





Administrator's Update 11/13/07


County Administration
400 Boardman Avenue
Traverse City, MI 49684
(231) 922-4780
Fax (231) 922-4427
Email: daloia@grandtraverse.org

- Historic Courthouse Renovation** - The Board of Commissioners are currently considering a Historic Courthouse renovation. Earlier the County Board approved the replacement of all the windows in the courthouse. This project has been awarded to Hallmark Construction and will be underway by the time you read this. The County has now taken bids on the remainder of the construction project including an alternate to re-wire the whole courthouse building. As you can imagine in a building that has been in existence for over 100 or so years, much of the wiring in the building is in various stages of disrepair and needs replacement. The problem is exacerbated by the fact that the building is worked in 40 or more hours per week, it is very old, and we are limited in its access through the walls and ceilings. The Physical Resources Committee will review the bids this week with hopes of the Board considering approval on the rest of the construction project at the end of this month. The project will renovate the basement floor of the building vacated by the District Court for use of State Probation, as well as, remodeling the second and third floors to better accommodate the existing staff of the Circuit Court and Friend of the Court. Finally, the County Clerk, who is the Clerk of the Circuit Court, will be moving into the first level, along with State Probation. This will make the primary access for the public all on the first floor. The construction bids are around the \$350,000 range. Money has been set aside and budgeted for this project in the Court Capital Improvement Fund.
- TBAYS Soccer Field** - Another project under consideration by the County Board of Commissioners this next month will be constructing a new public access road off of Keystone Road adjacent to the TBAYS Soccer Field. This is a County Park currently operated by TBAYS. The existing entrance to this park is a private drive owned by Consumer Power and they have indicated to us that it will no longer be available after next year, thus necessitating the need to put in a public entrance to the facility. This is one of our primary parks and probably second to the Civic Center in terms of the number of people who utilize the facility. We are currently putting out bids for this project, which will move the entrance area to the North part of the property and tie it into the existing road that has been installed by TBAYS several years ago. The County Road Commission is helping us with this project through the bidding and design and will oversee the construction of the project, if the County Board decides to move forward. If approved, we hope to have the project completed by next summer.
- Audio and Video Installation of the City and County Commission Chambers** - The City has been working with the County, and remodeling and updating the City/County Commission Chambers. This update includes a new video camera system so that all

meetings held within the chamber may be viewed live on government channel 99. The meetings will also be taped and available to the public. In addition, the project will include a new multi-media center, which will provide a better view of information being provided to the Boards and Commissions by the public attendees in the Commission Chamber. Finally, the County is investigating the possibility of online, live viewing of County Board Meetings and Ways & Means Meetings, through home computers on the Internet. The system that we are currently looking at can provide that and allow us to archive all past meetings to be shown simultaneously on computer screens along with the agendas for those meetings. Of course, the goal of this is to improve public access to City and County meetings and services. An interesting side benefit to this will be that the room will be available for other training sessions. Training sessions can be held in the room, video taped and then shown at later dates on government access television or over the computer. This will provide greater access to training throughout the community.

 **Resource Recovery** - Many changes are currently underway in the Resource Recovery Department. The County Board has changed the staffing level of this department by eliminating one position for 2008. In addition, the County Board is engaging in meetings with the Resource Recovery Council to determine the future direction of this department. A meeting is scheduled at 4:00pm on November 20th, 2007 in the Lower Level Conference Room located in the Governmental Building at 400 Boardman Avenue, where the two Boards will meet to commence discussions on the future of the program and the department. County Administration is working to analyze the situation and recommend a plan for operation of the Resource Recovery Department during the time in which the County discerns the future direction of the program.

 **Strategic Planning Seminar** - Recently, the County Department Heads and Supervisors attended a training session on how to initiate performance measurement into the annual evaluation of their department's performance. This training was conducted by NMC, with Linda Racine facilitating. The training helped departments to identify goals and objectives for next year, as well as, how to establish measurements that can demonstrate to the public, the County Board, and the departments, the effectiveness of the programs that they undertake. This is the first step in meeting the goals established by the County Board of Commissioners to improve customer service and performance in all departments. This program continues its development and we anticipate that implementation will take place during the 2008 calendar year.

 **County Citizen Newsletter** - The County is working on its second newsletter. We intend to do one more hard copy of the newsletter, which will be delivered to every resident and business in Grand Traverse County. We will concentrate this newsletter in several areas, but primarily law enforcement and the court system. There will also be an article on Septage Treatment. Our strategy will be to use this newsletter to advise the public that this will be the last newsletter that will be mailed in hard copy format due to the cost involved in producing and mailing the newsletter. Our intent will be to ask people to submit their email addresses to us so that we can begin our next newsletter as an e-newsletter that will be sent via the Internet. We will still, in all

likelihood, print hard copies that will be distributed at Libraries, Town Halls, and the County and City facilities. The significant cost involved in mailing the newsletter to homes and businesses will be curtailed at that point in time. The committee that worked on this thought that it would be important to do one more hard copy newsletter in order to give people an opportunity to help us develop an email listing to provide future information. We hope to have this newsletter out in January or February 2008.