet with her executive board – TA to speak to board if necessary or desirable.