



**Borough Manager's Report
Assembly Meeting 19 August 2024**

- ❖ The Streets crew finished installation of the new fencing around the Green Field at the ballfield complex.
- ❖ With dry conditions prevailing in recent weeks, we used up the last of our dust control compound (lignosite). Another tank of lignosite has arrived at the AML yard in Petersburg and we anticipate being able to apply more dust control soon.
- ❖ The Borough's new fleet fueling system is up and running, with minimal downtime needed to make the switch from the old system. A big thank you to installer Mattingly Electric and Admin Assistant Karen Malcom for all their work to get the new system put together and started up successfully.
- ❖ The bears are back! Garbage bears are active, and this may continue for a few months before they den up in the fall. One large bear has started chewing holes through the cans, which has reduced the effectiveness of keeping lids closed with ratchet straps. Garbage customers are strongly encouraged to keep garbage secured indoors, and only place garbage in the can on the morning of garbage pickup day.
- ❖ We are advertising for a Building Maintenance Supervisor to replace Jim Holder, who is leaving Public Works to take a position with Community Development as the Borough's new Building Official. Jim's last day with Public Works is August 16th.
- ❖ Wastewater Supervisor Justin Haley and Director Cotta are working on finalizing a biosolids permit for disposal of the Borough's composted sewage solids. This will formalize the current practice of applying these solids to the surface of the Borough's landfill. Previously we were able to dispose of the composted solids in the Borough's mud dump, but more stringent testing requirements caused us to redirect to a facility where less testing is required.
- ❖ The Borough has received a draft of the proposed EPA discharge permit renewal for the Wastewater Treatment Plant. We are reviewing this draft permit and have a 45-day period to make any comments. It is anticipated that when finalized, the new permit will result in a lot of additional testing procedures and likely an additional treatment process (disinfection). Cost impacts related to the new permit are not fully known but will be significant. We will be able to make more accurate assessments of these costs once we learn more about what the final permit will look like, and the programmed implementation schedule for the required changes to our testing and treatment processes.
- ❖ The line crew successfully installed a new distribution pole that will facilitate the electrical service to the Medical Center's WERC building. Thanks to motorists for observing the road closure on 8th Street during the work.
- ❖ We are sending our new mechanic to two weeks of classes on EMD generators to increase his knowledge of this type of engine. It was a good opportunity that will help him get up to speed that much faster.

- ❖ Staff have been working on some general cleaning and painting projects around the diesel plant while the weather is good.
- ❖ PMPL, in conjunction with the water, wastewater and sanitation departments, is considering signing up for an online rate engine software that will simplify annual rate reviews of the enterprise funds. The platform is based on annual subscriptions and will illustrate to a better degree how planning for inflation, projects and other expenses affect the revenue requirements of the utilities. The costs are a fraction of a normal rate study and the company, Waterworth, provides unlimited support throughout the year, creating a truly continuous focus on rate adequacy and guidance that will help ensure the health of our enterprise funds.
- ❖ Members of the Assembly and staff met with Congresswomen Peltola and our DC Lobbyist last week. We toured the future home of the Scow Bay Boatyard and discussed issues including King Salmon, the pending DOE grid deployment grant, and needs for housing, childcare and mental health support. Both groups also had an opportunity to tour the hospital and the WERC building site.
- ❖ P&R is gearing up for the fall season with Youth Basketball registration in full swing! Coaches, referees, and time clock volunteers are still needed, come talk to us for information and signing up!
- ❖ Please check for updated fall facility schedules coming out soon for Parks and Rec. These will be posted on Facebook, website, around the facility, and shared with KFSK.
- ❖ The Petersburg Bike Park is pedaling forward with work and improvements continuing around the park! Contact Pat Blair at Wheelhouse Bikes for more ways to help.
- ❖ EMS is very short on EMT's for staffing the ambulance. We continue to recruit for the EMS Coordinator position, with no applicants.
- ❖ Harbor Office is still busy with summer traffic though most transient activities are travelers heading south.
- ❖ Tour ship activity is still busy through mid-September so thank you again to the local fleet playing nice at the Drive Down facility.
- ❖ Glo and Borough staff met with representatives from American Cruises, Dick Somerville and staff to discuss the future of mooring an additional vessel here in Petersburg.
- ❖ Nice weather has increased activity at launch ramps and skiff stalls are all full, with permanent stall holders. Effects of the dredge project are producing increased use.
- ❖ Our attorney and I have completed the draft agreement with Tlingit & Haida Housing regarding the Airport Subdivision expansion. The draft has been emailed to THRHA for their review and possible edits. When completed, this will be sent to the Assembly for their review and approval.
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