

CITY MANAGER REPORT

Reporting Period: February 24 – March 22, 2024

Prepared By: Phillip A. Zavadil, City Manager

Date: March 22, 2024

ADMINISTRATION

VIRTUAL MEETING WITH SENATOR MURKOWSKI'S AND REPRESENTATIVE PELTOLA'S STAFF

On March 19, 2024, Lynn, Mateo, and I met with Dana Herndon with Senator Murkowski's office to discuss FY25 appropriations requests and to provide her with an update on the new landfill project that was a result of FY22 appropriations requests. Also, on March 22, 2024, Lynn, Mateo, and I met with Logan Basner with Representative Peltola's office to discuss FY25 appropriations requests. See the attached appropriations requests that were submitted to Murkowski and Petola.

US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS HARBOR MAINTENANCE PROJECT

I spoke with the Army Corps representation on March 8, 2024 regarding the status of the harbor maintenance project and bids. The Corps requested additional funding for the rock portion of the project for FY26. The Corps will be issuing an open RFP to the three bidders for the dredge portion of the project. This RFP should go out this month and be open for 30 days. The maintenance dredge if awarded will occur next year.

AIR TRANSPORTATION

Meeting with USDOT EAS Office – On February 28, 2024, City, ACSPI, CBSFA and TDX met with representatives from the US Department of Transportation Essential Air Service (EAS) office to discuss the recent announcement by Ravn Alaska about layoffs and what that might mean for passenger service for Saint Paul Island. If for some reason Ravn was not able to continue to provide service to our community, EAS could issue an emergency RFP for interested carriers. Approval for another airline to service our community under this RFP would take 90 days. We also had a fruitful discussion regarding how we could use the EAS program to lower ticket prices. We will be following up on this, during the next EAS solicitation.

Meeting with Ravn – On February 28, 2024, City, ACSPI, CBSFA and TDX met with Tina Hanley, Chief Commercial Officer with Ravn Alaska to discuss the status of Ravn. Tina stated that Ravn was doing some restructuring to become more efficient, and that Ravn is committed to continuing to provide passenger service to our community. She stated that they would be have a schedule change and commit to adding a fourth flight in the summer months.

Ravn Interview on KUHB – On March 13, 2024 Tina Hanley, Chief Commercial Officer with Ravn Alaska was interviewed on KUHB regarding Ravn's service. Tina stated that Ravn was doing some restructuring to become more efficient, and that Ravn is committed to continuing to provide passenger



service to our community. We discussed a bit why ticket prices were so high. Tina also was going to follow up regarding the Aleutian resident rates. This is the day of the power outage so the interview was cut short.

FACILITY LEASES

Civic Center – I am finalizing the update to the Civic Center lease to the Aleut Community of Saint Paul which should be signed by the end of this month. Due to the lease being for a year with annual renewal, per the City Code of Ordinances, City Council does not need to approve the lease.

Public Works - I am finalizing the lease of Public Works to the Aleut Community of Saint Paul = for space for the food bank and building traditional boats and carving. Which should be signed by the end of this month. Due to the lease being for a year with annual renewal, per the City Code of Ordinances, City Council does not need to approve the lease.

PLANNING AND ZONING

Plat Application – I am waiting for some more information from the US Coast Guard before scheduling a Planning and Zoning Commission to review this application.

Zoning Variance Application – The Aleut Community of Saint Paul is revising their variance application to change the request for a for a variance form house 130 to house 127.

Application for Construction for Duplexes – The Aleut Community of Saint Paul has applied for construction to construct four new duplex units on the lots along Colonel Fouke Street. This application is under review. This will require an extension of the sewer main and Colonel Fouke Street

AGREEMENTS/CONTRACTS/GRANTS

EDA Small Boat Harbor (SBH) Utilities Extension

Easements – I am still waiting on Alaska DNR amended patent. I have a meeting tentatively scheduled for March 29th with TDX regarding the easements required for this project.

