



## Administrator's Update 2/28/08

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- **Historic Courthouse Renovation Update** - The County Board is considering several modifications to the historic courthouse remodeling including changing the floor coverings, increasing the amount of woodwork to match the existing building, increasing trim in the building and additional carpeting. The main goal of these changes is to have the courthouse appearance be consistent throughout the building. The historic courthouse renovation is about 50% done at this time with an expected completion date of April or May of this year.
- **Friend of the Court and State Probation Move/Return to the Historic Courthouse** - We anticipate that, upon completion of the historic courthouse renovation, the State Probation Offices will be moved back into the first level of the historic courthouse. This move should take place in May and June. We will potentially delay the move of the Friend of the Court into the historic courthouse until such a time that our new document imaging system is installed and all images of the Friend of the Court have been scanned. This will eliminate the need to move 350-400 file boxes to the new building, which will be eliminated when the scanning project is complete. This will be a more efficient way to move the staff.
- **Community Corrections Master Plan Review** - On Thursday, March 6th at 7:00pm, David Bennett, our Community Corrections Consultant, will be in town to give a report to the County Board of Commissioners and the Community Corrections Advisory Board. Mr. Bennett was initially hired more than five (5) years ago to assess the effectiveness of our Community Corrections Program and to make a series of recommendations to improve the process of managing the County jail population. Mr. Bennett is returning to assess our progress in accomplishing our Community Correction goals over the past five (5) years to make recommendations regarding future steps we could take to manage the jail population. The results of this study will be used to develop planning for the Community Corrections Programs for the next several years. The meeting will be held in the County Board of Commissioners' Chambers in the Governmental Building and will be televised live on the Government Channel 99. Public input is welcome and invited.
- **Educational Session on Open Meetings Act and Freedom of Information Act** - Peter Cohl, an Attorney for Michigan Association of Counties, who has spoken exclusively on the

Open Meetings Act (OMA) and the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), will be conducting a seminar for the County Commission, Boards and Committees and staff to educate and update us on the OMA requirements and FOIA. The seminar will be held on Friday, March 7th from 9:00am-12:00pm at the Twin Lakes Facility.

- **Segal Compensation Study** - Staff continues to work with Segal and Associates as they complete the study for the wage and salary program for Grand Traverse County. This has been an extensive study that has involved analyzing all positions within the County, developing a new market for the County, assessing our position in that market, and preparing recommendations for what wages and benefits should look like to keep Grand Traverse County competitive in hiring quality employees. The study is in its final stages of completion. A draft of the proposal is expected sometime in the middle to end of March. Once the study is finalized, it will be made available to the employees' groups for review. Any changes recommended in the study need to be negotiated in the Collective Bargaining Agreements with County employees.

- **2008 Household Hazardous Waste Collection Dates** - Household Hazardous Waste Collection dates have been set by the Resource Recovery Council with the first HHW collection to be conducted on May 1. Initially three (3) HHW Collections will be conducted in 2008 - May, July, and September, with the possibility of a fourth collection date in November, if demand warrants it. Please check the Resource Recovery website for updates.

- **Twin Lake County Park Handicap Accessibility Project** - The project for developing handicap accessible recreation facilities at Twin Lakes County Park continues to move forward. Bids on hiring an architect and construction manager were received on February 15. A committee, including the Parks and Recreation Board members and staff, is reviewing and interviewing potential candidates with the hope to have a consultant hired by the County Board in March. The construction is anticipated to begin in the spring. More than 75% of the funds needed to complete this study have already been raised with the latest contribution of \$25,000 received from the Grand Traverse County Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians.

- **Road Commission Public Hearing** - The Grand Traverse County Board of Commissioners conducted a public hearing at their February Board of Commissioners Meeting on Wednesday, February 27, 2008, to receive input on the possibility of increasing the Road Commission Board from three (3) to five (5) members. This was the second public hearing held on this issue. At that meeting, the County Board approved the motion to expand the Road Commission Board from three (3) to five (5) members. The County Board have further indicated an interest in changing the Road Commission Board members from appointed to elected, if in the future, Road Commission Board members

can be elected from districts to ensure countywide representation. The County Board has sent letters to our state legislators asking them to introduce legislation to allow Road Commissioners to be elected from districts. County Commissioners are also working with the Michigan Association of Counties (MAC) to assist them in the efforts to get this law changed. On Wednesday, February 27<sup>th</sup> the County Board also approved a motion to change the benefits of Road Commissioners both current and retired to align with those of other County employees.