

- Reviewed repair needs at the old post office building with Wes Bacon-Schulte, NPS, representing the Office of History and Archaeology, Mayor Taylor and Kenn Magowan. Prepared a lease for 8 months including an addendum which is a task list/table outlining areas of both financial and work responsibility for repairs. At this time the main thing we are waiting for is AP&T to upgrade the transformer and then get a power line into the building as the last one was vacated.
- With input from staff, and to bring us into a more realistic spending threshold, we updated the Purchase Order Policy which is before you for review.
- With the mayor, met with John Barry (dba Neval Engineering) to discuss his availability for contracting local project management and engineering services. I then drafted and executed a Professional Services Agreement not to exceed 8 hours. John will review the 5 options presented by PND Engineering for the Good River Bridge Project bank stabilization piece and provide the City with his recommendation on which option is best. From there we can work with our grant writer to submit this project for infrastructure funding.
- Attended the Alaska Municipal League Summer meeting in Sitka which also included the Alaska Municipal Management Association Meeting. I was grateful to meet other city managers and administrators and network with them, learning some of their challenges and solutions. Other discussions and topics included a legislative issues discussion and included bills which impact local governments. There was a candidate Town Hall via zoom. AML attendees provided information about local governments and advanced their priorities, and also suggested policy positions during the webinar in which any candidate running for state or statewide office could participate. Among other issues, including our lack of adequate cell phone service, I brought up our disappointment on the non-passage of the Senator Kiel's PFAS legislation and articulated how that issue impacts so many areas of the state and that *all* AK legislature representatives should be concerned. Senator Kiel commented in the response section and thanked us for staying on top of this issue.
- We also had a discussion regarding challenging operating circumstances. A common thread among small cities was minimal staffing to accomplish a lot of issues and projects. Additionally, fuel costs, inflation, and workforce shortages were addressed. We reviewed AML's resolutions and introduced potential new resolutions for consideration of the Resolutions Committee, either by identifying individual community interest or potential AML board resolutions. I asked them to put forth a standalone resolution on PFAS and not to couch it in Clean Water or Village Safe Water in general. Other cities agreed.
- Restricting REAA Operating Authority was a resolution moved forward by some. I told them why we were not in agreement with being forced into a mandatory borough. That we already were facing a borough petition and were disinclined to join and informed Hoonah via resolution. I understand the Ketchikan Gateway Borough's issues with this given there are 4 school districts on POW with no contribution to their schools, but another layer of bureaucracy is not the answer in our region.

- I had previously planned to go to Anchorage over the long labor day weekend to complete some more moving tasks. Since I was already going to be there, and at minimal cost to the city, I stayed for Senator Murkowski's Transportation Infrastructure Summit. Additionally, in lieu of a whirlwind 2.5 hour visit to Gustavus as she and one of her staff had planned, I met with Senator Murkowski and 4 of her staff at the Dena'ina Center.
- Items covered with Senator Murkowski and her staff:
 - The need for dock improvements. For some kind of a breakwater. I discussed how DOT responded to us stating the wave barrier along the dolphin face would not be good for ferry berthing due to reflected waves along the outer face and they do not think it should be done. That DOT agrees that the fully enclosed, rubble mound breakwater options would be optimum but those will require engineering studies to prove them out and ensure sedimentation and other things would not occur. DOT suggests that we engage the US Army Corps of Engineers under what they call a Section 107 program.
 - I expressed our gratitude regarding her investment in infrastructure and highlighted the hydro project and further investments in grid resilience for which there is funding in this bill.
 - The intertie. She actually asked *me* about that project. I explained that there were some final negotiations between AP&T and the NPS. She was visibly and audibly annoyed that it was not a done deal. Her energy issues staff member was aware that we had previously provided a resolution amending our concerns over noise reduction from the generators and supported a negotiated startup without concerns about where supplementary power is generated. I explained that AP&T were negotiating some final items and we were hopeful it would happen soon to reduce per kwh costs to our residents. She was concerned about getting off diesel power as well.
 - Lack of cell service coverage. Reviewed the issues again for her and the team. I had already sent information and a thread of emails to her communications staff member. I discussed obtaining funding to contract an independent telecommunications engineer to look at options in Gustavus for upgrading cell phone service.
 - Reviewed PFAS issues. Provided the report submitted by Sal McLaughlin the August council meeting. I mentioned that in light of the new federal testing threshold, that PFAS should be a standalone cleanup issue outside of the generic village safe water category and should not have to compete with other water projects. I also asked if something could be done to direct insurance companies to include PFAS blood testing as a recognized medical test rather than considered as environmental testing.
 - With Leah/GVA input, I reiterated the importance of a robust ferry system with a regular schedule and appropriate pricing to attract and retain visitors as well as for residents to be able to travel and receive freight.
 - I brought up the bike trail as another CIP priority. There are funding sources through a couple of departments for Safe Roads and perhaps DNR for trails.
 - I told them about the need to solve septage issues for Gustavus. She asked about a partnership with the NPS for that need. I explained that had been tried in the past and told her the reasons that I had recalled for not being able to achieve that. We agreed that perhaps it was time to try again.

- I met with Olivia Pfeifer from Solstice AK, our grant writer contractor. I talked to her about several projects including the dock, Good River Bridge, and the DRC new compost building. She responded that we have two projects that could be ready for grant writing right now under both the CTP & TAP programs. A Notice of Intent to Apply is due by October 31st, with final applications due in February 2023.

Projects require a minimum 9% match, with higher match projects scoring more points. Gustavus will automatically lose some points because it is not considered a disadvantaged community. Her recommendation was to be able to provide at least a 20% match to not lose more points and prepare the most competitive application, but she understands that may be difficult for us. Any match will need to be approved by the City Council in the form of a resolution.

Olivia indicated that the Good River Bridge Project is a good fit for the CTP program since it already has a Preliminary Engineering Report complete and other planning documents ready and that the \$200k - \$1M budget is in the right range for CTP funding. Before we submit a NOIA, we will need to pick an alternative and finalize the budget for the project. That is what we have contracted John Barry to do. As soon as we pick the suggested alternative, we can send her all the documents to start the process.

The Bike Project could be a good fit for the TAP program, but we have not completed enough planning work to be considered for construction yet. We will need an engineering report and some environmental documentation to apply.

- Suffice it to say however, that *NOW* is the time to get prepared if we want to get projects funded in Gustavus. From low-cost energy project financing to adequate water and sewer solutions to freight and long-range transportation plans – funding is being granted in the next 4-5 years. Things like safety corridors (bike paths), ports and harbors, community access projects, landfill operations, enhancing or making our electrical grid more resilient - there are many funding avenues. The sources of which will take even a seasoned bureaucrat some time to navigate.
- **The takeaway is this:** We need to plan and be ready with the necessary project outlines and design documents so we can be competitive in applying for infrastructure funding. In other words, we may have to spend some money to reap the benefits of obtaining funding for larger scale projects such as a dock breakwater. I realize some folks are opposed to too much federal spending; however, the funds are already being allocated and we don't want to wait till something gets to critical mass to have to deal with infrastructure breakdowns we either can't handle or are forced to manage at the FEMA level. We must be proactive.
- Comments or suggestions?