

CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT JAN 24 General Meeting

- We now have a fully executed Fire Protection Agreement between us and the Forest Service. It's title is this: COOPERATIVE FIRE PROTECTION AGREEMENT Between The CITY OF GUSTAVUS And The USDA, FOREST SERVICE TONGASS NATIONAL FOREST - and will be available on the City's website or you can email me or Sol for a copy if interested.
- Scrap metal contamination issue – Recall that last month I reported to council that I dispatched Ian to go to the AML yard in Seattle to meet with the radiation contractor and isolate the offending item. That being completed, I have received 2 out of 3 responses for an estimate for what I hope is the final effort to remove the box of radioactive debris from the AML yard in Seattle. This needs to be picked up by a specific carrier and then delivered to a site that accepts low-level radioactive material. The reason I asked for more than one quote wasn't only because of the cost from the first company. It was also because the first quote I received said they could not pick up the box until March. Apparently, they have a quarterly route for pickup. So, I reached out to two additional companies about timing for pick up as well as a cost quote. It seems the cost for removal is going to be expensive no matter who we go with. I'm now looking at who can do it first because I'm getting pressured by AML to have the box gone from their yard. The third company has not responded as of yet. Additionally, I have contacted Petersburg Wrangell Insurance, our broker, to see what our insurance might cover for this event. I have asked our treasurer to account for this as a project so we can track the expenses, including the purchase of a radiation detection instrument for the DRC or whichever department may need to use it. I spent some time on the phone with a recommended vendor from Ludlum Measurements to review our options for the appropriate instrument for our needs.
- Airport Law Enforcement/TSA issue - I have been in communication with Christopher Goins, the Regional Director for ADOT. He asked me for the GVA survey results Leah had sent out regarding the lack of jet service, the responses and the local impacts. I sent him copies of that along with the letter prepared by GVA for Geoff Larsen to take to the Alaska Airlines citizen's advisory group meeting in Seattle last month. Director Goins sent me his documents related to the issue surrounding availability of an LEO at the Gustavus Airport. We discussed the challenges we have with the recent letter he received from the National Park Service on the matter. We walked through those documents over the phone so I could get more details on this challenge and the steps ADOT was taking. He provided a Gustavus Airport Brief Working Draft - a White Paper outlining some history and where the situation sits today and describes critical LEO expectations at a Part 139 airport. The other two documents are the letters from the NPS to the Department, and the MOA between the State DPS and the NPS cited in the letter. I asked him if we could add some bullet points to his draft which he was receptive to receive. I shared this with Leah. She submitted additional comments to me, and I sent my comments and Leah's to be included in his working draft which will be distributed to other's in the department, the governor and I'm assuming Alaska Airlines and some legislators.
- We are still awaiting news on Defending Alaska Communities from Wildfire through Community Wildfire Protection Planning grant. (AML) is seeking funding on our behalf to create or update Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs) for AML member communities.
- I continue to monitor funding opportunities by which Gustavus might benefit. Although with the recent borough and TNC lands, LE at the airport, and other pressing issues, pursuing those opportunities has taken somewhat of a back seat.
- Sol and I had a Teams meeting with Lexipole, a company who specializes in LE, Fire and Rescue, EMS and Local Government solutions. They are preparing the narrative for FEMA's Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) that we will submit to FEMA for an up-to-date water tender. The grant application period starts on January 29, 2024. We are being proactive in hiring Lexipole to prepare the narrative and we will upload the rest of the application to the grant site.

- Septic update: I consider this last year's septic project a huge success. Everyone's efforts on this project enabled the pumping of 72 tanks for Gustavus homeowners and businesses. One storage tank is fairly full and another partially full. Juneau Septic came over from Juneau yesterday to pump out 4500 more gallons. Three trips remain to empty the tanks to ready them for this next summer's pumping schedule. Folks can email: gustavusseptic@gmail.com to get on their list.

John Barry produced a report for the city along with the information he had to provide to ADEC to satisfy our permit. The full report is available if anyone is interested.

A few bullet points are:

- A total of 77 septic tanks were reported pumped during the four-month 2023 pumping campaign.
 - 85,400 total gallons of septage were reported pumped from Gustavus septic tanks.
 - 71,350 total gallons of septage were reported transferred through the holding tanks to the Juneau wastewater treatment plant.
 - 14,050 total gallons of septage were reported hauled directly from the septic tanks to the Juneau wastewater treatment plant.
- Participated in a phone call with Mayor Owens and Jed Smith, main staffer for the LBC. We had several questions for him and invited him to Gustavus. In the end we have scheduled and announced a Zoom meeting with him for January 25th at 6PM. We have requested additional information regarding PILT and the amount of available State lands that are actually inside of the proposed borough. He said they are compiling that information and won't have it for a while yet. Additionally, I have contacted several community members from various businesses and user groups to ask them to look at the petition and give us a synopsis of how they anticipate the borough might impact them so we can include that information in our response to the LBC. For example, the charter and commercial fishing businesses. Thanks to Whitney who requested and received GIS maps to look at some of the boundary considerations.
 - In February, Alaska Municipal League will be holding it's Winter Legislative Meeting in Juneau. This is an opportunity to bring forth our concerns, projects, funding requests and to set up meetings with legislators and other department heads to discuss our community's needs.
 - I have provided you with the main ticket items but there are additionally many other day-to-day activities, such as addressing community requests and complaints, working with the roads and other contractors, personnel tasks, other agencies requests, teleconferences, and reports, etc.

Questions or Concerns?