



Administrator's Update 11/27/07

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

- **Resource Recovery Program** - On Tuesday, November 20th, the County Board of Commissioners met in Special Session with the Resource Recovery Council of Grand Traverse County to discuss the future direction of the Resource Recovery Program. In the 2008 Budget, the County Board eliminated one position, taking the staffing levels down to 1.5 FTE's. In addition, the County Board expressed a desire to look seriously at eliminating the landfill surcharge, which currently sits at \$9.00/ton. All users pay for this surcharge through service fees as part of their collection rate. The haulers have been responsible for paying the \$9.00/ton surcharge when waste is brought to the landfill. It is estimated that an average family produces about 1 ton of waste garbage per year and therefore pays approximately \$9.00 annually for this service. The funding for the surcharge pays for all recycling in Grand Traverse County including the 9 recycling drop-offs, Household Hazardous Waste Programs, Electronics Collection Programs and Pesticide Collection Programs. The meeting was an introductory meeting to commence discussions on the future direction of the Resource Recovery Program. A plan was laid out for interim operation. Another meeting is planned for December 12th with a second one being held on January 9th. The purpose of the meetings of the two Boards is to do intensive planning to develop a direction of the program for future years.
- **911 Dispatch Services** - Region 7 of the State Emergency Management System, which represents a good portion of the Northern part of the Lower Peninsula, received a 1.3 million dollar grant to look at ways to consolidate 911 Central Dispatch Services. Discussions will take place about this proposal with Grand Traverse County and the surrounding 4 or 5 Counties. Discussions are in the very early stages and potential for such a consolidation is yet to be determined. Grand Traverse County has pledged to work with those officials to explore more efficient ways to deliver more efficient 911 Dispatch Services.
- **Veteran Affairs Expansion** - In Committee this past week, the County committed to continue their efforts to work with the Federal Veteran's Administration to secure expanded VA services for Veteran's in the Grand Traverse County area. The VA has continually expanded services over the last 5 to 6 years, providing more specialty services for Veterans. Doing so eliminates the need for veterans to drive to Saginaw, Detroit or Grand Rapids for some of their needed services. The County believes that we should work to continue to increase those locally available specialty services. It is estimated that there are more than 77,000 Veterans in the Northern Lower Peninsula that must travel downstate for the majority of their services. Chuck Lerchen, our

Veterans Affairs Director, is working with the Federal Government to expand these services and the County has made their commitment to work closely to find appropriate facilities to assist the VA in their efforts to expand services.

- **Grand Visioning Process** - The Ways and Means Committee of the County Board last week considered a short-term advance for local units of government who have pledged their support for the Grand Visioning Process, but may not have budgeted funds in this year's budget. The majority of local units of government in Grand Traverse County and Elmwood Township have pledged money to help support the Grand Visioning Process. This money will be used as local contributions to match the Federal support that we receive for the Grand Visioning Process. Last week the County Board approved a plan to provide TALUS with short-term advances for those local communities who have firmly committed the money, but have not had a chance to budget it in their next fiscal year. The County will loan such money at no interest and be reimbursed from those local units when they have the opportunities to budget the funds.
- **Strategic Planning Seminar** -This past month, Grand Traverse County Supervisors and Department Heads began an education process to learn how to have better performance measurements in regards to the services they provide. Departments were trained in how to develop annual strategic goals that align with the County Board of Commissioners long-term goals. They are now in the process of developing performance standards so that our success can be measured annually as we come to meet those goals. This work will continue for the next year with the eventual goal of providing better customer service and a means to measure our successes and meeting the needs of our public. This was a 2008 goal of the Grand Traverse County Board of Commissioners.
- **5th Annual Adoption Day** - This past week the Grand Traverse County Family Court under the leadership of Judge David Stowe conducted the 5th Annual Adoption Day. Nineteen children were adopted on this day at the Robert P. Griffin Hall of Justice. Michigan Supreme Court Justice, Elizabeth Weaver and Judge Stowe presided over the adoptions. Traverse Family Court was one of 33 counties in the state who have established this adoption day.