ADEC Approval to Construct – Kuna submitted the application to construct for the sewer portion of this project to ADEC for approval.

USDA Loan for Electric Utility Upgrades – On February 27, 2024, the City received notice that a loan guarantee commitment in the amount of \$13,695,000 was approved by the USDA Rural Utility Service (*see attached letter*). Processing the loan could take several months.

USDA RUS HECG for Airport Feeder Replacement – Now that the USDA loan has been approved, we can proceed with the airport feeder project. We have updated the implementation plan (*see attached*) and sent to USDA RUS for approval.

USEPA STAG for Aalax Solid Waste Facility

Fencing – Fencing for the perimeter of the landfill has been purchased and will ship on Bowhead's May sailing.

Flatbed – The aluminum flatbed for the current refuse truck is complete and ready to be shipped. We are working on arranging shipping.

Equipment Building – The design for the equipment building has been completed by Hanson Pole Buildings. Polarconsult reviewed and commented on the design. Comments were sent to Hanson to make corrections. Once the design is corrected, we will order the siding roofing, and doors for the building.

Surveying – The City and 3-Tiers Alaska signed a contract for the performing surveying for the new landfill, the road and equipment building pad. The surveyor is scheduled to be onsite and start surveying late May/early June.

SOA CBDG and AEA for Bulk Fuel Facility Upgrades

95% Design –Polarconsult is behind on completing the 95% design for this project which is going to result in a delay for construction bid and construction.

Design report for New Controls - Polarconsult is behind on completing design report for the new controls for the tank farm. We look at the resent Denali Commission funding to replace the controls.

USDOT SS4A Grant for Comprehensive Safety Action Plan

Community Meeting – Kuna team will be on island the week of April 15, 2024. During this time, they will be talking with community members and entities regarding safety concerns on the roads. Additionally, we will be hosting a community meeting to discuss safety concerns on the roads. The date and time for community meeting has yet to be set.

Outreach – The Saint Paul Island Infrastructure webpage is live. It can be found at <https://projects.stpaulak.com>. Information on specific projects will be accessed via this site. The SS4A project can be directly accessed at <https://projects.stpaulak.com/ss4a-action-plan/>. See the interactive map on this site.

Thriving Communities Program (TCP) Technical Assistance

Grant Assistance – The TCP Team is assisting Lynn and I will review and development of RAISE, PDIP and other infrastructure grant proposals.

Community Visit – The TCP Team will be visiting the community sometime this fall.

SOA VSW Lift Station Replacement Grant – Kuna completed the draft 100% design drawings (*see attached*).

Update

SOA Homeland Security Program for Harbor CCTV System

EHP Screening Form – We are still waiting on FEMA to approve the form so we can move forward with this project.

Request for Quotes – The City received one quote for this project. We are waiting on the State to approve the contractor quote so we can move forward with this project.

SOA-DHSEM State and Local Cybersecurity Grant - On March 4, 2024, the City received notice (*see attached letter*) that the State of Alaska Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management awarded the City \$30,000 to perform a cybersecurity assessment. Lynn and I will be attending a grant kickoff meeting on April 2nd.

Denali Commission Program Grant – On March 11, 2024, the City received notice (*see attached letter*) that the Denali Commission awarded the City \$567,600 in non-federal matching funds for the Small Boat Harbor Utility project to cover the City’s required match for this project that is funded by EDA.

CBSFA Funding - On February 27, 2024, the City received notice (*see attached letter*) that CBSFA would provide the City funding for 1) community events, 2) laborer positions for community events, 3) travel for Mateo to attend NPFMC meetings, 4) EMS volunteer stipends, 5) fuel trailers, 6) fire hydrants, 7) EMS equipment, and 8) matching funds for the SBH Utility project.

SOA Division of Forestry & Fire Protection Grant - On March 16, 2024, the City received notice (*see attached letter*) that the State of Alaska Division of Forestry & Fire Protection awarded the City \$7,000 for the equipment to send 911 calls to an emergency radio used by the VPSOs and EMT.

