

TO: Mayor Gardner
City Council Members
Sand Point Residents



FROM: Andy Varner
City Administrator

DATE: October 10, 2017

SUBJ: Monthly Report for October 2017

Congratulations to Mayor Gardner and Councilmembers Starnes and Foster on their reelections.

I want to commend City Clerk Shannon Sommer on the job she did organizing and executing the election and canvassing committee. We had a 53% voter turnout in Sand Point, which is pretty remarkable. That takes work to make sure each vote is counted. I also want to applaud the voters of Sand Point- it is great to have that high of a turnout and show of civic participation.

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

DOCK REPLACEMENT DESIGN

- Things are still on track with the design, nothing new to report from last month.

TDX

- As we all know, TDX proposed a nearly 40% rate increase for their electric tariff. That seems more than outrageous, and you can see the City's letter to the Regulatory Commission of Alaska (RCA) under FYI. In total, the RCA received 16 public comments from Sand Point residents and businesses, including AC and EAT. I spoke to a lawyer friend with the RCA and in his opinion, based on the level of increase and number of comments received, the Commission will open a case and have hearings on the tariff. If so, that brings up the question- do we (City/tribes/village corps/borough/etc) want to have a representative at the hearings to dispute the rate filing on our behalf? That would take a CPA or consultant who knows what they're doing. I don't know what a fee estimate would be for a proper rebuttal, but I can imagine it would be fairly costly for a properly researched response.

CLINIC

- As I reported last month, we received an additional **\$12,781** from the IHS Village Built Clinic program, and **\$14,070** more based on IHS "supportable space" funding (we have one of the bigger clinics). When combined with our VBC base funding of **\$32,777**, it brings the total to **\$59,628**. I spoke to the Alaska IHS/VBC program director last week and she assured me that will be the *minimum* amount we will receive for VBC funding going forward into the future.

TRAINING

- I will attend some free training from the State Dept of Community Affairs on utility management in early November. Such training helps the City score better in some grant and project funding categories.
- I also plan to attend a training in early December from the Alaska Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management on being a Public Information Officer (PIO). This training is also free and teaches strategies on local emergency preparedness, evacuation

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- and response operations, interacting with the media, and other tools related to emergencies and hazard mitigation.
- I'll also be at the AML Municipal Manager's Association meetings in Anchorage next month.

PACIFIC MARINE EXPO

- The Boat Show is next month, and I'll set up some meetings with Trident and Peter Pan to discuss issues of relevance. If you have any topics you would like addressed, let me know.