

TO: Mayor Gardner
City Council Members

FROM: Andy Varner
City Administrator

DATE: February 8, 2017

SUBJ: Monthly Report for February 2017



Here is a brief list of items we've been working on since the last report.

DOCK REPLACEMENT

- We've been holding bi-weekly meetings with PND and DOT over the dock replacement. The project schedule is now delayed a bit as they altered the design to account for bigger piles, due to some geotech findings. That, of course, drove up the costs, and also extended some of the permitting process. I've included the latest schedule and cost estimate under FYI. Things are on course for construction bidding later this fall. The cost is now about \$1-1.2M more than the original pre-design estimate. However, the delay could turn out to be a decent thing because it would allow us (or the State, really) to request a STIP Amendment in federal funding and request that additional money. It's a new day at the Federal level, obviously, so we'll just wait and see.

AIRPORT

- DOT, the City, and Pen Air are also having regular meetings and we have nothing new to report with certification. Things are still on track for a summer start, provided the targeted individuals get their ARFF training in the spring.
- You'll see under FYI that I included a "clean-up plan" to DOT regarding those two lots we lease from DOT Statewide Aviation at the airport. They weren't too happy with the condition of those properties, and the Mayor, Councilmember Mobeck and I surveyed the scene last month to determine what is still there and what needs to go. There is still work to be done and we should give our sub-leaser notice that the remaining items need to be removed this spring.

ANNEXATION

- Nothing new to report here, aside from I provided some additional information to the Local Boundary Commission (LBC) staff regarding our petition so they could write their preliminary report, which is due next month. I think they also reached out to other entities like the Shumagin Corporation to get their thoughts. I attended the most recent Borough meeting last week, and it sounded like the Assembly did not intend to weigh in on the petition.

CLINIC FUNDING

- The IHS and Alaska Native Health Board had a meeting last week to discuss increased Village Built Clinic funding. They didn't come to an agreement, but according to EAT they're going to take up the issue again next month. We could be in line for a decent increase, \$20,000 annually or more, if IHS accepts the proposal.

OXFORD HOUSE

- Last month Councilmember Starnes inquired about the "halfway house" that was being discussed with EAT and other groups, like AHA. I asked Jennifer Harrison for an update on the Oxford House model, and here is her reply:

- *I am sorry for the slow response and also for not updating you earlier about the Oxford House. Our Behavioral Health & Wellness Department and then our Board decided to officially STOP working towards this idea at this time. Main reason there are not enough community members with years of experience in recovery to help mentor newly sober/clean community members. We decided to focus all our attention on getting an Intensive Outpatient Program going. This will enable us to provide 9 hours per week of individual counseling, group counseling via video teleconference, medically-assisted treatment and detox. Once we can create some community members with more experience in recovery, then we would encourage them and support them in starting the Oxford House on their own.*

HARBOR

- You can see a letter under FYI of our latest attempt to rid the community, and the harbor, of the decrepit *Barren Islands* boat. As you'll recall, the City impounded the vessel and attempted to sell it. But the sole interested bidder would take it and haul it off *if* the title was free and clear, with no liens against. The biggest, and only lien, we've found is from the State, who said a couple times they would not release the lien. However, we had a more in-depth discussion with the State Commerce employee working these issues, and she requested a joint letter from the City and potential buyer explaining our situation. I think if we must we can "go nuclear" in the end and have House Speaker Rep Edgmon, DCCED Commissioner Hladick, or even the Governor intervene on behalf of the community. I consider that a last resort and hope this letter solves the issue.

NEW HARBOR FLOAT

- The Borough allocated \$100,000 in this year's budget to finalize the design of the float system in the big boat harbor. The engineering consultant advised that the current design (65%) of Float A is sufficient enough to go to bid with, so they just revised the cost estimate instead. That figure is now up to \$6.5M. The AEB Federal lobbyist Brad Gilman requested projects from the Borough that are "shovel ready," or close to it, for inclusion in the President's infrastructure package, whenever that takes shape. AEB will include this project along with two others. I've asked the Borough planner if the \$100,000 can be directed towards updating any necessary permits, plans, or environmental analysis, if necessary, to make the project more shovel ready. They are researching that option to see if it makes the most sense in order to line up funding.

JUNEAU

- I'm going to Juneau for a couple days at the end of the month for the AML winter meeting, and to meet with DOT, our legislators, and folks from the Department of Commerce to discuss concerns I have with the LBC. AML will feature the Governor, Senator Murkowski, and a 4 hour session on the heroin/opioid epidemic. It will be a busy couple days.