



Administrator's Update 7/7/09

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✚ **Board of Public Works RFQ's** The County Board of Public Works has directed that Request for Qualifications (RFQ's) be issued for hiring legal counsel to represent the Board of Public Works and its sewer and water issues. A separate RFQ has been issued for the Board of Public Works to hire legal counsel for its solid waste issues. The RFQ's are due in the middle of July. A committee will be assigned to review qualifications, select attorneys and firms to be interviewed, and select a firm to negotiate a contract. This differentiates from the past where one attorney served all purposes. The Board of Public Works is going to explore the possibility of specialized attorneys - one with utility backgrounds and one with solid waste backgrounds - to provide more targeted legal assistance to their respective boards. In addition, the Board of Public Works has directed staff to prepare an RFQ for hiring an engineering firm to be an in house engineering firm to be used for daily engineering work for the Board of Public Works. That RFQ will be presented to the Board of Public Works at their July meeting.


✚ **Commission on Aging Petition for Unionization** The County has been notified that the Commission on Aging employees have petitioned to become unionized. An election will be held in the near future to determine whether that will take place. Initially, the union wanted the Commission on Aging employees to be a separate union. The County opposed this, suggesting that if they have an election to become unionized, that they be accreted into the Teamsters General Union prior to adhering with the Michigan Employment Relations Commission, the union and the County agreed. An election will be scheduled for Commission on Aging employees to consider accreting to the Teamsters General Union. Additionally, we've been notified that the Department of Public Works employees have signed petitions to have an election to be unionized. That request is in process.


✚ **Dams** City Manager, R. Ben Bifoss, and I are working on the organizational structure to undertake the removal of the Boardman, Sabin, and Brown Bridge Dams and the modification of the Union Street Dam. The County Board and the City Commission, in the past two weeks, approved a concept where the management of the dam modifications will be undertaken by the Implementation Team. The Implementation Team is a group of agencies that came together three and a half years ago by agreement for all their respective boards and agencies to undertake the Boardman River Dams study. They include the City, the County, Michigan DEQ, Michigan DNR, US Fish & Wildlife, the Tribe, the Michigan Dams Coalition, and the Traverse City Board of Light & Power. Those agencies on the Implementation Team will be expanded to include other agencies such as Soil Conservation, the Conservation Resource Alliance, and hopefully, Rotary Charities to oversee the dam implementation process.

✚ **Grand Traverse Band Tribal Relations** Recently, the Chairman, Vice Chairman, and I had an opportunity to meet with Tribal Chairman, Derek Bailey, and Legal Counsel, John Petoskey. Several topics were discussed including the criteria for establishing 2% project awards, conceptual agreement for the financial treatment of new development on trust land, and general discussions about building and strengthening relationships with local communities and the Tribe. The meeting was very fruitful and much progress was made. We look forward to a continued strong relationship with the Tribe in upcoming years.

 **East Bay Assessing Contract** Staff is working with East Bay Township Supervisor Glen Lile on a new contractual agreement for the County to provide assessing for East Bay Township. Three and a quarter years ago, East Bay Township asked Grand Traverse County, through our Equalization Department, to take over assessing responsibilities in the township. The County Board and the township agreed to a contract, which is being completed. The County Board directed us to work with East Bay to develop a new three-year contract. That draft contract is complete and is being sent to East Bay Township for consideration and will be brought before the County Board in July.

 **Easling Pool Study** The Parks and Recreation Department recently completed a pool analysis study conducted by Lutra Aquatics, Inc. That study made a number of recommendations for changes to the operation of the pool in order to bring the revenues more in line with expenses. One of the main recommendations made was for the County to hire an Aquatics Manager to oversee the management of the pool. The Parks Board approved that recommendation this last month as did the County Board. The position is currently being advertised, and we hope to have someone on board in August or September. The other recommendations are numerous and we are beginning to analyze those at this time with hopes to begin implementation of them with the new Aquatics Manager.

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 **Web Streaming/Live Meeting Broadcasts** The County Board of Commissioners broadcasts its committee and board meetings held in the Commission Chambers at the Governmental Center both live via web streaming and on-demand on the County's web site - www.grandtraverse.org. Click on the "Meeting Videos" link from the County's home page and select "Web Streamed Meeting Videos".

In addition, meetings are broadcast live on government channel 99. The meetings are rebroadcast the following Sunday beginning at 1:00 p.m. Meetings not held in the Commission Chambers may be included in the Sunday rebroadcast.



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