

TO: The Mayor and Common Council

FROM: Glenn Steckman

RE: City Manager Report

August 23, 2024

Sandspit:

I reached out to the Nome Eskimo Community about the Sandspit artifacts. NEC wants the City of Nome to continue to maintain them until they plan what to do with the artifacts. The original agreement was drafted in 2011. I have attached that agreement. I also recommended that a new MOA be drafted that the city is holding these artifacts in trust for the NEC. The NEC agreed.

Radio/911 system:

The replacement of the radio system has been completed. The signal can reach in some areas eighteen miles out of town. In previous known dead spaces, the signal strength has been excellent. As the installer said we have gone from the 1970's to the 21st century.

This update included radios for NVAD and the NPD. The 911 Center operators have also received in depth training to operate the new system.

The fire sirens were also tested as part of this radio project. The snow dump siren is working. Icy View is still having intermittent issues. The Thornbush siren was discovered missing its transformer and we are still waiting an antenna from Federal Signal for the elementary school. These siren tests were to make sure they worked when being sent a signal by 911.

Sales Tax:

The City of Nome needs to increase its sale tax rate from 5% to 6%. While the effort led by the Chamber of Commerce to eliminate the burden on business owners of annually raising the sales tax rate from 5%-7% for the summer season, while admirable, it blew a hole in the city budget now of about \$1.1m. By going to an annual 6% rate this will raise an estimated of \$1.5m. This will substantially close the budget gap.

Fees:

On your next council agenda, will be an ordinance to raise certain fees for the Recreation Center and building rentals. The change in recreation fees will help cover a small portion of the building upgrades. The increase in the proposed building rental fees will help to continue the upgrades to those facilities covered by fees. Fees in general have been increased for over seven years.