



**Borough Manager's Report  
Assembly Meeting 02 May 2023**

- ❖ Spring road maintenance is ongoing with grading, pothole repair, street washing and street sweeping as weather permits.
- ❖ Local contractor Rock-N-Road has acquired equipment to do chip seal surfacing for DOT's culvert replacement project at 10.8-mile Mitkof Highway. We have been discussing the possibility of doing some chip seal work on Borough streets as well if they are able to offer this type of local road maintenance in the future. This would likely require some additional funding beyond what has traditionally been provided for local street maintenance.
- ❖ The building maintenance crew has begun framing work on the new sewer parts shed at the Public Works site. Construction will be completed as time permits.
- ❖ Sirens will be tested again Wednesday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> at noon. This will be a steady-sound siren and will last for 30 seconds. The sirens will now be on a monthly test schedule on the first Wednesday of the month at noon.
- ❖ The Fire Dept hosted a Family Fun Day on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. Thanks to the many volunteers who helped run this event, we estimate about 80 people attended. Thanks to Papa bears for their long-standing support and donation of the Ice Cream.
- ❖ Aaron attended the State Emergency Operations Committee/LEPCA conference on April 17<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>. A separate report will be sent out regarding this event.
- ❖ Josh And Ryan attended the Arson investigator conference in Sitka, on April 17<sup>th</sup>- 21<sup>st</sup>. Ryan was able to renew his investigator credentials and Josh is just waiting to hear back if he passed his test. If Josh was successful, he will be able to fill in or assist Ryan if required.
- ❖ The PVFD will join Public Health as a Local Narcan Distributor. These kits are provided by the state and are used to counteract the effects of opiates, which in the event of an overdose can result in respiratory arrest. The kits have been delivered and PVFD has started distribution. Contact Aaron at 907-772-3355 for more information.
- ❖ We are currently working on replacing smoke detectors at Assisted Living and waiting for a new Hoyer lift. The new Med Cart arrived last week and is working beautifully.
- ❖ Derrick and I met with Phil and Kirsten Testoni to discuss the next steps with Assisted Living. The Hospital will begin helping us out with Medicaid billing using a MOA and is helping us out in the temporary absence of Nurse Mindy. Thanks to help from the Hospital, Derrick was able to find approximately \$100,000 in billing issues that should result in additional payments to the Borough.

- ❖ Congratulations to Mike Bell who is being recognized by the Alaska Water and Wastewater Management Association (AWWMA) as the **Alaskan Small System Manager of the Year**. This is a well-deserved recognition for Mike and reinforces what a huge asset he has been for the water utility. Please join me in congratulating Mike on his excellence as our Water Operations Supervisor.
- ❖ Congratulations also to Justin Haley for being recognized by the AWWMA as the **Alaska Small Wastewater System Person of the Year!** Justin does an excellent job for the department and is due this recognition by the statewide association. Justin will be traveling to the statewide AWWMA conference in Anchorage in May to accept the awards for himself and Mike Bell. Congratulations to Justin for this notable award and for his hard work on behalf of the Borough.
- ❖ The WW department is requesting a partial award for engineering work for the Pump Station 4 Replacement. A loan increase through ADEC will be needed to award bid and construction phase services required in the project and this is in the works.
- ❖ The EMD16 overhaul has been ongoing for the last couple of weeks. Various setbacks related to parts and the discovery of additional work have slowed progress. The goal is to complete all work and place the unit back into service prior to the annual SEAPA shutdown. However, parts availability may not allow for this schedule. The contractor is doing all they can to locate unanticipated parts needs and get the unit back in service.
- ❖ NC Machinery has scheduled the work to rebuild the Caterpillar 398 to begin on May 4<sup>th</sup>. This should take a couple weeks to get the generator cleaned and the engine overhauled and it should be in service prior to the shutdown as well.
- ❖ McG Constructors/Dawson Joint Venture, our contractor for the Blind Slough Hydro project, has agreed to put off the shutdown of the Blind Slough Hydro until after the SEAPA shutdown. This agreement will help to ensure that PMPL will have enough resources to provide power to the community during the SEAPA outage, regardless of whether the EMD16 is back in service. It will also dramatically reduce the diesel burn, and subsequent diesel adjustment charge, for the community.
- ❖ PMPL has rented a pole testing drill to assess the condition of our wooden power poles. The line crew will have a month to get as many poles tested as possible. The equipment will produce a report that indicates the remaining strength of the pole and will allow the department to prioritize replacements over time.
- ❖ The Borough Attorney and I continue to work with Petro and ADEC on getting a clear understanding of any environmental issues with the Mitkof Highway warehouse location. It appears the site will be closed, but we do not yet know if there will be conditional issues that will remain.
- ❖ PMEA negotiations are scheduled to begin on May 2, and will continue that week. We expect much of the conversations to be around wages and the employee costs of health insurance.
- ❖ Stephanie and her team worked through the weekend with staff from Wrangell, Petersburg, and others to renew certifications for Lifeguard instructors, Water Safety instruction and more. We brought in a trainer for this and in turn invite all interested parties to participate.
- ❖ Stephanie will be taking a trip to Juneau at some point to observe and discuss some of the rehabilitation work being done on one of their aquatic centers. We want to take the opportunity to meet some of the people supervising their rehab and make connections with contractors who could help us with some of the next phases needed for our center.