



Memorandum

To: MAYOR LYNN AND BOROUGH ASSEMBLY

From: AARON MAROHL, PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

Date: 10/29/2025

CC: STEVE GIESBRECHT, BOROUGH MANAGER

The Wastewater Treatment Utility uses variable frequency drives (VFDs) at several of our lift stations to adjust the speed of the pumps and control flowrates to protect downstream processes. In recent months, we have had two drives fail at two different stations.

For Scow Bay Pump Station 1 we had previously purchased a spare drive so that in the event of a failure we are able to swap it out and return to service. The failed drive can be returned to the manufacturer and repaired.

At Pump Station 5 a drive failure coincided with a power failure in late September. We do not have a spare, so we are currently operating on 2 pumps. This drive is identical to the drives being installed at pump station 4. We plan to purchase a new drive to replace the failed one at PS5. We will also send the failed drive back to the manufacturer to be repaired and it will serve as a spare for both PS4 and PS5.

The multiple VFD failures we have seen could not be anticipated at the time the FY26 budget was presented to the Assembly. For that reason, I am requesting \$25,000 be added to the Machinery & Equipment capital outlay fund for the purchase of one new VFD and the repair of two additional drives.

Thank you for your consideration.

Public Works Department

PO Box 329, Petersburg, AK 99833 – Phone (907) 772-4430 Fax (907) 772-4102

www.petersburgak.gov