



**Borough Manager's Report
Assembly Meeting 1 April 2024**

- ❖ Spring maintenance is in full swing in the Harbors. Harbor crew is busy winterizing the snow equipment and cleaning up the floats and parking lots.
- ❖ The tour ship schedule has firmed up, with the bankruptcy filing in February by the Ocean Victory parent company we have dropped to 104 stops for the upcoming season.
- ❖ Harbor staff is working with the USACE to schedule the completion of the dredge disposal site survey for mid-May. This should finalize the project and complete all the required aspects of closing out the job. OTHER THAN, hosting a ribbon cutting! The project manager has asked if the Petersburg Borough would join members of the USACE in celebrating the project completion at a ribbon cutting on May 19th at 11:00 am (during the Little Norway Festival). The Harbor Department will continue to aid the Corps in event planning and keep the Assembly updated.
- ❖ Harbormaster Wollen spent time this last week talking to a documentary film company about issues related to the disbandment of the Ocean Ranger program aboard large tour ships transiting SE Alaska. We talked about issues related to this growing industry and both the burdens as well as the economic opportunities associated with Alaska's unique environment.
- ❖ Harbor staff are working with the Harbor Board to review a draft concept for a Marine Industrial Overlay (MIO) that could be used to identify Borough properties that could best serve the community for higher marine industrial use.
- ❖ Wastewater staff has found the draft permit from EPA should be issued within two weeks. It will be sent to ADEC and the local tribe for initial comments prior to the full public posting and comment period. The WW department consultant has been apprised of the schedule and will be helping staff to formulate meaningful comments on the draft permit.
- ❖ Power and Light Staff met with the DOE hydro efficiency grant administrator on March 28th for the first negotiation meeting. PMPL has already sent the agency various information in response to their pre-award requests. The negotiations process is focused on how each project owner will comply with reporting and milestone achievement during the work.
- ❖ PMPL wishes to acknowledge the work of Pam Jensen, who is retiring from the utility this month. Pam has done a great job representing PMPL through her interactions with the customer base of the utility and has helped many that have come through our doors. We wish her the best of luck and thank her for her efforts!
- ❖ The Assessor is currently working on appeals. If an appeal cannot be settled, then it will be going to the Board of Equalization at the April 15th assembly meeting.

- ❖ Mayor Jensen and I met with the Executive Director of the Mental Health Land Trust to discuss the proposed South Mitkof subdivision. She made it clear the Trust is willing to move on to another subdivision if the Borough does not approve the plat. Mayor Jensen and I explained the Assembly's concerns. She asked the Borough if there is interest in signing the plat with the understanding the Trust would try and do an analysis to see if building roads in their subdivision would pay off for them. We also mentioned Senator Stedman was working on a possible solution, but it would not be available until the next legislative session.
- ❖ Petersburg will be hosting a transportation meeting set up by Alaska Municipal League to talk about regional transportation issues. We have invited PIA, Alaska DOT, Alaska Airlines, the Chamber of Commerce, Forest Service and Breakaway charters. AML will facilitate the meeting and Petersburg will take care of local logistics. Borough staff including Liz Cabrera and Chris Cotta have also been invited.
- ❖ We are planning how to turn a couple rooms at Assisted Living into double occupancy and what would need to be done to make it possible.
- ❖ Assisted Living is working on a reasonable way to get the Medicaid payments for the last three years onto a program that will help streamline the audit process.
- ❖ Petersburg Parks and Recreation will again be joining forces with the USCG and Auxiliary, school district, AK State Troopers, and Petersburg Rotary for our annual Kid's Don't Float event on April 22nd at the Aquatic Center. Keep an eye out for more information coming out in the next few weeks
- ❖ Managers and supervisors of the Streets dept and Water and Wastewater utilities met to discuss prioritization and scheduling of upcoming in-house maintenance and construction projects involving these departments.
- ❖ We are working with HR and Borough Administration to draft an apprentice mechanic program to incorporate into our Motor Pool operations plan. This may be one way that we can address our ongoing staffing shortage in the Motor Pool Dept.
- ❖ Our new fleet fueling system has been ordered. This hardware and software package will replace our decades-old, DOS-based system that is no longer supported. Karen is working with the supplier to preload as much data as possible into the new equipment with the goal of minimizing startup time once we have everything onsite.
- ❖ Sanitation Dept staff are working with ADEC and Southeast Conference to wrap up the remaining logistical details for the upcoming Rural Alaska Landfill Operator (RALO) class that will be held in Petersburg April 8-11. Personnel from Petersburg and several other Alaska communities are expected to attend this class, which will be primarily focused on solid waste baling operations.
- ❖ The Southeast Alaska Solid Waste Authority - working cooperatively with Southeast Conference and the City and Borough of Sitka - submitted a grant application to Denali Commission for regional solid waste management planning funds. If the application is successful, the SEASWA could receive up to \$500,000 for study and planning efforts for solid waste disposal in the Southeast region.
- ❖ Director Cotta is assisting Borough Administration and Deerstone Consulting with preparation of a grant submittal to Denali Commission for potential improvements to the Banana Point Breakwater.