

CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT MARCH GENERAL MEETING

SEPTIC PUMPING PROGRAM UPDATE

A meeting was held on March 3rd to offer those interested in becoming the city's septic operator. Unfortunately, there were no interested persons. However, John Berry, Ponch and Justin attended the meeting, and we had a productive discussion. After discussing options, the consensus of the group was to modify the approach to a two-step solution.

The first step is to change the vacuum pump on a trailer to a used septic truck, similar to the small truck used by Juneau Septic. A used truck should be around \$100k. Since there were no potential operators, the best option would be to create a temporary position for the summer to operate the truck. We would continue with the transportable tanks and the *Lightweight* to transport to Juneau. This option increases the proposed cost to \$150k from \$100k. This approach would also require an ordinance to authorize the utility service. We could recover the labor costs with the service fee.

The second step is a long-term solution that involves a dewatering septic truck and converting the "mud" to compost to be used either in combination with the existing food-waste stream, or another disposal such as burning, landfill, or fertilizer. John Berry is developing an analysis for the project. This project would likely be in the \$1million range and efforts to get funding through grants would be part of the funding effort. This project would take several years to get permitted and funded. This approach would also rely on a temporary staff position, ordinance, and creation of the utility. In time, it is hopeful that this option could be converted to a private enterprise.

The Council gave direction to have a Town Hall to discuss the program. I am working with the Mayor to determine a date/time.

For 2022, it is likely we will not have the program in place. I spoke to Juneau Septic on March 8 to express the urgent need for a visit and asked if we could be scheduled at their earliest opportunity. I was told that as soon as the ground is secure enough to support the truck they will try to get on the ferry and make a trip over. Because of the backlog of pumping requests, I asked for a schedule for multiple trips – the idea is to get scheduled before other community requests start stacking up. I will provide updates as I get them.

FEMA FUNDING UPDATE

There hasn't been much development with FEMA recently. The Mayor and I have provided the requested information and at this point we have submitted all documents needed. There are still 2 culvert projects waiting for warmer weather.

BUDGET DEVELOPMENT

A Council work session to review the draft budget was conducted on February 28th. The Council identified a couple areas that needed attention. A corrected budget was delivered, and the draft budget has been posted at the usual locations for the upcoming Town Hall on March 16th at 6p.m.

BBB INFRASTRUCTURE BILL GRANTS

The Mayor and I have been contacting potential grant writers to submit grant applications under the BBB Infrastructure Bill. Specifically, we are targeting two projects under two different opportunities. The bike/pedestrian path is being worked on by Council members Bishop and Mackovjak. The Wave Barrier is being worked on by the Mayor while looking for additional Council assistance; both projects will need to have assistance from the state. The Infrastructure Bill grants have 4 years for application, with a project completion date of 2026. Having an application submitted but not funded will give us the opportunity to resubmit in subsequent years.

ROADS TEAM MEETING

The Roads Team met on to discuss some emergent projects and plan for the summer improvement schedule. Glacier Bay Construction gave a valent effort to repair the badly potholed roads with some success – THANKS JUSTIN/PONCH!

STEEL FLOAT HAS MOVED

The following is a summary of the report given by our Marine Facilities Coordinator on the movement of the steel float. A big WELL DONE to our Marine Facilities Coordinator, Ben Sadler. Also, a big thanks to DOT, Council member Vanderzanden, and the crews of both vessels for making this happen.

On February 24th, John Melino, and the Donna Anne out of Hoonah, came over to help us move the float. We were able to detach it and move it across Icy Passage without any problems. There were a few problems connecting to the anchors. DOT has been informed and our Marine Facilities Coordinator is communicating with them to address the issues.

John Melino did say that he hopes to be able to continue assisting us in the future so if we are able to come up with a plan that will work into the future, we may have a vessel and operator willing to work with us.