

Island citizens,

After 6 meetings and wrapping up the 2013 town budget in preparation for the 2014 budget, Your Town Board feels that the 2014 budget is a success by staying within the prescribed levy limits set by the State for 2014. It's been a challenging budget. The cost of doing business isn't going down. In addition annual non-property tax revenues to the Town are not increasing. Also, you recall last year that the Town had proposed doing some Capital Improvement Projects to enhance the Town as a whole. We did do some significant smaller projects that were all a great success. They include rehabilitating Gislason Beach, a new Detroit Harbor boat launch ramp; New wells at Jackson Harbor and the Art and Nature Center, new HVAC air handling units were installed in the Community Center building as well as needed renovations of the Town Office and Rutledge Room, Archives and Clinic. All these projects were funded by using the unassigned fund of the Town, or money that was sitting in the "General Fund".

We still want to do some minor town projects in the 2014 Budget season. With that being said, along with our continuing cost of operations, we are proposing a minor levy increase to do some of these improvements in 2014. The Board feels that doing some more work on the Community Center is a must. We want to remodel the bathrooms and bring them up to ADA handicap compliance and possibly do some improvements to the kitchen. We would like to enhance Mountain Park by putting in a well and pit toilet. There has been discussion about adding a small pavilion at School House Beach for families to use for reunions and gatherings.

We still plan on paving about 3-4 miles of Town roads in conjunction with Door County being up here while they do their County roadwork.

No one likes their taxes to increase, but the proposed minor Levy increase would be the first in 3 years. It's a tax rate increase from \$3.18 per \$1000.00 of assessment to \$3.54 per \$1000.00 of assessment.

The annual budget hearing on the 20<sup>th</sup> will be a questions and answer session for the public to weigh in and convey your thoughts to the Town Board. Please come and ask questions.

Regards,

Town Board, Town of Washington

Chairman: Joel Gunnlaugsson

Supervisors: Elizabeth Holmes, Randy Sorensen, Kirby Foss and John Rader