CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT JANUARY GENEAL MEETING

SEPTIC SITUATION FOR GUSTAVUS

You may be aware that the community is on the edge of a septic crisis. I have been made aware of several residents that were supposed to get pumped this spring/summer and the contractor didn't make it to Gustavus. I have also heard of someone who has done some pumping and doesn't have a DEC permit and we have no idea where it is being placed. I have also heard that some desperate folks dig holes in their yards or do surface spreading with the help of a couple of local businesses. The implications of continuing with these practices are obvious, clearly not sustainable.

In the past I understand that we had a storage tank at the Salmon River Harbor where the *Lightweight* would come and pump into a tank and then take it to Juneau. We had someone pump the residence/business and transfer to the storage tank; this proposal is similar.

I have discussed a local-based solution with a couple of our contractors in the development of this proposal. Below are two proposals, one that is operated solely within Gustavus (ABCO Option) and the other requiring shipment to Juneau.

ABCO Option. First, I would like to thank Justin and Ponch for this information, this is a fantastic option with long-term capabilities.

The ABCO options is a pumping and processing truck that separates the solids from the water. The water is put back into the septic system and the important bacteria continues to do its job. The solids are processed into compostable material. This material may be useful for the DRC composting program, gardens, or other similar uses throughout the community.

This option requires the truck as described below; this is a used model. We would also need to construct a storage building or utilize/rent an existing one. If the PPP option is chosen, we could include storage as part of the package.

Please watch the YouTube video, it is very informative: https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=GXPIkURfzzg

$129k

2012 ABCO Industries Mobile Sludge Dewatering Truck- can be used as a traditional pump truck as well. 350 HP Maxxforce 10 motor, 1100 foot pounds of torque 30' long. Dewatering filter rate 50-150 gallons per minute. 10 wheel PDL and differential lock with engine brake. Allison 3500 automatic transmission, air ride seat and backup camera. Custom automated hose reel and electronic control of valves. Hydraulic rear hatch, 800 CFM Wallenstein vacuum pump. There would also be repairs/maintenance of the truck which could be done by sending the truck to Juneau during the winter for necessary repairs.

The Mayor had the following comment. With the ABCO system we would need to:

- Add code authority for the City to handle septage, perhaps as a function of the DRC.
- Buy the truck,

- Build a garage/shop somewhere for it on City land, (DRC, Tract B behind the old PO, or on the triangle lot between Gustavus Rd, the section line, and Glen's Ditch) or lease some space on other property—maybe the DOT site of the torn down shed next to the APC generators.
- Find a suitable location to compost the materials—perhaps an ag unit—that is removed enough from residential areas to not provide an odor problem. Note: The Park could compost their sludge at the same location.
- Staff the operator position.
- Determine how to operate the compost operation. What construction and other equipment would be required at the site? Or do we just land-spread the material and leave it on site?
- The transfer to Juneau options is also possible but involves more parties and could have issues develop that we can't control.

Another option is utilizing an AMT Submersible Shredder Sewage Pump. Applications include: sewage pumping stations, septic tanks, sewage treatment plants, dirty water drainage, flood and emergency. Motors are rated continuous duty and single phase models have thermal overload protection.

At a cost of approximately $2,000 this option would require labor to pump and transfer into a trailer; the trailer; the truck for pumping that would need a generator to power the unit; and delivery to a disposal option such as the tank site or other approved disposal.

Shipping Options. Creating a tank yard next to the DRC, the *Lightweight,* using their own equipment, would load the tanks and offload the empty tanks in the yard. Each transport would rotate 4 tanks (see below), onto the *Lightweight* to load/unload. Rotation could be every week to once a month, depending on demand. The cost for the transport and pump-out in Juneau is .90/gal. The City would need to invest in the tanks, create the yard, and decide on a method for a pumper. I spoke to Council member Lewis with respect to potential bear problems, here is her comment: *Bears do sometimes see human refuse as an attractant, usually when other food resources are low. So the key would be the tanks. Would they be metal or plastic? If plastic, how hard? If a bear could puncture it with its teeth or claws there could be a problem.*

The Hastings Poly Storage Econo Skid And Tank Unit below holds 1200 Gallons. This sturdy unit is constructed with heavy gauge steel side channels and heavy wood floors, overlaying a steel constructed frame, providing a quality skid unit at an economical price. The patented Dura-LIFE "Loaf" designed skid tank provides a very low center of gravity for stability in forklifting and transportation. A recessed sump is molded into the tank for complete drainage. All units come complete with gallonage indicator, outlet fitting, fill lid, E.P.D.M. gasket and threaded vent plug for a positive seal.