See Project/Grant Specialist’s report for more information on grants.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

VPSOs

Logan will be leaving the VPSO program. He will be departing Saint Paul Island on March 31, 2024. Nicholas Swanson will be our new VPSO. Nick arrives on April 14th. Nick is a veteran and is coming to us from Montana. Nick will need to attend the VPSO academy in July.

While Kevin and Nick are at the academy, we will have a rotating VPSO.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION DIVISION

Roads – City crews have been working diligently to maintain the roads and perform snow removal. It has been challenging to keep up with the changing ice and no ice conditions. It is advised that resident slow down and drive according to the conditions.

Facilities Maintenance – The Facilities Maintenance crew has been working to make various repairs to City boilers, doors, and other items on City facilities in need of repair.

MOTOR POOL DIVISION

Fuel Tanker #409 – Damon has adjusted the brakes on the UD tanker and parts are on order to fix the brakes on a permeant basis.

Fuel Tanker #429 - Damon fixed the brakes on the tanker and is waiting for some other parts to fix the throttle control. This tanker should be on the road soon.

Snow Plow – The snow plow that is used on the CAT 926 loader was damaged. We are accessing what needs to be repaired and what will be the most cost-effective repair to the plow.

Refuse Truck – The hydraulics on the refuse truck are working again. The truck should be on the road this next week. A huge thank you to Damon for getting this truck working again.

Vehicles – Damon is working on getting several vehicles operational again. We are waiting on parts to fix some of them.

Customer Work Orders – Once Damon catches up on a back log of repairs the City will begin accepting work orders to work on customer vehicles. I expect sometime next month we will be ready to accept work orders. The mechanic rate is \$150 per hour.

BULK FUEL UTILITY

Fuel Supply – As of February 29, 2024, the City has 68,815 gallons of gasoline and 383,043 gallons of diesel.

Resupply – On March 7, 2024, Stephanie, Caitlin and I met with Mike Poston with Vitus Marine to discuss fuel deliveries for 2024. We will be received gasoline and diesel in three deliveries. The first delivery is schedule for late May/early June this year.

ELECTRIC UTILITY

Trident Connection –EPS/EPC arrived on March 3, 2024 to start connecting the Trident plant to the City Electrical Grid. The crew completed the work and testing on March 11, 2024. Due to the cold temps and higher than usual electrical demand from the town and Trident we are not able to bring Trident online until it works up or Unit 6 is overhauled.

Power Outages – On March 13, 2024 we had a series of power outages that day. The first power outage at approximately 09:20 was due to what we initially thought was from a belt slipping on the radiator outside and Unit #6 getting to hot, so the power tripped to protect the engine. Later is was discovered the their may have been on under frequency issues due to too much load on Unit #5 with Trident online. The next series of power outages on this day were a result of attempting to bring Trident online. Unit #5 will not be able to provide power to town and to Trident during the winter months. Unit # 6 will but will need to be overhauled first. The new John Deere gensets will be able to handle the load but we may need two gensets running in parallel during the winter to handle the load.

Unit #6 – We have scheduled NC Machinery to perform an in frame overhaul on EU ID 6. Parts have been ordered. However, injectors and cylinder packs have long lead times. I have reached out to NC to see if they could get parts sooner to have the service performed in April or May prior to the halibut season so that we can have Trident run on City power during this time.

Source Testing – Per the City’s air quality permit for the power plant we are required to perform source testing. Last year due to the condition of Unit #6 we requested an extension on performing this testing. Since Unit #6 is still not have the service performed on it and due to the City’s financial situation I have requested another extension on the testing (*see attached extension request*).

WATER UTILITY

Water Samples – Coliform samples were collected in February and March 2024 and sent to Alaska Water Laboratories for analysis. Coliform was absent from these samples as see in the attached reports.

Sanitary Survey – ANTHC will perform the sanitary survey on the City water system on July 17, 2024.

SEWER UTILITY

Nothing to report currently.

REFUSE UTILITY

Nothing to report currently.