



**Borough Manager's Report
Assembly Meeting 16 January 2024**

- ❖ Derrick got through his first State relicensing. The process has been expanded, and now even involves Medicaid.
- ❖ Assisted living is fully staffed except for a 20 hour a week shift.
- ❖ We will be starting the Medicaid audit in February for Assisted Living.
- ❖ Customers are urged to please protect your water meters! Freezing conditions will break the frost bases on the meter and stop water from entering a home. If you have a water meter that is leaking water, you can call either the public works office or the water plant to have the Borough replace the frost base. Insulating pipes, fixing house skirting and running water at night will help to keep your water service from freezing.
- ❖ Pumpstation 4 land acquisition is complete. Next steps include applying for the ADEC loan increase to fund the construction.
- ❖ The Borough's contractor is finishing up punch list items for the Hydro project. SCADA integration is ongoing. Work to fix a failed control component was completed and the unit is running well. An air vent was added to the tailrace to try and remedy a flow issue to the hatchery at higher generator outputs, but additional work is needed. All contracts are moving to completion and closeout.
- ❖ PMPL is preparing for frigid weather. Diesel generation will likely be needed to supplement SEAPA during the morning and evening system peaks and some transformers around town may get pushed to failure. Customers should please conserve energy where they can.
- ❖ Consultants are finishing up with the Part 12 Safety inspection of the Crystal Lake Dam to be filed at the end of January.
- ❖ The library will be closed on Mondays in January.
- ❖ Thank you to Beverly Richardson, the library's long time plant volunteer. For over a decade she has devoted countless hours to creating an extraordinary plant-filled space at the library.
- ❖ The library launched a new event calendar/meeting room booking system on Jan 9.
- ❖ Petersburg Bike Park is making significant progress, expressed thank you to Matt Kandoll who has worked hours in cold, wet conditions to help make significant progress! Not to forget all other volunteers who have donated their time, equipment, and expertise; including Pat Blair and Brian Richards among others. To add

your name to work party volunteer list, please contact Stephanie Payne at Parks and Recreation.

- ❖ Parks and Rec are working with engineers to assess the plumbing repairs needed at the Aquatic Center, with the assistance of Public Works.
- ❖ Last chance to join the Lifeguard Course! The course will run Jan 19-21 with 6 online hours before course begins. Must attend all 3 days. Please contact Scott Burt at Parks and Rec for more information.
- ❖ The gym schedule has changed with the beginning of Youth Volleyball and addition of AAU Basketball teams. Please check our Facebook page, website, and flyers at facility for more information.
- ❖ The State of Alaska released its population estimate for 2023. The Petersburg Borough's population was estimated at 3,367, a slight increase over the previous year.
- ❖ Over 130 building permits were issued in 2023, which is an increase over the previous year, with a construction value over \$5.5 million. Nine new dwelling units were permitted in 2023, which is an increase over the previous year's five.
- ❖ Public Works sawcut some concrete slabs to provide inspection access for Parks-N-Rec as part of their ongoing investigation into the sewer issues at the pool complex.
- ❖ The Motor Pool auction in December was a big success and all surplus vehicles and equipment listed – 8 units total – were sold.
- ❖ Vehicle replacement inspections for FY25 are finishing up and we are finalizing the list of recommended replacements and extensions for the upcoming budget year.
- ❖ Still looking for a Motor Pool mechanic – the position has been open since May 2023.
- ❖ The Southeast Alaska Solid Waste Authority (SEASWA) has been invited to apply for Denali Commission grant funds to facilitate solid waste planning for the Southeast Alaska region, with an award amount of up to \$500,000. If secured, this grant would provide for some extensive study and planning to determine the most cost-effective ways to dispose of solid waste for communities in the Southeast Alaska region.
- ❖ The Christmas windstorm badly damaged our HHW storage tent, and it is not salvageable. We intend to replace this structure with a couple of 24-foot shipping containers and will be budgeting for this expense in FY25.
- ❖ Western Marine re-convened on Jan 9th to finish the SH dredge project. Final push involves dredging the 400 row along the beach which includes pulling out 8 finger floats and removing them temporarily to give both barges access to the area. Lots of boats getting temporarily relocated the next couple of weeks and the Harbor Staff appreciates the boat owner's patience with the project.
- ❖ Reminder to boat owners to regularly check their vessels, there has been an unusual amount of wind and heavy rain. The harbor crew is noticing more snapped lines, tarp damage and cords unplugged due to the weather activity.