



**Borough Manager's Report  
Assembly Meeting 06 May 2019**

- ❖ Long time harbor staff member Jim Birch retired on May 1<sup>st</sup>. The Harbor Dept. thanks him for his service and wishes him well.
- ❖ Launch Ramp permits are due June 1<sup>st</sup>, reminders are going out in the mail in May.
- ❖ Harbor staff participated in a Port Safety and Security meeting with the Captain of the Port on Thursday April 25<sup>th</sup>. Good discussion on upcoming Homeland Security issues and the USCG support available to our community. The USCG focus is on increased issues due to the growth occurring in the tourism industry. Captain White reported that tourism in Alaska was up 20% in 2018 and they are expecting another 13% on top of that this year.
- ❖ Our first tour ship is scheduled for 4/29. The yearly schedule is on the Borough website and was in the 4/18 edition of the Petersburg Pilot.
- ❖ AP&T installed the upgrade to the Muni building telephone system, Tuesday April 30, 5AM. There were some issues with voice mail being inactive immediately following the upgrade. It was resolved before noon.
- ❖ Debbie, Jody and I met with our health insurance broker to discuss quotes for employee benefits for the FY2020 year. Initial quotes indicated the Borough was looking at 14.1%, or \$239,292 increase in the health care costs for the Borough. The current proposed budget included an estimated increase of 15%. After further discussions with the broker, staff has elected to choose a different plan, which provides for coverage at a rate of approximately 1.9%, or \$32,649 greater than last year, depending upon which plan the employee chooses. With this plan, employees will have a choice of deductibles for health care at \$1,500 or \$3,000.
- ❖ Jody will be attending a conference in Anchorage on June 6, with our Borough Attorney as sponsored by Alaska Municipal League to discuss online sales tax. The Attorney will be attending on behalf of several of her clients and we will all split the costs. There continues to be concerns that with Petersburg's complex sales tax ordinance, it may not be possible to roll out a full online sales tax system in our community. It is likely the senior sales tax exemption, and the sales tax cap would need to be removed prior to taxing all online retailers. These issues will be discussed at this meeting.
- ❖ Lots of Training in the PD. Chief Kerr attended the Port Safety and Security Meeting and the Mass Rescue Operation review. Investigator Popp is attending the DEA Investigator course. High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) paid for course, travel and lodging. Officer Waechter attended Firearms Instructor course and Armorer course in Sitka put on by AST and is now certified to conduct the police department's firearms training and maintenance on department firearms. Officer Wolf attended the FBI Crisis Negotiation Class in Juneau. This was a free course sponsored by the FBI.
- ❖ Spring road maintenance continues. The crew is busy washing and sweeping streets and repairing potholes. The recent dry weather has given us an opportunity to get some street grading done. We're also adding

some topping material to several dirt streets where the surfacing has worn thin or disappeared.

- ❖ The Harbor Dept's replacement pickup (#18) has arrived. The Motor Pool crew is installing a lift gate and other upfit items prior to placing the unit in service.
- ❖ The annual Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) event is scheduled to take place June 1&2.
- ❖ Upcoming Events at Parks & Rec.:
  - Lope the Loop 7k will be held on Saturday of Little Norway Festival. Registration is now open.
  - Our next Triathlon will be June 1<sup>st</sup>. This is operated in partnership with the Friends of Parks and Recreation. More info to come on timeframe and registration opening.
- ❖ Facility Information
  - Starting May 1<sup>st</sup> our Facility hours are 6am-9pm Tuesday – Saturday.
  - In observance of Little Norway Festival, we will be closed at 1pm on Friday 5/17, and only open from 6-8pm for an Open Swim on Saturday 5/18.
  - We are closed for a two-week maintenance closure 5/19-5/31. During this time the in-pool lights will be replaced, and multiple areas of the facility will be worked on.
- ❖ ATS (our software control system for our HVAC system for the pool) flew into town Wednesday and will be spending the next two days with staff to review our system, train, and fix some current sensor issues.
- ❖ Water Dept. staff recently drained the treatment plant and performed the annual spring cleaning to prepare for the summer processing season.
- ❖ The Kisenno Street Sewer is going to bid. This project will replace approximately 1000' of sewer pipe and install 3 new manholes on Kisenno Street.
- ❖ The hydro power lakes did come up with some spring rainfall but with the cold weather and then lack of rain, the lakes are dropping slowly. As of the drafting of this report, Tyee is at 1260.9, Swan is at 295.7 and Crystal is at 10.5' above the intake. SEAPA verified that their plan is to send some power north from Swan Lake if Tyee reaches a level of 1260.
- ❖ McMillen Jacobs has committed to responding to a request for proposal for preliminary engineering through construction on the Blind Slough Hydro Refurbishment project by May 3<sup>rd</sup>. It is hoped to get a contract amendment with the firm in front of the Assembly on May 20<sup>th</sup>.
- ❖ ADEC has been helpful in sorting out the best way to address potential air quality violations if near term diesel runs cause PMPL to overshoot our permit limits. The Air Program is focused on educating municipalities and empowering them with knowledge of how the limits were arrived at many years ago in order to determine what level of diesel burn at power plants is appropriate and in keeping with the current regulations. For now, PMPL is under the permit limits and won't likely violate our permit this year.
- ❖ The line crew has been trimming trees around the lines in town. In order to limit return trips to the same locations year after year for trimming, the crew is seeking to completely remove any trees that impact the power lines and are in the right of way. Trees on private property that impact the lines will also be targeted but discussions with property owners will take place before removal. Karl is working on a new policy and potential code language to shore up PMPL's approach to line clearing and the process used to remove trees when appropriate.