



Administrator's Update 10/03/08

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✚ **Boardman River Dams Project Public Survey** Work on the Boardman River Dams Project continues. The public information survey portion of the study is currently underway. Information and opinions made in survey format can be reviewed online on the internet by accessing www.theboardman.org. Surveys are available to all interested parties to make your opinion known to assist the Boardman River Dams Committee in making recommendations to the County and City as to the disposition of the four dams: Union, Sabin, Boardman, and Brown Bridge. Everyone is encouraged to go to the website and complete a survey.

✚ **Boardman River Dam Equipment Modification** We continue to work with the individual who purchased the hydropower generating equipment at the Boardman and Sabin Dams. We have asked him to modify the hydro generating equipment in the Boardman Dam to allow water to free-flow through the penstock thereby reducing fluctuations as a result of rain. As the rain season approaches, we don't want to mitigate any further damage to shoreline that is caused by these fluctuations. A deadline of October 10 has been set for him to provide engineering as to how he might do that without removing the equipment. If he is not able to do so, the equipment will be removed to allow water to flow.


✚ **Segal Study Appeal Process** The County Board of Commissioners is considering moving forward with phased implementation of the Segal Study results. There are two steps for possible implementation. First, all Union employees' implementation will have to be conducted through collective bargaining. The second group, which includes Non-Union Hourly and Exempt employees, will be implemented by the County Board. The County Board has developed a process to consider disagreements with the study, and those evaluations will be done over the next several months with the Board for Non-Union employees. Any disagreements with Union employees will have to be handled through the collective bargaining process.


✚ **Collective Bargaining Contracts** In a related matter, collective bargaining negotiations are underway with seven (7) contracts currently open. The contracts are in various stages of negotiations with most in the concluding stages of language changes and the beginning of economic proposals being shared by both sides. We have already started to receive requests to open contracts that will end at the end of 2008. Six (6) contracts expire at the end of 2008 that must be negotiated for next year.

✚ **New Imaging System Implemented** This week, the County has begun the implementation of the new imaging system for Grand Traverse County. The system is being implemented in the Friend of the Court Office, the Family Court Clerk's Office, the Finance Office, and the Prosecuting Attorney's Office. Vendors are here this week beginning the actual implementation. Today, I was able to view the new system with Dawn Rogers of Friend of the Court. I was impressed with how intricate the system is and how information is automatically channeled to those employees with responsibilities for any given case, which could include multiple employees involved with one case. I think the system holds a great deal of promise and should substantially cut paperwork and filing and provide more efficient access to information with considerably less redundancy.

 **Hiring Status of Vacant Positions** I am in the process of hiring a new Resource Recovery Manager and Human Resources Director. In terms of the Resource Recovery Manager, I have asked for a team of the Chairs of the Board of Commissioners, the Board of Public Works, and the Resource Recovery Council to sit with me, along with John Sych, Planning Director, on an interview team to evaluate candidates. I have asked each board chair to answer a series of questions indicating his or her feelings on what attributes are needed in a new manager. I used these to do an initial screening of the applicants. I have now reduced the number of applicants to approximately 10. Each of the board members and John Sych will be asked to rank those applicants, and I hope to bring in the top 3-5 applicants to interview with that panel within the next 3-4 weeks.

In regards to the Human Resources Director, an initial review of the applications has been completed, and I am working with the HR staff to bring this list down to a final number between 6 and 8 that will be brought in for interviews. An interview team made up of department heads and elected officials from various departments will be used to interview candidates. We hope to conduct interviews at the end of October or the first part of November. We hope to have someone hired prior to the beginning of the year.

 **Historic Courthouse Renovations Near Completion** On October 17, Danny Brown, Facilities Management Director, and the Facilities staff, along with the Friend of the Court, will begin the move of the Friend of the Court offices back to the historic courthouse. That move will take place on Friday and over the weekend. When that move is complete, the furniture company will be in to reassemble furnishings for the State Probation Offices. October 28, we hope to move the State Probations Offices back to the historic courthouse, at which time the historic courthouse renovations will be complete. Thanks to all those who participated in the renovations, especially Judge Rodgers and Judge Power who worked hard on the renovation including much of the redesign.

 **Fire Education Prevention Programs** The County Board of Commissioners and I have worked with the Rural and Metro Fire Departments to redefine how the Fire Education Program will be done in Grand Traverse County. I am pleased to announce that the fire departments have now come to an agreement, and the Fire Education Prevention Program will be conducted by Metro Fire on behalf of the two fire departments. Contracts will be developed to support this change. Metro Fire has already begun the work and is planning the school year for those education programs.

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