

**Date:** April 15, 2022

**To:** Glenn Steckman, City Manager

**CC:** Bryant Hammond, City Clerk

Cheryl Thompson, Administrative Assistant

**From:** Cole Cushman, Public Works Supervisor

**Re:** Quarterly Report, Fiscal year 21-22 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter

### **Road Crew**

While the City did not have any really significant snow this quarter, the road crew still had a lot of snow to remove, from the snow and rain earlier in the year and from the strong winds we had. The rain in December turned the roads to sheets of thick ice which had to be cut down in stages to prevent “steps” at the intersections. The road crew, with the help of contractors, moved about 110,000 yards of snow this quarter.

The winter season brings us Irondog and Iditarod, with which the road crew has additional responsibilities. The crew built the ramps down to the sea ice for these. Irondog chose to bring their start/finish chute to the middle of town this year so the crew had to coordinate with Irondog in setting that up. For Iditarod, the road crew set up the arch and dog lot as normal plus were asked to make a race track for the little kids.



The road crew gave two presentations to Nactec classes this quarter, and hosted a UAF class taught by Brian Marvin. They also took some time to continue the ongoing cleanup of the shop and some minor rearranging of shop to create a “maintenance area.”

## **Building Maintenance**

The building maintenance crew hit it hard this quarter. With the normal repairs that spring up, they noticed some systems weren't working as designed and took on the task of getting them working correctly. They found four of the twelve actuators for City Halls ventilation system were dead which prevented the system from getting the proper mix of inside and outside air. This caused the boilers to work extra hard trying to heat the excess cold air which in turn gave the building "hot" areas and "cold" areas.

A frozen pipe in the police garage led the crew through a series of things not working at the Public Safety Building. They wound up replacing a number of actuators and pumps some of which had been installed incorrectly and had probably never worked. As a result, the crew was able to bring the floor heat online, which, also could never have worked. The crew also changed out a large part of the building lights to LED.

The crew worked with Gray Harrison of IT and ATS Alaska to train on and update the security system at the Richard Foster Building. A lot of the security passcodes had been passed on from person to person over the years, defeating the purpose of having them. So the old codes were erased and now each person needing a code has a personal passcode. A heating issue with the kitchenette in the Foster Room was also solved,

Yukon Fire came up for our annual fire alarm system inspections and the crew worked with them in getting the system passed. It was found that the city's fire extinguishers were badly out of date, so the crew has been working with Randy Oles of Firesafe to get the fire extinguishers back in compliance.

The building maintenance crew started inspecting and exercising the city's three standby generators. There had not been scheduled inspection of the generators since 2010, and when we had power outages, they failed. The crew is now inspecting and starting the generators weekly. Each of the generators had a maintenance issue, but we now have two of the three fully operational and parts on order for the third at the Rec Center

## **Landfill**

The activities at the landfill have been fairly routine with no real excitement. The light snow volume and exceptional wind have presented some challenge to keeping the winter garbage in containment, but staff is coordinating with AMCC and Seaside to assist with recovering the windblown trash in the coming months. Waste Management altered their schedule this spring which threw things out of balance briefly, but they are communicating and getting things back to normal.

## **Challenges**

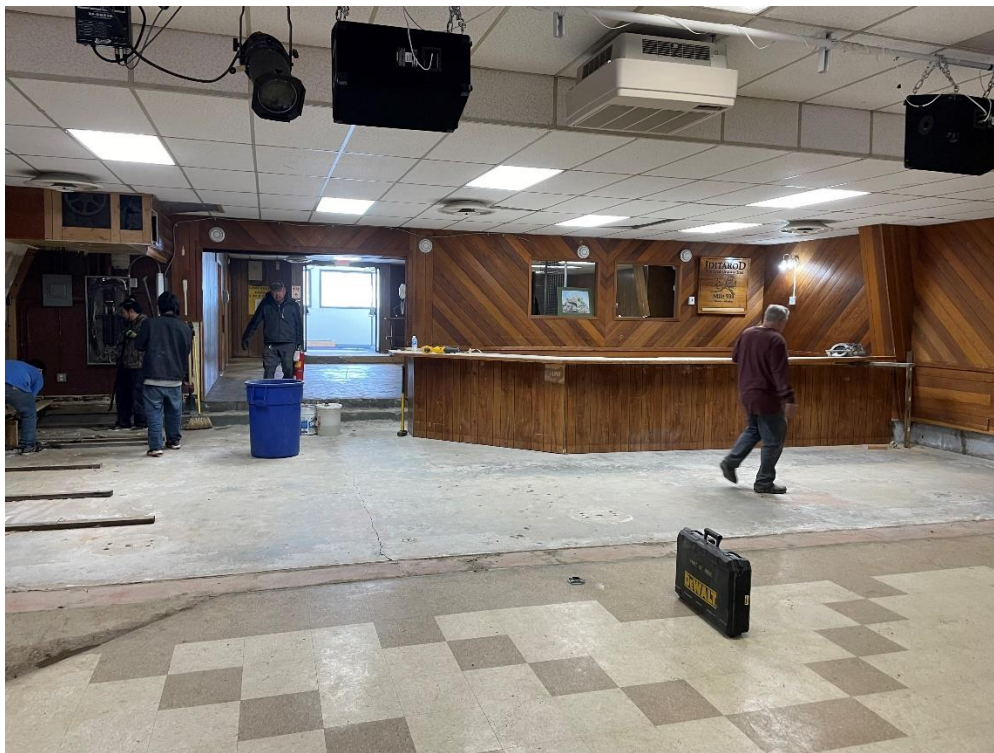
Both sides of Public Works have the challenge that everybody is filling a new role and learning a new job. There have been a few hiccups as the crews learn to work together, but they are slowly molding into a cohesive unit. Other challenges include the weird weather and aging equipment. The road crew had to do repairs on all three snow blowers, each dump truck, both sanders, both loaders and the D7. Repairs include clutches, leaks and electrical on the snow blowers, emissions after treatment on the dump trucks, tires and rebuilding cylinders on the loaders and rebuilding the hydraulic tank on the D7.

The building maintenance crew had challenges stemming from a lack of routine checks. This resulted in the sirens not working at Iditarod and a frozen drain at Old Saint Joes among other things. Both crews are building preventive maintenance and inspection programs to mitigate this in the future.

Another big challenge for the road crew is the continued presence of vehicles left in the right of way. Coupled with inexperienced operators, the crew managed to snag a couple vehicles this winter with the equipment. Some of these were things that were going to be thrown away and the owners weren't concerned with the damage. We did have a couple that we had to do incident and police reports.

### **Moving Forward**

As we move into breakup and summer, Building Maintenance is doing a large job in the Mini Convention Center. What started out as replacing the carpet has turned into a remodel which will make the Mini a little more user friendly and will add more usable floor space.



The crew has started utilizing community service workers from Seaside in this project and are planning on doing the same for a number of projects including the fencing at the ballfields and painting some of the city's buildings.

The road crew is transitioning into breakup activities and opening storm drains, to be followed by grading and dust control. The crew is also getting ready to replace all of the signs that were taken down this winter by cars & snow machines. They have a few sinkholes to address as the stockpile of dirt thaws as well.

The crews are all looking at landfill for ways to lessen or eliminate the windblown trash situations we had this year. This may include adding snow fence above the winter area and temporary dirt berms. We will also be attempting to bring the infamous tire shredder to life.