



**Borough Manager's Report
Assembly Meeting 22 March 2021**

- ❖ Parks & Rec. has finished up a Lifeguard class. If you missed this one and would like to join us for summer lifeguarding, please contact Stephanie Payne at Parks and Rec.
- ❖ Most Borough buildings have reopened to face-to-face public access. Thanks to the Community for taking the necessary steps to reign in the recent outbreak. With the increased vaccination rate and following the safety protocols, we hope everything can maintain in an open status for all of us.
- ❖ Harbor staff has been working with USACE setting up logistics for SH dredge sampling as required by EPA to use authorized in water disposal of dredge spoils. The USACE is scheduling their work for the end of April and will take 9 months to complete the testing of soil samples at their lab in Vicksburg, MS. At this point the dredge project has been pushed to fall/winter of 2022.
- ❖ The Harbor had the backflow preventers tested and serviced in early March. We will be scheduling replacement of any compromised units by early May in preparation for tour ship landings.
- ❖ Tour ship calendar is holding steady at 84 stops - Cruiseline Agencies/Lindblad with Seabird and Sealion and American Cruiselines & Alaska Dream Cruises/Allen Marine.
- ❖ Harai and Associates is making good headway on design of the sewer main and manhole replacement on Ira II Street.
- ❖ Rock N Road delayed a startup on the Scow Bay Pumpstation 1 project until late March due to weather.
- ❖ New AMI meters have been received for outfitting all of the single-phase meters in the Middle and South Harbors. Staff will begin the installation process on those this spring.
- ❖ SEAPA reports that GCI successfully retrieved their fiber optic cable from over the top of the submarine cables. The replacement submarine cable for the SEAPA transmission to Petersburg will be built and begin acceptance testing before the end of March.
- ❖ On March 10th Chris attended an applicant's briefing held by the State of Alaska Department of Emergency Management. This is a required step for potentially obtaining FEMA grant funding for repairs to the culvert and slope that failed at the Public Works site due to heavy rains in Dec 2020. The next step in the process will be coordinating a field visit with FEMA representatives, which will probably take place in late April or early May. Local engineering firm Harai & Associates has begun design work necessary for grant finalization and for the procurement phase of the project.
- ❖ FY22 Motor Pool budgets have been provided to all user departments.

- ❖ Contract documents for the motor pool shop repairs are being finalized and we hope to begin construction within the next 2 weeks.
- ❖ Sanitation will be short-handed for a few weeks due to staff vacation. We do not anticipate any issues with garbage or recycling collections during this time.
- ❖ Despite Liz's best attempts at forestalling the inevitable, Joe Bertagnoli announced his retirement from the borough. We will sincerely miss the dedication, sense of humor, and counsel he brings to the Borough. We wish him a very happy retirement!
- ❖ The American Rescue Plan Act was signed into law. The legislation includes several provisions of interest to residents including a \$1,400 stimulus payment, new assistance program for food service businesses, extension of unemployment benefits, additional funding for the municipality, and extension of several existing programs and tax credits. More information as it becomes available will be posted to the borough's webpage listing resources for businesses and individuals impacted by covid.
- ❖ We have been having a few maintenance issues at Fire Station #1. Apparatus bay door spring broke in November making door opening difficult. A repair attempt last week was started only to discover the parts sent were not suitable for our door. The floor drain in the apparatus bay plugged. Ryan and Josh attacked it and were able to clear the drain.
- ❖ All volunteer branches are approved for in-person training as long as Community Risk stays below RED and they follow the PVFD Mitigation Plan and Borough Policies.
- ❖ Debbie, Becky, and others are continuing to work with the vendor on changing to a new agenda management software and archival process. The new software looks great, but the changeover process is very time consuming.
- ❖ Department budgets were due from the Directors last week and Jody and I will begin our review process. Once this is completed, meetings will be scheduled with the Assembly, following the previously published budget calendar.
- ❖ Members of the community, the Assembly, local media, and staff were able to attend a Zoom ECHO call sponsored by the EOC. Led by Dr. Anne Zink and members of her staff, the State Officials reviewed the most recent Petersburg outbreak and discussed ways in which the Borough could react in the future if another outbreak occurs. The biggest takeaway was recognizing that increasing our vaccination rate has the highest upside to controlling the virus. Petersburg continues to do well in this area, but we are still under the 70-80% vaccination rate target.
- ❖ Chief Kerr completed a Petersburg "road show" to interview some potential Police Officer candidates. Rather than bringing the candidates to Petersburg for initial testing, he traveled to them, thereby reducing the risk of bringing COVID back to the community. Some very good candidates were interviewed and tested. More information to follow.
- ❖ Public Works, working with OBI Seafoods, will again close off the U-Turn area near where OBI employees will be lining up to enter the plant. This is a safety precaution during the processing season. Public works will work with OBI management to schedule the timing of this change.

Borough Administration

PO Box 329, Petersburg, AK 99833 – Phone (907) 772-4519 Fax (907) 772-3759

www.ci.petersburg.ak.us