Service Options

Local pumping options include: 1) contracting with a local business to pump the tank (private option); 2) buy a pumper and contract with a business to do the service for us (PPP); 3) or purchase a pumper and utilize an employee (City option).

Private Option. With this option, the City would contract with a private contractor to use the tank site and tanks. The City could lease the land for the tank storage and the contractor would take it

from there. There could also be financial assistance by the City for equipment that could be repaid or given as a grant – perhaps an Endowment Grant.

PPP Option. Another option would be to create a Public/Private/Partnership (PPP). This option would require the purchase of a pumping method by the City for use by the contractor. The contractor would be responsible for the operations and maintenance/repair costs, which could be calculated into the contract. The City would also provide the tank site.

City Option. The initial investment would include purchase of the pumping method and require hiring a part-time position or utilizing an existing position such as a DRC temporary worker. The City would still need to develop the tank site.

The City could capture operating costs by including a charge to be included with the pumping. We could add the operator cost ($25), truck operation and cost recovery ($20) to each servicing. The average pump of 1,000/gal @ $.90 would be $900. Add in insurance costs, and other expenses, the cost for pumping and delivery could be $100. Total cost would be approximately $1000 for a service of a 1,000 gal tank. In comparison, the current cost by Juneau Septic is $.90/gallon and is likely to go up this summer.

Again, this proposal is intended to find a solution to the current wastewater options. I look forward to Council direction.

COVID TESTING UPDATE

All airport contracts are going to terminate January 31, 2022. All PCR testing invoices will need to be submitted to the state on or before March 1, 2022, which will give the state 30 days, until March 31, 2022, to pay the invoices. The federal grant to the state for COVID testing at the airports ends April 1, 2022. Because of the new Omicron variant, we thought they may extend the grant, but that didn't happen. Under our MOA, we can continue to test travelers, or for anything authorized by the MOA.

We have submitted a NCO to transfer funds into testing to cover the following testing procedures:

1 tester with the Fire Chief as backup
$25/hr for 3 days/wk, 3 hours/day + contingency for outbreak additional testing
Total for the program until July 1, 2022 = $25,000

To recap, we have two programs going on:

- Contract C0620-525 is what we've been doing all along with greeting at the airport/jet and PCR testing. It pays payroll and billing for the SEARHC laboratory tests. As of 11/30/21, we have invoiced for $205,662 from this contract from 6/30/20 to 11/30/21.
- MOA C0621-570-B was established for equipment and the rapid testing program with $25,390 available to be spent by 3/31/22. **Only $2028.87 remains from this pot of money.**

SECOND FEMA GRANT

The state runs a parallel grant program, the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), that provides for recovery from natural disasters. The HMGP has different criteria than the Federal program and allows for prevention/mitigation in addition to recovery/repair.

The Mayor and I have begun to develop a Hydrology and Hydrologic (H&H) project that will provide a study that will identify how water flows throughout the city. The study will have several applications beyond this grant. Initially, we had different projects in mind, but they required a H&H study. Therefore, we are submitting for the H&H and will look for additional grant opportunities for projects and will have the H&H ready.

FERRY UPDATE

With the *LeConte* out of commission for its annual yard period, we were facing a 3 month period without a ferry. In a conversation with AMHS Deputy Commission Rob Carpenter to address our concerns we learned that AMHS is in the process of bringing the *Tazlina* online to service our region. Deputy Commissioner Carpenter stated "Yes, we are working on crewing up the *Tazlina* and hopeful to have her in service early February. In addition, we have gone out for an invitation to bid on contract service. Those awards should be made soon if they haven't already been made.

In other words, we have plans for service in upper Southeast when Leconte is in the shop."