



**Borough Manager's Report  
Assembly Meeting 02 December 2024**

- ❖ The Borough's winter street maintenance routine is in effect, with plowing and ice control as conditions require.
- ❖ Martin and crew replaced a leaking hydrant at the intersection of 3<sup>rd</sup> and Kiseno. The hydrant that was removed will be rebuilt and put aside as a spare.
- ❖ The Motor Pool shop's new heavy duty tire machine has arrived, and the crew is working on getting it installed. The new machine will greatly speed up the changing of truck and heavy equipment tires, which up until now were being changed by hand.
- ❖ FY26 motor pool vehicle inspections are complete, and we are presently consulting with departments that have one or more recommended replacements on the horizon.
- ❖ The recent cold weather has resulted in some broken meter bases, so customers are reminded to check and protect water services to prevent freeze up.
- ❖ The Pump Station 4 and Force Main Replacement project is out to bid. A pre-bid conference was held on November 19<sup>th</sup> and was well attended. Bids are due by December 17<sup>th</sup>.
- ❖ EPA's latest update on the wastewater discharge permitting process indicates that the new permit is supposed to be issued in January 2025 and will take effect in November 2025. This gives us some extra time to address budgetary needs such as additional staffing. We should be able to handle a lot of the additional permit-related costs through the regular budget process instead of a supplemental.
- ❖ Director Cotta worked with Alaska Municipal League to prepare and submit a federal Community Change Grant application. If approved, this grant would provide approximately \$18M for Borough projects. Public Works-related portions of the grant include over \$12M for street paving and \$1.6M for a Wastewater disinfection study and related permitting and design.
- ❖ Remind the public to report anything that seems out of place or stands out while walking the docks, the Harbor appreciates an extra set of eyes & ears.
- ❖ Harbor maintenance is working on identified breaks in the fire water line in the South Harbor and scheduling fixes as the material orders arrive.
- ❖ PIA and the Petersburg Police Department have partnered to bring Chris Herren with Herren Talks to Petersburg Middle School and Petersburg High School. Chris Herren is a former professional basketball player and speaker on substance use prevention and wellness advocate.

After the talks there is a resource in place for young people to reach out for help and support.

- ❖ The line crew was able to decorate Main Street and the community Christmas tree well in advance of the tree lighting ceremony.
- ❖ The line crew is checking temperatures of distribution transformers as an indication of overloaded services and is helping to change out some lights in the harbor.
- ❖ Staff is working to install conduit so that the school sign on 12<sup>th</sup> Street can be fed power underground.
- ❖ Staff continue to work on swapping out older meters for new AMI meters. As a note to our customers, some existing meters are very old and inaccurate, causing low usage readings. The new meters are certified as to their accuracy, and this could mean that usage readings may appear to increase when they reflect actual power use.
- ❖ We have a carpet replacement project on an open unit at Assisted Living, and a couple of residents who are moving to long term care.
- ❖ Getting ready for the Thanksgiving celebrations with the residents at Assisted Living.
- ❖ Starting plans on a monthly themed potluck to get residents family members more involved.
- ❖ Youth Basketball has come to an end with our annual All-Stars tournament with the Wrangell Wolves! Thank you to all of the volunteer's coaches, referees, and book/time keepers for another great season!
- ❖ The Jingle and Mingle holiday event will be held at Sandy Beach on Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup> from 4-6p in shelters 1 & 2. Any firewood donations can be made at the Community Center by Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> at 10a. Thank you for any donations. If you are interested in volunteering for this event, please contact Stephanie Payne or Julie Anderson at Parks and Rec.
- ❖ Stephanie is working on moving our aquatic sewer repairs moving forward. It appears the costs will exceed the funds we have available for this project. We will be meeting to discuss the next steps soon.
- ❖ I met with our Federal Lobbyist and several representatives from Alaska Airlines in DC and Anchorage to discuss the possibility of remodeling the terminal. They will be reaching out to other airport property and business owners to see if they may have available space or could be willing to work with the airlines to free up space for a larger terminal.
- ❖ Steelhead Construction completed the Elderly Housing Entrance Repair Project, leaving us with a sturdy and attractive entrance.
- ❖ Cassy, Chris and helpers with Mt. View Food Service delivered a wonderful Thanksgiving dinner to our elderly community.
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