

TO: Mayor Gardner
City Council Members

FROM: Andy Varner
City Administrator

DATE: January 7, 2017

SUBJ: Monthly Report for January 2017



Here is a brief list of items we've been working on since the last report, waaay back in October.

AIRPORT

- DOT, the City, and Pen Air have started to have monthly status meetings on recertifying the airport. We held our first one in December and had another last week. DOT is working with Paul on some of the winter requirements right now. The replacement ARFF truck is in Kodiak, and will be on the first or second spring ferry to Sand Point depending on space. DOT have completed most of the manuals and the wildlife assessment. They have been in talks with a couple Sand Point residents to get trained up and provide the ARFF capabilities. They will probably want at least one more trained community member for a backup. DOT will have some other maintenance work to do at the airport facility itself, but things are lining up for a spring certification at this point.

ANNEXATION

- As you can see under FYI, the Local Boundary Commission has a schedule for our annexation petition and things are moving along. The public comment period on our petition ended last month, and we received three public comments. I submitted our "reply brief" to those comments on December 28, and the next step is for the LBS staff to write a preliminary report based on the petition and comments received.
- To gain some more perspective on the process, and to meet LBC Commissioners in person, I attended the Dillingham/Manokotak annexation petition final determination meeting on Dec. 1 in Anchorage. I anticipate that at least one commissioner will be a bit adversarial to our request, objecting to taking too much water as a 2nd class city. That was brought up several times, but the other commissioners were not in agreement with him.
- Brooks Chandler is the city attorney for Dillingham, so I met with him recently as well to get his perspective on the LBC process and for advice for us going forward. He was more optimistic about our annexation changes than those for Dillingham; however, both communities basically got what they asked for with their requests, even though both were quite contentious. We will see what happens with the LBC staff in these next steps as they write their preliminary report.

FISHERIES

- As you can see under FYI, the City submitted a letter to the NPFMC related to the GoA Trawl Bycatch Management program, and I testified on behalf of the City on the importance of having a healthy and productive fleet in our community. In the end the Council took no action on the item.

CLINIC

- After a few back-and-forths and a review by Brooks, we finalized and signed the facility agreement terms and conditions in place for TDX to proceed with installation of the electric boiler in the clinic. Plans call for SPG to sell excess wind electric heat to the clinic (and the school) for \$0.06/kWh, the same rate discussed back in 2010.

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- On another matter related to the clinic, GCI reached out to me about affixing an antennae to the clinic to provide wireless microwave internet to both the school and the Borough building. This should in theory provide faster speeds for them, since the clinic is connected by fiber to the earth station. GCI wanted to get this on our radar now, and they will have a formal proposal and space/power lease agreement for the Council to consider at a future meeting. An example “co-location agreement” is attached in FYI. Leasing to GCI could provide a bit of revenue to the City, but at this point I don’t know how much, it will be for the Council to consider.
- See FYI for a note from Jennifer Harrison of EAT about a discussed IHS increase for the Village Built Clinic money we receive. There is a meeting on Feb 7th to determine any potential increase. The potential range for our clinic is \$62,372 to \$82,654. This is in contrast to the current \$32,700 we receive, although we did receive an additional \$9,300 last fall from a one-time increase in the President’s budget.

HARBOR

- Mooney, the Mayor, Patrick and I have been working on getting the *Barren Islands* vessel out of the harbor and out of Sand Point. The boat has been in the new harbor for months, and is a threat to sink or release pollutants. It was impounded last month, and now we’re in the process of trying to “sell” it as the City is now in possession of the boat. The last real hang-up now is the State, who won’t give up their rights to the lien but have also said they won’t interfere with a sale. We’re still untangling what their intentions are.

LOBBYIST

- Mark Hickey was retained again as lobbyist for 2017, at a cost of \$10,000 (used to be \$18,000 a couple years ago).

LEAVE

- I’m taking the next week off for a family vacation.