



**Borough Manager's Report
Assembly Meeting 06 November 2023**

- ❖ Water Staff recently completed work with Nomad Diving to clean the interior of the 2-million-gallon water storage tank.
- ❖ Karl is working on the land procurement process, loan increase and process to hire a company to complete controls for the Pump Station 4 project. Planning and Zoning will consider three issues related to the project at their November meeting.
- ❖ Thanks to public works for recent efforts to correct a settled sewer service in the highway right of way out at the Rock N Road shop site.
- ❖ Our PMPL mechanic recently spent valuable time at the Crystal Lake Dam to winterize the facility, and ready the pump back system for use after the penstock is filled.
- ❖ The Blind Slough Hydro project continues to march toward completion. The powerhouse equipment is installed, and the electrician is working to run wire and make all connections needed. The contractor has completed the penstock installation and completed all thrust block concrete pours. The powerhouse bypass system is being completed this week. A major effort to flush and pressure test the penstock will occur soon. Commissioning processes are scheduled to start on November 9th. All parties are working to have the facilities startup and commissioning completed and the facility online by December 13th.
- ❖ With the Blind Slough Hydro project getting closer to completion, and WW starting the PS4 project, project budgets will need to be adjusted. Both capital project funds will need budget changes. The Utility Director is sorting out the increases needed and will work with the Finance Director to include them in the next supplemental budget ordinance. Both projects are waiting for major funding processes to complete, with the DOE grant still undetermined for Blind Slough and an ADEC loan increase application still in development for the Pump Station 4 project, so large transfers from department reserves will be needed.
- ❖ There is a new art installation in the garden in front of the library. Roughly one hundred salmon-shaped pieces of colorfully painted plywood now hang from a wave inspired rebar structure. Joseph Quitslund created the rebar structure, the high school CAD class cut the salmon and this summer Pia Reilly and Kari Petersen helped community members paint fish. The project was funded by the Alaska Community Foundation's Healthy Communities Grant. Thank you to everyone that participated in helping create this beautiful public art piece celebrating the important role salmon plays in all aspects of our community.
- ❖ Dept. of Environmental Conservation conducted a pool inspection, first in 4 years. Parks and Rec passed with not a single issue! Way to go P&R staff!
- ❖ With VSC hosting November Rain on Nov. 10th – 12th, please anticipate pool closures, this will be posted around the facility, Facebook, and website.

- ❖ Construction for the sewer line project at Community Gym has finished! Still working on some plumbing fixture issues, so please continue to be patient, but otherwise back to normal!
- ❖ Petersburg and Wrangell Parks and Recreation will be hosting our All-Stars Basketball tournaments again this year. More to come for all the Youth Basketball 4th – 6th grade families as we get closer.
- ❖ We are still working with Hughes to fix some of the minor issues that have cropped up on the new fire engine. We are hoping that everything is resolved by December and E2 can finally be ready for service. Engine 5 has been drained and is starting to be decommissioned. The City of Hyder has recently recommissioned its fire department and is interested in obtaining E5.
- ❖ Josh and Aaron are working on a proposal to start paying volunteers in the next fiscal year for EMS response. We are seeing increases in response times due to the lack of volunteers. We may also look at some grant funding that may pay for another full time EMS employee.
- ❖ There are 5 volunteers in the ETT class, and four ETT's signed up to take out future EMT bridge course in January. We also have Capitol City Fire and Rescue's EMSO Officer Andrew Pantiskas coming to Petersburg to teach an EMT-2 course to our EMT-1's. This will allow them to provide higher levels of care if needed, and we cannot thank CCFR enough for working with us. No JFF due to lack of interest.
- ❖ William Bergmann, who joined the PVFD on November 2nd, 1973, has just celebrated his 50th year in the department. If you see him around town, make sure to thank him for his commitment to the City and Borough of Petersburg.
- ❖ Aaron completed the requirements to be an ETT/EMT-1 Instructor. He can now help Josh run classes or run additional classes if needed.
- ❖ Aaron gave a presentation to the 7th grade science class on Tsunamis and Earthquakes, and on emergency preparedness. The kids later looked at some of the emergency shelter equipment and at the Petersburg Siren Warning System on a guided field trip.
- ❖ The Stryker Systems bought with ARPA funding have been installed on the ambulances. These systems take the full weight of the patient and reduce the strain on volunteer staff when moving the patient in and out of the ambulance. Thanks to the Assembly and the Federal government for the help in purchasing these.
- ❖ Derrick is working with several of our residents on issues such as transition to long term care, and special appointments in Juneau. Halloween was wonderful for the residents and planning is underway for Thanksgiving.
- ❖ We are still working on the paperwork for the state inspection of the Manor facility. We also had our annual fire inspection.
- ❖ We continue to be short of personnel in Assisted Living. Derrick is filling in as needed.