



**Borough Manager's Report
Assembly Meeting 21 January 2020**

- ❖ I have met with Michael Speciale from Alaska Public Employees Association, who represents our largest Union, PMEA. We discussed the upcoming negotiations and reviewed the Borough's proposed ground rules. We currently disagree on two items on the ground rules; 1. Sharing the Results of any vote on the contract: PMEA is willing to share the outcome of any vote, but not the actual results; and 2. Limiting the number of representatives at the Negotiating table: PMEA wants six representatives at the table and the Borough's position is no more than four total.
- ❖ The Library's Winter Reading Challenge runs through the end of January. We're challenging Petersburg to read 200,000 minutes. Sponsored by the Friends of Petersburg Libraries.
- ❖ Viking Science Academy started Jan 16. This is a weekly science program for youth grades 5-8.
- ❖ The library's new self-check-out kiosk has been installed. It was purchased with grant from the Petersburg Community Foundation and the Rasmuson Foundation.
- ❖ Glo, Jody, Sara and I continue to work with USACE on the new PPA for Assembly review.
- ❖ Glo is working with our DC Lobbyist on the Borough claim for the Pink Salmon disaster relief rebate.
- ❖ Harbor is finalizing the upcoming tour ship schedule for 2020.
- ❖ The recent cold spell has resulted in lots of frozen water services and meters. The crew has been very busy responding to numerous calls for assistance with these issues. Homeowners should take precautions to protect water lines and water meters to avoid stoppages in water service and potential water damage from a burst pipe. Insulating piping, repairing skirting and adding supplemental heat to crawl spaces can help to keep the water flowing.
- ❖ Aaron Marohl of the Sanitation Dept. pitched in to run the grader on the Borough's snow route when Foreman Odegaard had to leave town for a couple days. A great show of teamwork – thank you to both!
- ❖ The grader being used by the Borough's snow removal contractor at Papke's got stuck in a ditch beside the road on Friday, January 10th. The Streets crew rendered assistance with Borough equipment but were unable to recover the grader and it remains stuck. The affected road is still open to traffic and the Papke's area will continue to receive plow service while a plan is developed to retrieve the grader and repair any damage to the road.
- ❖ Motor Pool has been busy with cold-related issues (dead batteries, broken chains etc.), but Sam Hoschar has been keeping up with things even though he's flying solo right now. We hope to have the mechanic's position filled soon and get him some relief.

- ❖ With the unusually cold weather we've been experiencing, Sam Jackson has been very busy keeping heating systems operating at our various buildings, in addition to assisting with snow removal and sanding operations. This includes almost a full day at the pool trying to get the HVAC and Boiler systems operational.
- ❖ The elevator at the municipal building developed a hydraulic leak that required repair by an outside contractor and caused a service outage while they mobilized to town. The leak has been fixed and elevator returned to service.
- ❖ The water department staff completed a further investigation of a potential void around the low-level outlet pipes at Cabin Creek reservoir. Staff is confident that the voids found during the Periodic Safety Inspection are attributed to coupling bands on the 5' diameter culverts and do not indicate an actual void around the pipe. This will save many thousands of dollars to not have to work on filling in a void in the dam.
- ❖ Staff reported that heaters in the standby generator buildings at two pump stations were lost as a result of the SEAPA outage on January 12th. Replacements have been ordered.
- ❖ SEAPA continues to work on defining the possibilities for repair or replacement of the marine cable failure. A marine survey boat was on site January 13 and gathered more data regarding the routing and depth of siltation of the faulted cable.
- ❖ McMillen Jacobs, Blind Slough Hydro project engineering firm, has provided 60% drawings and specs for the hydro equipment procurement as well as the construction contract. Staff is reviewing the many pages of plans to offer some feedback to the engineers at the next progress meeting, scheduled to be held on January 23rd.
- ❖ Cold weather is stretching the regional and local power resources to capacity. Petersburg was seeing overall demand peaks of about 12.8 MW during the coldest periods, which were around zero degrees. This demand includes generation from the Blind Slough Hydro but is an all-time high for our community.
- ❖ SEAPA requested the communities to assist with cold weather system support by adding diesel generation to offset the peaks in demand during the extreme cold. The plan went well with Petersburg only having to contribute two short term diesel runs to take some pressure off Tyee Lake's turbines during morning peaks. A power outage on SEAPA's transmission line was experienced on Friday January 12th. PMPL staff immediately set about restoring power with the diesel plant as the longer the power is out during cold weather, the more load is assumed when heaters are trying to bring customer's homes and businesses back up to comfortable temperatures. Higher loads make it more difficult to restore power, so it is recommended that our customers turn off any non-critical appliances during any outage so that demand is lower when the power comes back on. After power is back on for several minutes, customers can go back to normal and turn appliances back on as needed.