

**PETERSBURG BOROUGH
RESOLUTION #2020-15**

**A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE EXPENDITURE OF \$608,345 FROM THE CARES
ACT SPECIAL REVENUE FUND FOR PETERSBURG MEDICAL CENTER
PERSONNEL COSTS, TECHNOLOGY EQUIPMENT FOR HOME HEALTH, RAPID
TESTING EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES, AND THERAPEUTIC EXERCISE
EQUIPMENT FOR LONG TERM CARE IN RESPONSE TO THE CONTINUING
COVID-19 HEALTH EMERGENCY**

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared the COVID-19 virus a pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, the Borough Assembly ratified a Local Emergency Declaration for the Petersburg Borough in regard to the ongoing pandemic; and

WHEREAS, Petersburg Borough has entered into an agreement with the State of Alaska Department of Health and Social Services to provide COVID-19 greeting, screening and testing services at the Petersburg Airport as directed in State Public Health Mandate #10. Testing services are being provided by Petersburg Medical Center through a Borough Memorandum of Agreement that will be extended as needed; and

WHEREAS, ongoing public health mandates and alerts issued by the State of Alaska are critical in mitigating the rate of spread of the COVID-19 virus, however they have had and are continuing to have significant negative impacts on the Petersburg Medical Center; and

WHEREAS, the Petersburg Medical Center leadership, providers and staff's efforts have prioritized and shifted from revenue earning services to a more significant role in non-revenue earning prevention, safety, and home care activities; and

WHEREAS, the initial costs to protect staff and continue to provide access to care have been substantial; and

WHEREAS, the Medical Center is requesting \$608,345 in CARES Act funding to continue to keep our community safe and our economy strong; and

WHEREAS, further detail on this request is attached hereto as Attachment A.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Petersburg Borough Assembly hereby approves the expenditure of \$608,345 from the CARES Act Special Revenue Fund to provide economic support to the Petersburg Medical Center for the costs associated with the continuing COVID-19 health emergency.

Passed and approved by the Petersburg Borough Assembly, Petersburg, Alaska this 8th day of September, 2020.

Attest:

Mark Jensen, Mayor

Debra K. Thompson, Borough Clerk



Petersburg Medical Center

103 Fram Street
PO Box 589
Petersburg, AK 99833

Phone: 907-772-4291
Fax: 907-772-3085

August 26, 2020

To: Stephen Giesbrecht, Borough Manager
Petersburg Assembly Members
cc: Jody Tow, Finance Director

From: Philip Hofstetter, CEO
Petersburg Medical Center

RE: Cares Act Funding Request

Under the authority of the Petersburg Medical Center Board of Directors, please accept this letter as PMC's formal request for CARES Act funding from the Borough of Petersburg.

As a result of the pandemic, the priority for PMC has been to manage the pandemic at a level that would keep community members safe while protecting the economy of Petersburg. PMC leadership and staff's efforts have shifted from revenue earning services to a more significant role in non-revenue earning activities such as prevention, safety and home care. This shift will be ongoing until the pandemic is no longer a threat to our community.

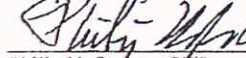
In addition to the loss of revenue that PMC has suffered, the initial costs to protect staff and continue to provide access to care have been significant. It is our hope that the CARES Act funding can assist with PMC's ongoing efforts to continue to keep our community safe and our economy strong.

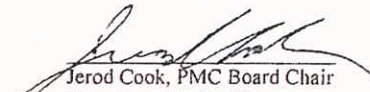
The total amount of this request is \$608,345.25

For the last 50 years, Petersburg Medical Center has managed to financially be independent, but as a result of the pandemic, we have experienced a significant loss of revenue. It will be difficult to keep the level of care to manage the COVID without aid from outside sources.

PMC leadership will continue to apply for COVID Federal aid in order to respond to and recover from the impacts of the pandemic. Unfortunately, the results of grant and other funding requests are not certain. We also don't know how much longer preventative efforts will continue, and the resulting economic impact. Therefore, we are asking the Borough to reserve funds for PMC for the equipment and other costs listed in this letter in case other efforts to obtain funding fail, or have to be redirected for unforeseen situations as a result of the pandemic.

We appreciate your consideration of this request.


Philip Hofstetter, CEO
Petersburg Medical Center


Jerod Cook, PMC Board Chair
Petersburg Medical Center

Guiding Values: Integrity - Dignity - Professionalism - Team Work - Quality

PANDEMIC EXPENSES

Request	Expenditures 03.01/20 - 07/28/20	Expected Expenditures 07/29/20 - 12/30/20	Total Request
Payroll	332,868.83	166,434.42	499,303.25
Provider Emergency Hire	38,600.00	19,300.00	57,900.00
Cepheid	38,322.00		38,322.00
Nu-Step Elliptical for Long Term Care	8,070.00		8,070.00
10 Covid in home monitoring Units		4,750.00	4,750.00
	Total request		608,345.25

Payroll and Emergency Hire

- Incident command team, consisting of senior leadership, physicians, management, and other skilled professionals at Petersburg Medical Center, play key roles in the community in the following manner:
 - Assist the Borough's Incident Command team.
 - Provide communication and education for the community on COVID issues on a daily basis.
 - Developed a crisis COVID hotline at PMC that is staffed or monitored by Petersburg Medical Center RN's 24/7.
 - The laboratory staff specifically have had to run all on-site tests, setup protocols for COVID testing and manage the connections to commercial labs to provide results for Petersburg residents.
 - PMC incident command team tasked to set up processes in the hospital to keep long term care residents, patients and employees safe while still providing care.
 - Advocate, obtain and provide reagents and equipment to provide systematic COVID testing and set up in multiple locations (ie. PMC respiratory clinic parking lot and airport).
 - Emergency hire of full-time additional staff to meet the immediate demands of addressing the pandemic, this includes a physician, home health RN and home health C.N.A.

Cepheid Test Equipment

The Cepheid equipment is used to perform COVID PCR rapid testing on-site. We have a 2- bay unit that can only test 2 samples an hour—not including the staff to run the test. This drastically restricts our testing capability in the lab. The current turnaround time from reference labs is 48 hours at best and 7-14 days at worst depending on the lab (national demand is impacting turnaround time). The request for a four-bay unit will allow us to test a maximum of 6 specimens in an hour (provided there is staff to run the unit). Symptomatic specimens and people in high risk situations like congregate housing (long term care, assisted living and cannery workers bunked together and working together). If there is a COVID outbreak in one of these settings, it will be important to identify cases and isolate people appropriately.

NuStep Elliptical for Long Term Care

- NuStep: Due to COVID-19 infection control precautions, LTC residents are more isolated to the LTC unit and there are restrictions to safely use equipment in the rehabilitation therapy department. The NuStep is a therapeutic exercise device to be used within the LTC unit to re-establish an essential activity for the elderly residents.

In-home Monitoring Units

- Home Health services have quadrupled during COVID pandemic and to improve the monitoring of patients in home these units can assist in tracking vital signs, glucose and pulse oximeter. The units can be expanded for future COVID patients that need home monitoring as well as patients with medical complex diseases (i.e. diabetes).