



## Administrator's Update 11/2/09

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**Construction Code** The County is working with the City on the renegotiation of the concept that sets up the responsibility for code enforcement programs in the City with the County Construction Code Department. This relationship has been in place for a number of years and, by all estimations, seems to be working very well. I am working with the City Manager at this time to renegotiate the contract for presentation to the City Commission and the County Board of Commissioners. This contract includes no expenditures from the City, but establishes the same building code rates that are charged throughout the County for any project that takes place in the City. Therefore, it is cost neutral to both entities.

**Labor Negotiations** I continue to negotiate labor contracts for the County. There are currently three tentative agreements in place to give wage increases next year at 1.5%. There remain four more contracts that have wage re-openers that have to be reevaluated and two more contracts that expire at the end of this year. The 1.5% wage increase for next year compares favorably with the increases by TCAPS - 2%, NMC - 2%, and the City of Traverse City - 2%.

**Dams** The Implementation Team of the Boardman River Dams Committee's remodeling and removal project continues to delineate functions and duties. It appears that there are two general areas that we will focus on. First and foremost, from the perspective of the County and the City, will be the removal of Brown Bridge, Sabin, and Boardman Dams and the remodeling of Union Street Dam. A second related piece of this project will be to look at a long-term management plan for the Boardman River Valley. This will require us to pull in many of the interested parties such as the Grand Traverse Conservation District to do a long-term strategy and plan for the management of the river valley. We consider both of these to be essential to the long-term successful reuse of the valley. We have received a strong indication from the Army Corps of Engineers that they will be willing to complete the engineering and design of the dam removal project on behalf of the local community. We are currently under negotiations with the Army Corps to determine the cost and the length of time it will take to complete this project; although, we understand most of the cost will be born by the Army Corps of Engineers by federal appropriation.

**Third Floor Remodeling Project** The County continues to complete the third floor remodeling project. The main focus of this project will be to create new headquarters for the 911/Central Dispatch staff. That staff will be moving to the southwest corner of the third floor, giving them more space and, finally, window space. It will also coincide with the upgrade of the Dispatch stations that was approved earlier this year by the County Board and is so critical for efficient operation. In addition, the wiring for the Dispatch Center will be upgraded to the latest technology to allow for future technological advances and improvements in the system. In addition, the rest of the floor will be remodeled to accompany the current users, which include Finance, Planning, Brownfield, and Information Technology. Also moving to the third floor will be GIS, Administration, and the Human Resources Offices. The Human Resources Office move is especially important to better serve the public and customers seeking employment. The project is being phased and reconstruction is taking place in two major phases. We anticipate moving 911/Central Dispatch to their new headquarters the third and fourth weeks in November. When that is completed, the rest of the staff on that floor will be moved to other locations so the north half of the building can be remodeled. That is anticipated to be completed early next year. When it is completed, that staff will be relocated to their offices and Human Resources, GIS, and the

Administrative Offices will be moved upstairs. We are hoping for a February to March project completion.

✚ **Central Records** Grand Traverse County has received a letter from the City of Traverse City asking that the County engage in active discussions with the City to consider funding options for our Central Records program and an evaluation of police services currently provided by the City and the County. In terms of the Central Records program, the City currently pays the County about \$190,000 a year to manage the records system for the Traverse City Police Department. The City has expressed a desire to have the County take over that cost since the County does not charge other community police agencies - such as Garfield Township - any costs for records. The County Board has not taken an official position on this at this time.

✚ **2010 Budget** The 2010 County budget was adopted by the County Board this past week. The Board did not include recommended Segal salaries in that approval due to the economic conditions at this time. The budget is generally a maintenance budget. Two new positions were added by the Board in the last few weeks: one is a Call Taker position to assist in call activity in 911/Central Dispatch and the second one is increasing the Veteran's counselor to a full time position.

✚ **H1N1/Swine Flu Vaccine** The swine flu problem is increasing here in Grand Traverse County as evidenced by the school closings recently. The County Health Department has been prepared for some time to deliver vaccine to the community based on the priorities dictated by the federal government. Thirty-eight clinics have been established at this point in time while only two have been conducted. The problem at this point is the County is awaiting vaccine to be delivered so that it can be distributed to the citizens. We are hopeful that the vaccine will be delivered very soon. Watch the County and Health Department web sites - [www.grandtraverse.org](http://www.grandtraverse.org) and [www.grandtraverse.org/departments/health](http://www.grandtraverse.org/departments/health) - for further announcements of vaccine availability.

✚ **Aquatics Director** I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome the new Aquatics Director, Kim Moore. Kim joins us from the state of Oregon where she worked in pool management in several locations. We're pleased to have her here and look forward to her evaluation of the Lutra Study, which was done earlier this year, and her suggestions for improving customer service to our citizens.

✚ **Stay in touch!** If you would like to receive periodic news and event information from Grand Traverse County, subscribe for the County's email announcements by visiting [www.grandtraverse.org](http://www.grandtraverse.org) and following the directions provided on our website. Receive up-to-date information such as press releases, updates from your County Administrator, and changes to the televised meeting schedule.

✚ **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](http://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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