

## Town Administrator's Report

November 13, 2012

The areas and issues the Town Administrator has addressed since the last Town Board meeting include:

- Town Budget
- Big Bay Town Park Improvement Project
- New County initiatives
- Long Term Development Issues
- Outreach and Communication

**Town Budget** – as the TA's inaugural budget season the learning and familiarization curve has been, of necessity, accelerated --- due in large part to the exceptional ability and assistance of Barb Nelson. Preliminary reviews of departmental budgets were followed by TA meeting individually with dept heads to review and qualify dept budgets prior to budget workshops with Town Board. Those workshops having been completed the budget discussions and decisions have been undertaken with substantial progress being made toward achieving an effective, fair and balanced budget for the Town of LaPointe.

**BBTP** – Issues related to permitting, building design compliance, engineering deficiencies and corrective action, as well as ensuring that collateral progress was made consumed a good deal of the time between TB meetings. Working closely with the Town Foreman, Contractor, members of the TB and the Town Building Official, questions, concerns and re-design decisions were made and re-design of the Comfort Station to extend building utility, longevity and code compliance were addressed. In addition, fundamental decisions related to the current relationship with Chequamegon Engineering were discussed and determined.

**New County Initiatives** - TA spoke before the County Finance Committee regarding potential new initiatives that could be undertaken by the County to aid and assist Madeline Island. Among them: Early Childhood and School Health Screenings and Low-Cost Pet Inoculations and Mic-Chipping – recent information indicates that the Health Dept is amenable to sending a County nurse to the Island if there are sufficient children/students signed up for the screenings --- TA is going to further discuss the matter to investigate the potential of having the money used to pay the County nurse, transportation, etc., could just be allotted to the Island Health Center for screenings and inoculations. TA has further indicated that additional programs could be enacted and extended to the Island --- County has indicated that a thorough review and potential extension was fair, reasonable and could be undertaken.

**Long Term Development Issues** - TA has been working with administration personnel, elected officials, businesses and opinion-leaders to address issues related to the long-term development of public works, business and private property initiatives. Research and discussion continues and appears to be gaining traction with respect to ensuring the interests of the Island and its citizens and residents are reflected in development protocol.

**Outreach and Communication** – The TA continues to make reaching out to members of the community – of every constituency – to seek their thoughts, ideas and responses to present and anticipated initiatives. The TA sets aside a reasonable time each week to travel around the Island listening to, talking with and soliciting opinions from as many people as possible to allow a comprehensive assessment of possibilities, problems and opportunities --- it is a concerted effort to ensure that the thoughts and concerns of Islanders are reflected in all decisions and recommendations.