



**Borough Manager's Report
Assembly Meeting 6 May 2024**

- ❖ Sand pickup is progressing. Street grading as weather permits.
- ❖ Mayfest prep is underway, with crosswalks painted last week.
- ❖ The crew cleared a very overgrown right-of-way at the top of PFI hill, improving safety and visibility in the area. Outgoing traffic from the cannery now has a better view of vehicles approaching from uphill.
- ❖ Surplus fire engine #5 was auctioned successfully. Minimum bid was \$10,000 – we received 2 bids and the winning bidder paid \$15,348.89.
- ❖ Planning is underway for the annual Household Hazardous Waste collection event, which will be held June 1st and 2nd.
- ❖ Building Maintenance has been assisting Power & Light with some roof repairs and plumbing work for a washer/dryer installation at the PMPL building.
- ❖ Several of us met with various transportation agencies in a meeting facilitated by Alaska Municipal League. We talked about priority projects in the Borough and the group prioritized four projects; Fredrick Road/Cabin Creek, Scow Bay, Airport Bypass Road, and Papke's Landing. We will all continue to work together on these projects to see if funding can be identified. Participants included Borough staff, Forest Service, Federal Highways, Alaska DOT and Petersburg Indian Association.
- ❖ Water Staff is working with ADEC to complete the Lead Service Line Inventory. This is a federally mandated inventory in the wake of the Flint, Michigan lead pipe issue of a few years ago. The risk in Petersburg is very low with virtually all service lines being copper and the Borough's corrosion control program keeping any metal leaching to within federal standards.
- ❖ The blasting at the Wellness and Education Resource Center (WERC) site had us worried about an older water line adjacent to the site, but the contractor is doing a great job in controlling each shot. No damage or disturbance to the water mains in the area is evident.
- ❖ Thanks to the WW staff for setting up the seasonal public restroom trailers in the Municipal Building parking lot.
- ❖ We are waiting to receive the draft wastewater discharge permit, following any comments by the State and local tribe.

- ❖ PMPL is planning an open house at the Blind Slough Hydro project for the afternoon of May 16th from 1 - 3 pm. Hydro power started in Petersburg 100 years ago in 1924 so it is fitting that we celebrate the ongoing benefit to the community and the completion of the newest upgrades to the powerhouse at the same time. We will hold a short ribbon cutting ceremony at 2:30pm, followed by Mayor Jensen initiating a restart of the generator. The entire Assembly, Department Heads and the public are invited to attend. There will be light refreshments and you'll be able to compare the differences between the 1929 generator and the 2023 generator. Please help us celebrate.
- ❖ PMPL has provided additional Blind Slough Hydro project information to the DOE staff members who are managing negotiations for the Section 243 grant. Of note is that the DOE project managers have determined that the requirements of the Buy America Build America act will not need to be met by our project as the work is complete and the law was enacted after equipment and construction contracts had been entered into. This is fantastic news for PMPL staff and means that the full eligible value of the grant should be forthcoming after the negotiations are completed (approximately \$2.8 million).
- ❖ Geotechnical investigations at the Scow Bay Generator site were completed recently and verified that the site is well prepared for another large generator foundation. Design work is ongoing to produce a Design Build Invitation to Bid that will be advertised this summer.
- ❖ PMPL is happy to report that our entire staff did a great job in response to the SEAPA systemwide outage that occurred on Thursday, April 25th. A series of events that occurred in Ketchikan knocked all SEAPA member communities off the grid, but Petersburg's restoration with our diesel plant went smoothly. This was the first total system outage for many of our staff members and they did great.
- ❖ We are short employees in Dispatch and are looking for good candidates. Check out the Borough's website or talk to Chief Kerr regarding the openings.
- ❖ Chief Kerr attended the USCG port security meeting; getting ready for the cruise ship season.
- ❖ Derrick is working on updating our documentation for the kitchen processes.
- ❖ We have been having some issues with the call system at Assisted Living. Working through upgrading some of the computer system which supports the pagers.
- ❖ Derrick is working on the wording for our contract at Assisted Living as it relates to double occupancy in the rooms.
- ❖ I have reached out again to ADNR regarding abandoned vehicles at Papke's. We are hoping they will allow the Borough to work with ADOT to keep the problem under control, so users of the facility have parking space.